



Committee to integrate Mumbai local, metro rail networks



**Mumbai .(Agency)**  
The Centre and the Maharashtra government have recently formed a committee to integrate Mumbai’s suburban and metro rail networks. Sources said the move will streamline public transport infrastructure across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and ensure coordinated planning between various transport agencies for a better commuter

in the committee.  
According to sources, MMRDA, the key organisation overseeing metro construction in the MMR, will chair the committee. Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Director, Railway Board, wrote a letter to MRVC on Thursday, emphasising that local train and metro service integration has to be enhanced.  
A senior MRVC official said, “The committee will suggest pedestrian bridges, subways, or alternatives to connect metro lines running through or close to railway station locations. It will also see that there is clarity on which agency will undertake the construction.”  
Earlier, the Railway Board had sent letters to agencies concerned requesting them to nominate representatives for the committee. All members are likely to have a joint meeting soon. The Mumbai suburban railway network presently stretches from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to Kalyan, Kasara, and Karjat on the Main Line, between Thane and Panvel/Vashi on the Trans-Harbour line, and CSMT to Panvel and Vashi on the Harbour Line. Suburban trains also operate from Churchgate to Virar and Dahanu Road.  
Mumbai’s metro network currently consists of three operational lines – Metro 1, 2A, and 7, connecting important suburban locations. Several lines are under construction, aiming to build an integrated and more than 300 km network to ease pressure on suburban trains.

Pune, Kirkee cantonment boards to be merged with PMC in 3 months

Pune Cantonment MLA Sunil Kamble said he had been demanding the merger considering the lack of civic facilities in these areas. Four other cantonment boards will also see a change in their status.

**Pune . (Agency)**  
Paving the way to meet citizens’ demand for better facilities, the Maharashtra Government Thursday gave in-principle consent for the merger of the civic areas of the Pune Cantonment Board (PCB) and the Kirkee Cantonment Board (KCB) with the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). Four other cantonment boards are also being merged with the respective local bodies or are being turned into independent local bodies.  
“Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has given in-principle approval for the inclusion of Pune and Kirkee cantonment boards under the PMC,” said BJP MLA Sunil Kamble who represents the Pune Cantonment Assembly constituency, adding that Fadnavis has directed the merger process to be completed within the next three months as per the proposal from the Ministry of Defence.  
The MLA said he had been demanding the merger considering the lack of civic facilities in these areas due to the financial crunch faced by the cantonment boards. Despite being adjacent to the municipal area, many residents in cantonment areas

faced several inconveniences owing to a lack of basic amenities, he said.  
Approving the merger, Fadnavis stated that it will help ensure overall development in these areas. Maharashtra has cantonment areas in Pune, Khadki (Kirkee), Deolali, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Kamptee, Ahmednagar, and Dehu Road.



Each cantonment has a unique situation, so while some will be merged directly with municipal corporations, others will become new independent municipal councils. Matters such as tax collection, electricity, water supply, financial issues, and staff transfers would be handled according to the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Defence.

Frant news continue

Why is the Jathedar of Akal Takht silent on the destruction of three Gurudwaras?

This is a Sikh issue, not an Akali Party issue. We urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who often highlights Guru Nanak Dev Ji’s teachings on global stages, to act independently of political affiliations.  
\* "The Modi Government must not wait for any resolution from Akali Dal or SGPC — return these Gurudwaras to the Sikh community immediately." The Sikh community has always stood with the nation, defended borders, led social reforms, and paid sacrifices beyond proportion. Is this the reward — silence over stolen history?  
The Sikh community is known for its resilience and warrior spirit. No matter how long it takes, the Sikh people will reclaim their sacred history. Governments may change, leaders may fall, but the love for Guru Sahib and the right to preserve His legacy is eternal.  
The destruction of these historical Gurudwaras is not just an attack on buildings — it is an attack on Sikh identity, memory, and truth.  
This is a recorded demand to the Government of India: Return Gurudwara Shri Gyan Godri Sahib, Gurudwara Sri Dangmar Sahib, and Gurudwara Sri Mangu Math Sahib to the Sikh community immediately. The Sikh Qaum is watching. The world is watching. Let justice be done.

Our dream is that no foreign tourist leaves India without visiting Delhi : CM Rekha Gupta

She emphasized that the Delhi Government is working round-the-clock to enhance the city’s image through cleanliness, beautification, and overall development, so that tourists from around the world can come and experience the culture and history of India. She expressed her satisfaction with the organization of the investor summit under the leadership of Tourism Minister Shri Kapil Mishra, where participants from around the world showed great interest in connecting with Delhi and promoting tourism in India. Reiterating her vision, she said, “Our dream is that whenever a foreign tourist visits India, they should not leave without experiencing Delhi.”  
On this occasion, Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said that Delhi is no longer just a capital city but is emerging as a center of global tourism, cultural richness, and innovation. He added that this summit is not merely an event to promote tourism but a strategic platform to connect Delhi with global investment, innovation, and cultural leadership.  
He said, “Today, we are gathering insights and suggestions from experienced participants from across the country and abroad to prepare a strong and practical roadmap that will help develop Delhi as a global tourism destination. Through this summit, we have gained clarity and direction on 8 to 10 key decisions that will benefit the people of Delhi in the near future and open new opportunities for investors.”  
“Delhi, with its fusion of heritage, culture, and modern infrastructure, is emerging as a safe, profitable, and sustainable destination for investment. I invite all investors to be a part of this transformation of Delhi,” he concluded.

Rs 49,000 crore Ponzi scheme case: PACL director Gurnam Singh arrested from Punjab’s Rupnagar

**PACL director Gurnam Singh is accused of orchestrating the massive Ponzi-like scam, duping over five crore investors across 10 states.**

**Mohali . (Agency)**  
The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Uttar Pradesh Police Thursday arrested Gurnam Singh, the director of Pearls Agro-Tech Corporation Limited (PACL), from Rupnagar district of Punjab in connection with the nearly Rs 49,000 crore alleged Ponzi scam.  
Gurnam Singh, 69, is accused of orchestrating the massive Ponzi-like scam, duping over five crore investors across 10 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Kerala. PACL allegedly lured investors with the promise of land plots, and high returns under fake real estate schemes, without being registered as

a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), thereby violating the RBI Act.  
He is one of the 10 accused — four are in jail, and a manhunt is underway for the rest. According to Neera Rawat, Director General, EOW, the company functioned as a classic pyramid scheme. Early investors were paid using funds from new investors, and agents earned hefty commissions and were encouraged to bring in family and friends. Massive seminars were conducted to attract more people.  
Originally registered as Guruvant Agro-Tech Ltd in Jaipur in 1996, the company was renamed PACL Ltd in



2011, with its corporate office located at Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. It established hundreds of branches in UP, particularly in Mahoba, Jalaun, Sultanpur, and Farrukhabad, where it aggressively marketed bogus land-linked investment schemes. Investors were issued receipts, but neither the land

nor the promised returns were delivered.  
Following several complaints and a SEBI probe, a case was registered (EOW Case No. 1/18) in Kanpur.  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) also filed a supplementary prosecution complaint against PACL and its associates. The ED stated that over Rs 19,000 crore collected in UP alone was routed through shell companies, including MDB Housing, controlled by Harsatinder Pal Singh Hayer, the son-in-law of PACL founder and the alleged mastermind, Nirmal Singh Bhangoon. Hayer is currently in judicial custody.

TMC leader Rezzak Khan shot multiple times, hacked to death in West Bengal

**Kolkata . (Agency)**  
Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Rezzak Khan, 38, was shot multiple times and then hacked to death in West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district on Thursday night.



The incident took place in the Chaltaberia area of Bhangar when Khan was returning home after attending a party meeting. According to police sources, unidentified men fired three consecutive shots at Khan, following which they hacked him to

death.  
Khan, who stayed in the Maricha area, was the Chaltaberia area president of the TMC and was known to be close to party MLA Saokat Mollah. Following the incident, Mollah, the MLA from Canning Purba constituency, accused the Indian Secular Front (ISF) of Khan’s murder, a charge the party denied.  
“Under the instruction of MLA Naushad Siddiqui, ISF miscreants murdered Rezzak. We are demanding strong action against all the culprits,” Mollah said.  
Khan’s body has been sent for a post-mortem examination.  
Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Verma has gone to the spot to oversee the investigation.  
Rezzak was initially close to Arabul Islam, a TMC leader in Bhangar, but later shifted loyalties to the Mollah camp.

Bridge collapse: Ankлав Taluka in Gujarat’s Anand mourns those who left for work, but never made it

**On Wednesday, though, he had company – his cousin Vikrambhai Rameshbhai Padhriar. Vikram worked in the same firm as Rajesh but lived in Narsipura village, around 18 km away. On Tuesday, Vikram had come to Rajesh’s place where he stayed the night. The next morning, the duo left for work together.**

**Anand. (Agency)**  
It was routine for Rajeshbhai Ishwarbhai Chavda from Devapura village in Gujarat’s Anand district to commute to work alone. The 22-year-old worked for an electrical company in Padra in Vadodara district.

On Wednesday, though, he had company – his cousin Vikrambhai Rameshbhai Padhriar. Vikram worked in the same firm as Rajesh but lived in Narsipura village, around 18 km away. On Tuesday, Vikram had come to Rajesh’s place where he stayed the night. The next morning, the duo left for work

together. A few moments later, their motorcycle plunged into Mahisagar river after a portion of



Mujpur-Gambhira bridge collapsed early Wednesday morning. Rajesh’s body was recovered and handed over to the family; Vikram was still missing

at the time of filing of this report. A few minutes before the tragedy, Rajesh’s brother Arjun had crossed the same bridge while returning home from his night shift.  
“As soon as I reached home, I learnt that the bridge had collapsed. Immediately, we tried Rajesh’s mobile number but could not connect with him. We rushed to the spot but did not get any information till afternoon when we saw the video and photographs, provided by the rescue and health team, that were shared by the Sarpanch on the village group.

Israeli-Hindu bride weds Indian groom: Punjab & Haryana HC directs swift action to register marriage

**The petitioners said that despite filing a marriage application, the authorities in Chandigarh had neither registered the marriage nor rejected the application.**

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**  
The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the Chandigarh administration to swiftly complete the process of registering the marriage of an Israeli national who embraced Hinduism and married an Indian citizen in a Hindu wedding earlier this year.  
Justice Kuldeep Tiwari passed the order on July 4 while disposing of a petition filed by Israeli citizen Priscila Danenberg Levy and her husband seeking a direction to the Chandigarh tehsildar, who is also the marriage registrar, to register their marriage held on May 10, 2025, at the Adhyatmik Arya Samaj Mission Temple in Sector 52. “In view of the specific stand set out by the learned counsel for the respondents, this Court deems it apt to dispose of the instant writ petition, at this stage, with a direction upon respondent No.2 to make all efforts to expeditiously



complete the requisite process, as prescribed for registration of marriage of the petitioners,” the judge said. Appearing for the petitioners, advocate Abhijeet Singh Rawaley submitted that despite filing a formal application under the Haryana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2008 (as extended to the Union Territory), the authorities had neither registered the marriage nor rejected their application. He

argued that once a marriage has been solemnised under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and a proper application submitted, the registrar was legally bound to register the marriage and had no authority to assess its legality.  
Rawaley further submitted that petitioner Levy, though a foreign national, had been living in India for over a decade and had voluntarily adopted and begun practising the Hindu faith. As

such, he argued, the couple’s marriage fully complied with the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act.  
Opposing the plea, Additional Standing Counsel Pritpal Singh Nijjar, assisted by junior panel counsel Himmat Singh Sidhu, informed the court that the registration had not been denied but was pending police verification as required under rule 3(3)(ca) of the Haryana Compulsory Registration of Marriages Rules, 2008.

# CM Dhama stresses simplification of Loan and Insurance processes

## The Sikh Times

Dehradun: Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama chaired a special meeting of the State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) at the Secretariat on Friday, where he called for further simplification of loan disbursement and insurance claim processes to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible citizen efficiently. The Chief Minister emphasized that resolving public issues remains the government's topmost priority. He instructed officials to streamline the procedures for extending loans under various Central and State Government schemes. Special attention, he said, should be given to simplifying claim settlements under agricultural insurance schemes. Highlighting the importance of financial inclusion, CM Dhama urged officials to work towards raising the state's credit-deposit (CD) ratio from the current 54.26% to at least 60%. He called for targeted efforts in Uttarakhand's hill districts, including Tehri, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Almora, Pauri, and Bageshwar, where the CD ratio remains lower than average. The Chief Minister also announced that

large-scale district-level camps will be organized in October, where all departments and banking institutions

\* Under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Uttarakhand has provided coverage to 48,000 indi-



will work together at one venue to address public grievances and provide on-the-spot benefits under various welfare schemes.

Key Financial Inclusion Highlights Presented in the Meeting:

viduals per one lakh population—well above the national average of 40,000.

\* The average loan amount under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in the state stands at ₹93,900 per borrower, significantly higher than the

national average of ₹62,686.

\* Over 39 lakh bank accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the highest among Himalayan states.

\* In FY 2024-25, the state recorded a 10.26% increase in loan advances and 9.09% growth in deposits.

\* The Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Yojana and Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana have shown consistent growth over the last three years.

\* A total of 6,10,636 farmers have benefited from the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, of which 67% are small and marginal farmers.

\* 70.23% of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the state have active credit linkage, with a 21% rise in SHG numbers over the past three years.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Anand Bardhan, Principal Secretaries Shri R.K. Sudhanshu and Shri R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Secretaries Shri Dilip Jawalkar, Shri Nitesh Kumar Jha, Smt. Radhika Jha, and Shri Sridhar Babu Adanki. Also present were RBI Regional Director Shri Arvind Kumar, SBI Chief General Manager Shri Debasish Mishra, Additional Secretary Smt. Ranjana Rajguru, and senior officials from various banks.

## Govt stands with every needy person: CM Yogi

### The Sikh Times

Varanasi: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted Janata Darshan for the second consecutive day on Friday at the Gorakhnath temple premises. He listened to the problems of nearly 200 people and assured them that their issues would be resolved promptly. "Don't worry, your problems will be addressed. The government stands with every needy person," he said. CM Yogi moved among the



attendees seated on chairs, patiently hearing each grievance one by one. He directed officials to ensure the timely and effective resolution of all public concerns without any negligence. During the event, several individuals, including women, sought financial assistance for medical treatment. Responding empathetically, the Chief Minister instructed them to prepare treatment cost estimates, assuring that the government would provide full support. He handed over the applications to the relevant officials with strict instructions to expedite the estimation process and submit the necessary documents to the government as soon as possible.

## Senior BJP leaders and other dignitaries accompanied the Chief Minister on the occasion

Chandigarh: In a significant step towards improving eye health and preventing avoidable blindness, Haryana Health and Family Welfare Minister Arti Singh Rao will launch the Ujjawal Drishti Haryana Abhiyan tomorrow. This state-wide initiative aims to provide free spectacles to school children and near vision correction to citizens aged 45 and above. Under the campaign, over 1.4 lakh spectacles will be distributed simultaneously across 22 District Hospitals, 50 Sub-Divisional Hospitals, and 122 Community Health Centres—making it one of the largest and first-of-its-kind such drives in the country. The initiative is aligned with the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) and is being implemented with dedicated budget support from the state government.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL GOEL S/O RAM AVTAR GOEL R/o 25/39, Shakti Nagar, Malika Garh S/O, North Delhi, Delhi-110007, have changed the name of my minor daughter RIDHI GOEL alias NITYA GOEL aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as NITYA GOEL, for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, BHAGWAN SINGH S/O GOVIND SINGH R/O 2/25 A-1, 3rd Floor, Road No. 20, Block-T, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar West, PO: Patel Nagar, Dist. Central Delhi, Delhi-110008, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as BHAGWAN SINGH GOSAI and SARITA DEVI GOSAI in my minor daughter namely SUCHITA aged 17 years in her 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are BHAGWAN SINGH and SARITA DEVI respectively.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD SALMAN S/O GULAM NABI RESIDING AT HOUSE NO 32-B GALI KABABIYAN JAMA MASUD DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHD SALMAN TO MOHD SALMAN QURESHI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, ASHOK Father of No. 458904F Rank-NK Name-VJAY ASHOK AWALEKAR Presently residing at VILL-BAMMANAL, PO-MADBHAVI, TEHSIL-ATHANI, DISTT-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591232, have changed my name from ASHOK to ASHOK NARAYAN AWALEKAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, PATHAN SHAHNAWAZ KHAN S/O ABDUL GAFFAR R/O A 12 B, Sangam Vihar, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SHAHNAWAZ KHAN in my minor SON MOHAMMAD SHABREZ KHAN aged 16 years in his 10th Class Educational Document. The actual name of mine is PATHAN SHAHNAWAZ KHAN, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14854517W Rank-NK/MT Name-VJAYAPANDIAN J Presently residing at VILL-NALANPUTHUR, PO-KARUPPUR, TEH-KATTUMANNAR KOIL, DIST-CUDDALORE, TAMIL NADU-608401, have changed my mother's name from J AMUTHA to J AMUDHA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14854517W Rank-NK/MT Name-VJAYAPANDIAN J Presently residing at VILL-NALANPUTHUR, PO-KARUPPUR, TEH-KATTUMANNAR KOIL, DIST-CUDDALORE, TAMIL NADU-608401, have changed my father's name from JAMUKI RAMAN to JANAKIRAMAN SAMANTHAN for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

## INDIAN RAILWAYS

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
रेल मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
रेलवे बोर्ड / RAILWAY BOARD

No. RS(S)/2025/747/1 New Delhi, dated: 11.07.2025  
Subj: E-TENDER NO. 2025IS210 FOR PROCUREMENT OF 28.226 MT OF MILD STEEL STRUCTURAL ITEMS.  
1. On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Executive Director, Railway Stores (S), Railway Board, New Delhi invites e-tender for procurement of 28.226 MT of Mild Steel Structural Items on running contract basis.  
2. The interested tenders are advised to visit the website <https://www.irops.gov.in/> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.  
3. No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.  
4. Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 08.08.2025.  
(AMIT KUMAR) Director, Railway Stores (W) Railway Board  
For and on behalf of the President of India  
21/05/2025  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## Senior Advocate Dr. A. P. Singh's Major Statement on Rising False Allegations and Atrocities Against Men

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Renowned senior advocate and one of the most respected lawyers of the Supreme Court of India, Dr. A. P. Singh, today expressed serious concern during a significant press conference over the increasing incidents of false allegations and mental harassment against men in India. He stated that while society has become more aware of women's rights, at the same time, the rights of men are increasingly being ignored. He specifically referred to a recent case involving the suspicious death of a young

man named Navender Singh. This incident occurred on the night of June 1, 2025, between 12:45 AM and 1:30 AM at Bhagwati Garden in Uttam Nagar, Delhi. The police declared it a suicide, but questions raised by the family and the circumstances of the crime scene indicate it to be a premeditated murder and conspiracy. Dr. Singh revealed that the deceased's alleged live-in partner, Komal, initially told the police that Navender had hanged himself using a scarf. However, the post-mortem later revealed glass-cut marks on the

neck and blue bruises on the chest, which do not align with suicide. The family later discovered 1.5



kilograms of cooked chicken, several glasses, and liquor bottles in the room, suggesting that

multiple people were present at the time of the incident. According to CCTV footage and eyewitness

accounts, a man and a woman were seen fleeing the scene that night. Dr. A. P. Singh has demanded

that an FIR be registered under the following sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):

- Section 103 (Murder)
- Section 61 (Criminal Conspiracy)
- Section 3(5) (Crime Committed with Common Intention)

During the press conference, he stated that this case bears similarities to the case of Mr. Saureb Rajput from Meerut, which was initially termed a suicide but was later revealed to be a case of murder. In such cases, police negligence and societal silence only fuel further crimes. Dr. A. P.

Singh urged the government that just as there is a Women's Commission for women, there should be a "Men's Commission" for men as well, so that victims of false allegations, mental harassment, and domestic violence can also receive justice. He also referred to the Meghalaya case and a tragic incident in Bengaluru, where men were allegedly falsely implicated in dowry and harassment cases or driven to suicide due to mental pressure. The time has come for both the government and society to take serious steps to protect men's rights in India.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SWETA NARYANBHAI ASOPA W/O PRAKUL SHARMA RESIDING AT HOUSE NO. 2172, GAU SHAALA JAMUNA BAZAR DELHI -110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SWETA NARYANBHAI ASOPA TO SWETA SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, Ranjit Rajkishor Sharma, R/O Khatala Building Apartment, Friends Colony, Near Union Bank, Ward No.5, Sohna, Gurgaon-122103, Haryana, have changed my minor son's name from Ayush to Ayush Ranjit Sharma for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Ranjit Rajkishor Sharma, R/O Khatala Building Apartment, Friends Colony, Near Union Bank, Ward No.5, Sohna, Gurgaon-122103, Haryana, have changed my minor daughter's name from Jyotsna to Jyotsna Ranjit Sharma for all future purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, NO-1540173A, Rank-NK Name-VINOD SINGH RAJPUT presently residing VILL-PAVAYA WARD NO-01, BAMAUR KHURD, BANMORE, MORENA, MADHYA PRADESH-476444, have changed my father's name from JAGDEESH SINGH RAJPUT to JAGDEESH SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, NO-15455573K, Rank-SEP/AA Name- SHELAR AKASH SURESH presently residing VILL-HARAGADH, DISTT-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591313, have changed my wife's name from PRATIKSHA TO PRATIKSHA AKASH SHELAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, BEBITAI Mother of No. 4588904F Rank-NK Name-VJAY ASHOK AWALEKAR Presently residing at VILL-BAMMANAL, PO-MADBHAVI, TEHSIL-ATHANI, DISTT-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591232, have changed my name from BEBITAI TO BEBITAI ASHOK AWALEKAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14836480X Rank-BHMDVR-SPLVEH Name-VINOD KUMAR PATHAK Presently residing at VILL-LOOK (ATTHAISA), PO-PATEHRA, TEH-TYOTHRAR, DIST-REWA, MADHYA PRADESH-486497, have changed my father's name from BHAIJAL PATHAK to BHAIYAL PATHAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14836480X Rank-BHMDVR-SPLVEH Name-VINOD KUMAR PATHAK Presently residing at VILL-LOOK (ATTHAISA), PO-PATEHRA, TEH-TYOTHRAR, DIST-REWA, MADHYA PRADESH-486497, have changed my mother's name from SONKALI PATHAK to SONAKALI PATHAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14836480X Rank-BHMDVR-SPLVEH Name-VINOD KUMAR PATHAK Presently residing at VILL-LOOK (ATTHAISA), PO-PATEHRA, TEH-TYOTHRAR, DIST-REWA, MADHYA PRADESH-486497, have changed my mother's name from SONKALI PATHAK to SONAKALI PATHAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14836480X Rank-BHMDVR-SPLVEH Name-VINOD KUMAR PATHAK Presently residing at VILL-LOOK (ATTHAISA), PO-PATEHRA, TEH-TYOTHRAR, DIST-REWA, MADHYA PRADESH-486497, have changed my mother's name from SONKALI PATHAK to SONAKALI PATHAK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Nasreen Khan W/O Faisal UR Rehman R/O C-43, Second Floor, Right Side, Lane No.7, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Nasreen Bano for all future purposes

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMINVAS GUPTA S/O MAHENDRA PRASAD GUPTA R/O HOUSE NO-B-44, THIRD FLOOR, KH NO-143, PANCHSEEL VIHAR, MALVIYA NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017, DECLARE THAT RAMINVAS GUPTA AND RAMINVAS GUPTA THESE ARE SAME PERSON

### NAME CHANGE

I, ITHIBTO KNOWN AS ANJALI PATHANIA D/o KASHMIR SINGH RANA W/O AJAY SINGH PATHANIA, Permanent R/O VPO PANIHAR, DISTT MANDLI, HIMACHAL PRADESH-176026 and Present R/O 2/19, MANEKSHAW MARG, DELHI CANTT-110010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI RANA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, JYOTI KASHYAP W/O MOHIT SEHGL R/O House No-7303, BARA HAZARI, WARD NO-9, REWARI, HARYANA-123401, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, GULAB CHAND Father of No-16115939L Rank-NK Name- ARJUN SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-02, SONMWARIA JAL MANDIR, KE SAMNE, KHILCHIPUR, TEHSIL-KHILCHIPUR, RAJGARH, MADHYA PRADESH-465679, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1966 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHILA BAI Mother of No-16115939L Rank-NK Name- ARJUN SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-02, SONMWARIA JAL MANDIR, KE SAMNE, KHILCHIPUR, TEHSIL-KHILCHIPUR, RAJGARH, MADHYA PRADESH-465679, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1969 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHILA BAI Mother of No-16115939L Rank-NK Name- ARJUN SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-02, SONMWARIA JAL MANDIR, KE SAMNE, KHILCHIPUR, TEHSIL-KHILCHIPUR, RAJGARH, MADHYA PRADESH-465679, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1969 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHILA BAI Mother of No-16115939L Rank-NK Name- ARJUN SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-02, SONMWARIA JAL MANDIR, KE SAMNE, KHILCHIPUR, TEHSIL-KHILCHIPUR, RAJGARH, MADHYA PRADESH-465679, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1969 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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### NAME CHANGE

I, NILKANTA PATI Father of No-1582432W Rank-HAV Name SAMIR KR PATI Presently residing at VILL-PATIRDANGA, PO-BRAHMAMANDIHA, PS-INDUPUR, TEHSIL-KHATRA, DIST-BANKURA, WEST BENGAL-722173, have changed my name from NILKANTA PATI to NILKANTA PATI for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1943 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/11/1940 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, PINKI DEVI wife of SATISH GARG declare as under that I disowned my Son's HAPPY GARG his wife SIMRAN GUPTA and his Son JEE-VANSH GARG from my all movable/immovable/Property proper-ty and belongings. I, PINKI DEVI shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by him in money or transactions and police cases and criminal activity illegal and property purposes in the future. That he debarred from entering my premises situated at A-202, AGGARWAL APPT, SHAHAD EXTENSION, P-2, SHAHAD DAULATPUR, DELHI-110042. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection

### NAME CHANGE

I, JYOTI KASHYAP W/O MOHIT SEHGL R/O House No-7303, BARA HAZARI, WARD NO-9, REWARI, HARYANA-123401, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHILA BAI Mother of No-16115939L Rank-NK Name- ARJUN SINGH Presently residing at WARD NO-02, SONMWARIA JAL MANDIR, KE SAMNE, KHILCHIPUR, TEHSIL-KHILCHIPUR, RAJGARH, MADHYA PRADESH-465679, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1969 vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

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### NAME CHANGE

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### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NIRMALA SETHI W/O CHARNAT SETHI R/O C-9, PANDAV NAGAR DELHI, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SMT. NIRMAL SETHI in my husband's PPO NO-POSTAL/2013/DE/61/RP-377/KR. The actual name of mine is NIRMALA SETHI which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Rahul Bhardwaj** is the owner of the Property No. 1/11336 area measuring 70 sq. yds. out of Khasra No. 97, 101, 481, 102, 521/298-99, 448/26, 455/31 situated in the area of Village Udharpur in the abadi of Panchsheel Garden. Eleven Shashdara Delhi 110032 vide Gt Deed dated 12.09.2022 which is registered as doc no. 6807 in SRO IV A Shashdara and intend to mortgage the said property with **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited**. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Khatun & Khatun**  
A-38 Kailash Colony,  
New Delhi-110048,  
Ph. No: 011-49774545

### NAME CHANGE

I, No-14838772Y Rank-HAV/MT Name-TARUN PRAMANIK Presently residing at SRINATHPUR RAMNAGAR, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL-743273, have changed my daughter's name from SAYONI PRAMANIK to SAYANI PRAMANIK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No-14838772Y Rank-HAV/MT Name-TARUN PRAMANIK Presently residing at SRINATHPUR RAMNAGAR, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL-743273, have changed my mother's name from MALITI to MALATI PRAMANIK for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAJENDRA PRASAD S/O MITAI YADAV residing at VILLAGE JAGADESHPUR, PATTI NARENDRAPUR, JALPAIGURI, UTTER PRADESH-223102, have changed my name to RAJENDRA PRASAD YADAV for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINDRA KUMAR S/O RAJENDRA PRASAD YADAV residing at 64, PRAGAY VIHAR, MAYA PURI, HARI NAGAR, DELHI-110064, have changed my name to RAVINDRA KUMAR YADAV for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINDRA KUMAR S/O MITAI YADAV residing at VILLAGE JAGADESHPUR, PATTI NARENDRAPUR, JALPAIGURI, UTTER PRADESH-223102, have changed my name to RAJENDRA PRASAD YADAV for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINDRA KUMAR S/O MITAI YADAV residing at VILLAGE JAGADESHPUR, PATTI NARENDRAPUR, JALPAIGURI, UTTER PRADESH-223102, have changed my name to RAJENDRA PRASAD YADAV for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ARUN KUMAR VISHWAKARMA S/O MURLIDHAR R/O SUITE NO-4, HOSTEL BLOCK-A, AMITY UNIVERSITY HARYANA, PANCHGANGA, MANESAR, GURGAON, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AROON KUMAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

## NEWS BOX

## Netanyahu says Israel open to 'permanent' Gaza ceasefire only if territory is demilitarised

**JERUSALEM . (Agency)**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel was ready to negotiate a permanent ceasefire in Gaza during a 60-day truce but only if the Palestinian territory was demilitarised.

Delegations from Israel and Hamas began indirect talks in Doha on Sunday to try to agree on a temporary halt in the war, which was sparked by the militant group's October 2023 attack.

US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff has proposed a 60-day ceasefire in exchange for the release of half of the 20 living hostages still in Gaza, Netanyahu said on Wednesday. "At the beginning of this ceasefire, we will enter negotiations for a permanent end to the war," he said in a video message from Washington on Thursday. He said Israel's "fundamental conditions" were that "Hamas lays down its weapons" and no longer has "governing or military capabilities".

"If this can be achieved through negotiations, great. If it cannot be achieved through negotiations within 60 days, we will achieve it through other means, by using force, the force of our heroic army," he said.

Hamas said on Wednesday it had agreed to release 10 living hostages but on Thursday it said it opposed a deal that includes a large Israeli military presence in Gaza. It also wants the free flow of aid into the territory to ease a humanitarian crisis, and "real guarantees" for a lasting peace. The Israeli premier called Hamas "a ruthless terror organisation" and said he wanted the release of all those being held. But he added: "We will do everything in order to maximise (the number of those released) in this round, in the best way possible. Not everything is in our hands."

## On Camera, Ukrainian Spy Shot Dead By Masked Man In Possible Assassination

**world. (Agency)**

A senior Ukrainian intelligence officer was shot dead on Thursday in Kyiv, prompting authorities to launch a probe and find if it was an assassination. The spokesperson for the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has confirmed the incident, adding an investigation is underway. According to CCTV footage obtained by CNN, a man is seen walking out of his apartment building in the capital's Holosiivskyi district. Carrying two bags, he is seen heading towards a parked car when a masked individual approaches him and shoots him from close range. The man collapses instantly. The accused fires again, tucks the gun into his shorts and runs down the street in the other direction.

Ukrainian intel colonel — accused of sabotage in Russia — assassinated in Kiev 50-year-old SBU officer Ivan Voronich was shot dead with five silenced rounds in central Kiev today. The officer, identified by Ukrainian media as Colonel Ivan Voronich, was reportedly in charge of Ukraine's security service's 16th department's 1st division, which specialises in high-level activities such as security missions, special operations, and counterterrorism. Roman Chervinsky, a former Ukrainian intelligence officer, told The Telegraph, "With five shots at close range while leaving the apartment today at 8am, the enemy killer did his dirty work," adding, "Col Voronich had been fighting the enemy since 2014." A spokesperson for the SBU told The New York Post that a criminal investigation was launched, adding that they and the National Police were now working together to find out the circumstances and take necessary measures to catch those responsible. He died in a car explosion in Moscow, a day after Russia carried out a deadly attack on Ukraine.

## Jane Birkin's Hermes Bag Sold For Rs 85 Crore At Paris Auction

**UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)**

The first-ever Birkin bag designed by French luxury brand Hermes for celebrity Jane Birkin sold for 8.58 million euros (\$10 million) at a Sotheby's auction in Paris on Thursday, smashing previous price records for a handbag. The modern design classic, owned by a Paris-based handbag collector, sparked a telephone bidding war up to seven million euros, with the final sale price set at 8.58 million with commission and fees, the Sotheby's website showed. "After weeks of anticipation, the bidding opened at 1 million euros — prompting a gasp from the room," Sotheby's said in a statement. The final buyer, who eclipsed eight other rivals, was a "private collector from Japan", the auction house added, without giving further details. The previous record price for a handbag at auction was set by a diamond-encrusted crocodile skin Hermes Kelly 28, which fetched \$513,000 in 2021 at Christie's in Hong Kong. Sotheby's had advised that the Birkin prototype was expected to beat that level during its sale. But the staggering price tag for a well-worn item is in keeping with the fashion world's recent flashy aesthetics. After years of so-called "quiet luxury" dominating catwalks, designers have embraced more ostentatious looks in recent seasons that have been dubbed "boom boom" by some trend forecasters. Modern-day Birkin bags are offered by Hermes to loyal clients, with prices starting at around \$10,000. The original Birkin has changed hands twice since being put up for sale by Birkin at an auction in 1994 where the proceeds went to an AIDS charity, according to Sotheby's. Thursday's sale represents an extraordinary pay day for owner Catherine Benier, who has a boutique in the upmarket 6th district in Left Bank Paris. She said she was "astounded at the result" in a statement sent by Sotheby's. "I'm already very nostalgic at the thought of knowing the bag is no longer mine but extremely happy it has found a new loving home," she added. She told The New York Times before the sale that the bag, which she bought at auction 25 years ago, was the "jewel in my collection". The bag is now the second-most expensive fashion item ever sold at auction, Sotheby's said.

# Baloch militants kill nine passengers from Punjab in southwest Pakistan

## The armed insurgents stopped two Punjab-bound buses and checked the ID cards of travellers before offloading nine passengers and shooting them dead.

**KARACHI.** Baloch insurgents shot and killed nine passengers from Punjab after offloading them from passenger buses in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, authorities said on Friday. The incident took place late on Thursday on the national highway in the Sur-Dakai area of Zhob district, said Assistant Commissioner Zhob Naveed Alam. The armed insurgents stopped two Punjab-bound buses and checked the ID cards of travellers before offloading nine passengers and shooting them dead. "Nine people abducted from both coaches have been killed, and their bodies have been recovered," Alam said, adding that all nine belonged to different

parts of the Punjab province.

The Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), a banned outfit known for attacking the security forces, claimed responsibility for the gruesome murders. "We have moved the nine bodies to the hospital for post-mortem and burial procedures," Alam said.

Security forces suspended traffic on the highway and began a large-scale search operation to locate the perpetrators. Condemning the killing of nine passengers, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that the killing of innocents based on identity is an "unforgivable crime". "The terrorists have proven that they are not human beings, but cowardly beasts. The blood of innocents will not go in vain on the soil of Balochistan. The state will not allow these murderers to hide even underground," he said. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the incident and said terrorists have shown the worst barbarity by targeting innocent people. This is not the first time

that insurgents have targeted people belonging to the Punjab province and passenger buses plying on different highways in Balochistan. Meanwhile, insurgents also carried out three other terrorist attacks in Quetta, Loralai and

had struck at several places in the province during the night and engaged security forces by attacking check posts, government installations, police stations, banks, and communication towers.

While Rind confirmed the attacks, he said there were no reports of casualties in any of them. Bordering Iran and Afghanistan, Balochistan is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups frequently carry out attacks targeting security personnel, government projects and the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in this oil and mineral-rich province. In March, five people working on long body trailers were shot dead in the Kalmat area near Gwadar port, while in February, insurgents offloaded seven passengers belonging to the Punjab province and killed them on the spot in the Barkhan area.



Mastung, but a spokesperson for the Balochistan government Shahid Rind claimed security forces repulsed these attacks. Unconfirmed reports in the Balochistan media claimed that insurgents

## Processing this shock but we are not giving up: Kapil Sharma's Cap's Cafe on shooting

**RUIDOSO, N.M. (Agency)**

**SURREY (Canada):** A day after shots were fired at comedian Kapil Sharma's newly opened restaurant in Canada's Surrey, the cafe said in an Instagram post that they were "processing the shock" but stand firm against violence. The cafe's team shared their statement via Instagram Stories on Friday. "We opened Kap's Cafe with hopes of bringing warmth, community, and joy through delicious coffee and friendly conversation. To have violence intersect with that dream is heartbreaking. We are processing this shock but we are not giving up," the cafe said in its statement. "Thank you for Your Support Your kind words, prayers, and memories shared via DM mean more than you know. This cafe exists because of your belief in what we're building together. Let's stand

firm against violence and ensure Kap's Cafe remains a place of warmth and community. The Cafe ended the note



with a "thank you and see you soon under better skies". The Surrey Police Service (SPS) said it responded to a call from a business at 1:50 am local time on Thursday. It did not name the business establishment. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses The police said they were called

on July 10 at 1:50 am to "a business located in the 8400 block of 120 Street for a report of shots fired". Upon police arrival, it was quickly determined that the shots were fired towards the business, damaging the property, while staff members were still present inside," it said. The SPS said there were no injuries to anyone at the business. It said "the investigation is continuing and connections to other incidents and potential motives are being examined." The cafe's team also extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Surrey Police and the Delta PD for their "prompt response" and ensuring everyone's safety "during this difficult time." The Vancouver Sun reported that the police do not have a description of the suspect yet and the motive for the shooting has not been determined.

## US targets attempts to dodge Trump tariffs with China in crosshairs

**NAIROBI. (Agency)**

As President Donald Trump ramps up tariff threats on US trading partners, his administration is taking aim at a tactic said to be used by Chinese companies to dodge the levies by moving goods through third countries. The issue is "transshipping," or having products pass through a country to avoid harsher trade barriers elsewhere, a practice Washington has accused Chinese companies of. "Goods transshipped to evade a higher Tariff will be subject to that higher Tariff," Trump warned in letters issued since Monday, days after unveiling a trade pact with Vietnam that promised steeper duties for such goods too. "The clause is less about Vietnam per se and more about signaling that rules-of-origin games across the broader Asian production network will attract a premium penalty," said Barath Harihas, senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He told AFP the White House is likely making two points at once: closing a back door to China and putting the rest of Asia on notice. Noting that Vietnam

was "the single biggest winner from Chinese supply-chain diversion since the first Trump tariffs in 2018," Harihas said the US administration is keen to avoid a repeat of this situation. Ten of the 14 countries first to



receive Trump's tariff letters this week were in Asia and mostly Southeast Asia, which sits between Chinese component suppliers and western consumer markets. "Washington's message seems to be: 'Either help us police Chinese evasion or absorb higher duties yourselves,'" Harihas said. Whack-a-mole "I think it is clear that transshipment of Chinese goods so far this year is massive," said Robin

Brooks, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

While there has been a drop in direct exports from China to the United States, this is "more than offset by" trade shifts elsewhere, he told AFP. In a recent report, Brooks noted that Chinese exports to both Thailand and Vietnam started surging "anomalously" in early 2025 as Trump began threatening widespread tariffs.

It is unclear if all of these goods end up in the United States. But he cast doubt on the likelihood that domestic demand in both these countries rocketed right around the time that Washington imposed fresh duties, saying tariffs tend to instead bog down global trade due to uncertainty. Similarly, Chinese exports to the European Union, he said, also rose markedly in early 2025.

"It's a little bit like whack-a-mole," Brooks said, adding that as long as Washington maintains different tariff rates for different countries, business will try to take advantage of the lowest levels.

## India's Finest Mangoes Showcased In Seattle

**New York/Seattle. (Agency)**

Seattle got a taste of the best of Indian mangoes at a special event hosted to showcase a variety of the popular fruit and explore opportunities for wider availability of premium mangoes from India in the regional market. The Consulate General of India in Seattle, in partnership with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), hosted a special event on Thursday showcasing the 'Flavors of Indian Mangoes'. The event was part of the Consulate's trade promotion and increased market access initiatives.

The event curated a mango-tasting experience, offering the best of the five distinct varieties of Indian mangoes - Dussehari, Chausa, Langra, Mallika and Totapuri - for leading importers and select media from Seattle, according to a press statement issued by the Seattle Consulate. The Guest of Honour at the event was Washington State Attorney General Nick Brown, along with Senator Manka Dhingra and Seattle Port Commissioner Sam Cho. "The participating dignitaries savoured each of the five mango varieties and appreciated their distinctive aroma, texture, and sweetness," the Consulate said. In 2024, mangoes from



India registered a 19 per cent growth in exports to the US, reaffirming it as one of the key export markets. The event also included presentations by industry experts who underscored how 'Mango-The King of Fruits' is celebrated in India across cultures, as a uniquely shared family experience.

At another Indian Food Festival and Mango Promotion event, hosted in Redmond on July 9, a separate session on mango tasting was organised, which was attended by Washington State Representative Alex Ybarra, along with other leading members of the Indian American community and media. "Meetings between exporters of Indian mangoes and US Retail representatives were also held on the sidelines, to explore opportunities for wider availability of premium Indian mangoes in the regional market of the US Pacific Northwest," the Consulate said. and put its armed forces on the highest level of alert in response to the attack, the Polish Armed Forces Operational Command wrote in an X post. Russia's bigger army has also launched a new drive to punch through parts of the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line, where short-handed Ukrainian forces are under heavy strain.

# US State Department tells staffers that layoff notices are coming soon

**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

The State Department formally advised staffers Thursday that it would be sending layoff notices to some of them soon, coming as part of dramatic changes to the agency that the Trump administration announced earlier this year.

The workforce cuts and reorganization of the country's diplomatic corps are part of a wider administration effort to reduce the size of the federal government that has been largely carried out by the Department of Government Efficiency, formerly led by Elon Musk. A recent ruling by the Supreme Court cleared the way for the layoffs to start, while lawsuits challenging the legality of the cuts continue to play out.

Critics say the scale of cuts floated at the State Department would lessen U.S. influence globally and make it hard for many offices to carry out their missions. Michael Rigas, the department's deputy secretary for management and resources, said in a statement that select staffers would be

informed if they were being laid off and called it part of the department's biggest reorganization in decades.

"Soon, the Department will be communicating to individuals affected by the reduction in force. First and foremost, we want to thank them for their dedication and service to the United States," he said. It wasn't immediately clear how many people would be dismissed. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said officials took "a very deliberate step to reorganize the State Department to be more efficient and more focused." "It's not a consequence of trying to get rid of people. But if you close the bureau, you don't need those positions," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he's attending the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum. "Understand that some of these are positions that are being eliminated, not people." He said some of the cuts will be unfilled positions or those that

are about to be vacant because an employee took an early retirement. In late May, the State Department notified Congress of an



updated reorganization plan, proposing cuts to programs beyond what had been revealed earlier by Rubio as well as an 18% reduction of staff in the U.S., even higher than the 15% initially floated in April. Rigas' statement said the department is aiming to "focus resources on policy priorities and eliminate redundant

functions, empowering our people while increasing accountability."

The State Department is planning to eliminate some divisions tasked with oversight of America's two-decade involvement in Afghanistan, including an office focused on resettling Afghan nationals who worked alongside the U.S. military. It also intends to eliminate programs related to refugees and immigration, as well as human rights and democracy promotion. The American Foreign Service Association, the union that represents diplomats, urged the State Department last month to hold off on job cuts. Notices for a reduction in force, which would not only lay off employees but eliminate positions altogether, "should be a last resort," association President Tom Yazdgerdi said. "Disrupting the Foreign Service like this puts national interests at risk — and Americans everywhere will bear the consequences."

## UAE man who ran Mephedrone lab in Maharashtra’s Sangli deported

**Mumbai.(Agency)**  
An Abu Dhabi-based man who allegedly ran a laboratory in Maharashtra’s Sangli from where Rs 253-crore worth Mephedrone (MD), a banned drug, was seized last year, was deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and brought to India on Friday.  
The accused, identified as Kubbawala Mustafa, was wanted in the narcotics case in which the Mumbai Crime Branch had last year arrested six people and busted the laboratory where the synthetic drug was being manufactured. Further probe revealed that Mustafa was the mastermind in the operation, and consequently, procedures were initiated to deport him to India.  
The CBI, which coordinated Mustafa’s deportation through Interpol channels, said that he is wanted in a case registered at Kurla Police Station, Mumbai. A four-member team of Mumbai police went to Dubai on July 7 to bring the accused to India.

“The team arrived at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai on 11.07.2025 from the UAE. The subject was earlier geo-located in the UAE through close follow-up by CBI through INTERPOL with NCB-Abu Dhabi,” the CBI said in a statement on Friday.  
Mephedrone drug packets weighing 126.141 kg and worth Rs 253 crore were confiscated from the factory linked to Mustafa and others. The subject Kubbawala Mustafa has been chargesheeted and the court has issued an open-dated arrest warrant against him.  
On the request of the Mumbai police, CBI got the Interpol to issue a Red Notice against Mustafa on November 25 last year. Abu Dhabi authorities on June 19 conveyed to their Indian counterparts to send a security mission to the UAE to take the accused to India.  
In February last year, the Mumbai police had arrested four individuals and seized 4 kg of Mephedrone from them. During interrogation, the arrested men revealed that the drug was sourced from Irali village situated in Kavathe Mahakal taluka in Sangli district. However, since the exact location was not known, a police team camped in the locality for several days until they zeroed in on the factory.

## NGT seeks clarification on recovery of Rs 79L environment compensation from illegal mining offenders in Doon Assembly

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**  
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to then member secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board (HPPCB), Nalagarh SDM, Manpura police station SHO and Solan mining officer, seeking their clarification on the lack of details about the recovery of Rs 79 lakh environment compensation imposed on over a dozen offenders found involved in illegal mining in the Sirsa river in 2024 under the Doon Assembly constituency in Solan district.  
The tribunal bench headed by Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Justice Sudhir Agarwal (Judicial Member) and Expert Member Dr A Senthil Vel issued the notices last week, directing the respondents to submit their replies through affidavits at least a week before the next date of hearing on October 10.  
The notices were issued following a Miscellaneous Application (MA) based on an HPPCB report filed in compliance with a 2024 order of the NGT in connection with illegal mining activities in Handakundi village under Suner panchayat along the Sirsa river.  
The NGT order reads, “On perusal of the report, we find that although illegal mining has been detected in the area concerned and cases have

# Eknath Shinde visits Amit Shah, BJP chief Nadda amid I-T notice to Sena minister Sanjay Shirsat

**Shirsat reportedly received the I-T notice in connection with a sharp increase in his declared assets between the 2019 and 2024 elections. He says, "black money days are over".**

**Mumbai.(Agency)**  
Days after Maharashtra’s Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat of Shiv Sena received a notice from the Income Tax Department, his party leader and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde made an unscheduled trip to Delhi late Wednesday, where he reportedly met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda. Shirsat reportedly received the I-T notice last week in connection with a sharp increase in his declared assets between the 2019 and 2024 elections.  
While there was no official word on the agenda of Shinde’s meetings with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, the visits on the heels of the I-T notice to one of his close aides and party spokesperson have raised eyebrows. The I-T Department’s action against a sitting minister in the ruling Mahayuti coalition — comprising the BJP, the Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar faction of



the NCP — has not gone down well with BJP allies, as so far, the Central agencies have largely targeted leaders from rival parties in recent years.  
The I-T notice also comes amid a separate controversy over Shirsat’s name being

informally linked by Opposition figures in the auction of the VITS Hotel in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar. While the minister has not been officially named in any case related to the deal, the Opposition has been claiming that his son was involved in the deal. Shirsat,

however, later withdrew from the bid.  
During an event in Sambhaji Nahar, Shirsat said, “The era of black money is over. These days, earning money is easy, but using it has become increasingly difficult.” He said laughingly and added that the department had raised questions about the growth in his wealth from 2019 to 2024 and that he had sought time to furnish detailed replies.  
“I have nothing to hide. If a notice has come, it must be answered,” he remarked.  
Shirsat also had to walk back an earlier remark suggesting that Shiv Sena MP Dr Shrikant Shinde, son of Eknath Shinde, had also received a notice. Clarifying later, he said, “Some people twisted my statement. Dr Shrikant Shinde has not received any notice. I made that clear to the media.”  
The Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) also issued a statement condemning the “misreporting” and reaffirming that only Shirsat had received the notice.

## FIR against Punjab ministers Harpal Cheema, Aman Arora over ‘doctored video’ of LoP Partap Bajwa

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**  
The Cyber Crime Cell of Chandigarh Police Friday registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Punjab Cabinet ministers Harpal Singh Cheema and Aman Arora on charges of defamation and criminal conspiracy for allegedly circulating a doctored video pertaining to Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa.  
The FIR also mentions an unidentified media handler of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the admins of AAP Punjab’s social media accounts on X and Facebook. In his complaint, Congress leader Bajwa said that he frequently raises his voice against the “illegalities and excesses” committed by the AAP-led Punjab government and claimed that AAP leaders and media associates conspired to fabricate and circulate a doctored video to malign his image and misrepresent his political stance.  
Bajwa said the Punjab Vigilance Bureau had recently registered an FIR against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia

and that during their investigation, the officers unlawfully entered the private residence of his wife Ganieve Kaur, who is an MLA. Bajwa called this act “an unacceptable and illegal intrusion” into a woman’s legislator’s private

Singh Khaira. Bajwa alleged that the AAP’s Punjab social media team, however, edited the video to remove references to Kaur and her status as a legislator. The altered video, he said, falsely portrayed that he was defending Majithia, an accused in the case.

Bajwa said the video was widely circulated by senior AAP leaders. He named Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Minister for Printing and Stationery Aman Arora, alleging that they shared the edited clip via their official Facebook accounts and the party’s social media pages. Bajwa said the video was intentionally propagated to damage his reputation and that of the Congress party.  
“I was defamed, maligned, and falsely shown as supporting individuals under prosecution, whereas my actual concern was the misuse of power by Vigilance officials — an issue deliberately edited out,” Bajwa said in his statement to the Chandigarh Police.



space. According to the complaint, Bajwa had posted a video on June 25, 2025, on his official X handle criticising the Vigilance Bureau’s treatment of Kaur, and drew parallels with a similar case involving Congress MLA Sukhpal

## ‘Left with nothing...’: In Vadodara village, a household struggles to understand how ‘entire family’ was wiped off in seconds

**Vadodara .(Agency)**  
On the dusty path leading to the home of the Padhiyar family in Muijpur village of Vadodara district, an unsettling quiet hangs in the air on Thursday afternoon. The silence is broken intermittently by the wails of women grieving the loss of six members, including two children, of the family — all of whom met a watery grave when a slab of the kilometre-long Muijpur-Gambhira bridge over River Mahisagar collapsed around 7.30am on Wednesday. The video of a distraught and helpless Sonal Padhiyar (45) crying for help to rescue her loved ones became a defining image of the tragedy that struck unsuspecting commuters.  
Sonal’s husband Ramesh (45) and children Vedika (4) and Naitik (2) died in the accident. Also among the dead were Ramesh’s brothers-in-law Vakhatsinh Jadav (47) and Has Mukh Parmar (50), and Parmar’s son-in-law Pravin Jadav (25).  
Inside the house, grieving relatives surround Sonal who, with a bandaged arm, struggles to wipe away her tears before breaking down again. Discharged from the hospital on Thursday, she limps with the help of two relatives before sinking to the ground, crying out, “How will I live this life with this pain? How will I survive this? My son is gone, my husband is gone... my daughter is gone.”  
From their home in Dariyapura in Muijpur, the family had set out in their Ecco car for a pilgrimage to Bagdana in Bhavnagar to mark Guru Purnima as well as to “fulfill a vow” (Badha) for the birth of Naitik – born after four older sisters.  
They had only travelled about five kilometers before the vehicle fell into the river along with two trucks, a pick-up van, an autorickshaw, and a few other two-wheelers. Ramesh, a contractual employee of IPCA in Padra taluka, was at the wheel when a segment of the bridge gave way and the vehicle fell into the swelling Mahisagar River.

## Gujarat village mourns deaths of its own in bridge collapse — and threat to livelihood

**Anand . (Agency)**  
For more than 40 years, the bridge over Mahi was a lifeline for the residents of Gambhira village in Anand district, saving them the trouble of having to travel an extra 70 km to work in the factories of Vadodara on the other side. So much so, the bridge itself came to be known as Gambhira.  
Today, a day after a portion of the bridge collapsed, no one from the village went to work. They were mourning the deaths of two of their own in the accident, with the death toll rising to 18 on Thursday. They were also staring at an uncertain future.  
“Taking a detour will mean travelling 70 km, instead of 10 km, to the factory. Four of our family members, all working with us in the same factory, have not returned home since yesterday after the bridge collapsed. They are doing two-three shifts. Only when we report for work will they be able to take a

break and return home,” said Piyush Machhi (21). Piyush was with Dharmesh Nijama (25), both workers at a pharmaceutical company in Vadodara. “There are many like us who were unable to go to work and relieve their family members working in the same firm,” said Dharmesh. Both got jobs in the factory after completing their training from the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Vadodara. With limited employment opportunities and hardly any agricultural prospects, a majority of residents across age groups in Gambhira, with an estimated population of 13,000, depended on the bridge to commute to work mostly in pharma companies.  
“Now with the detour, it will mean an additional financial burden of about Rs 300 every day plus the travel time,” said Harikrishna Machhi (37), who works at a chemical factory in Karakadi, nearly 30 km away, for a monthly salary of Rs 25,000.



# ‘Rush hour is now crawl hour’: damaged roads in Pune’s Nigdi-Akurdi, Tathawade frustrate commuters; residents seek urgent repair

**Poor maintenance and ongoing construction works have made road travel a nightmare for many in Akurdi and Tathawade, endangering the safety of two-wheeler riders and children in particular.**

**Pune. (Agency)**  
Commuters plying through the service road between Nigdi and Khandoba Mal Chowk in Akurdi and on Tathawade Road have been grappling with potholes and damaged drainage chambers for over a month. Fed up with the daily ordeal, residents have demanded urgent repairs on the stretch instead of patchworks.  
Rohit Narayankar, a resident of Nigdi Pradhikaran, commutes daily to Shivajinagar for work. “Since June, we have been facing this inconvenience, and it has become risky for two-wheelers to navigate around potholes that are a foot deep. Even buses are getting stuck in the

damaged drainage chambers, causing the morning rush hour to turn into crawl hour,” he said.  
“I have seen minor accidents happening regularly along the service road, and the patchwork done recently just saw the addition of some paving blocks, which has made the stretch even more unstable. It damages the vehicle’s suspension, adding to maintenance costs, besides causing back aches and neck pain,” added Narayankar.  
There is congestion on the Tathawade service road in the morning because of the potholes. I often get late while going to



work and cannot open my shop on time,” said Raju Ram Bishnoi, who owns a grocery store on Tathawade Road. “We

face a lot of problems due to damaged roads, which is why many people prefer a different route,” he said.  
As many prefer alternative routes, businesses on the stretch are affected. Popat Ranade, the owner of a plant nursery along the Tathawade service road, said, “I don’t get a lot of customers because the roads are bad and there is also a lot of construction work going on. If the roads were good, more people would use them and buy plants from my shop.” “Heavy vehicles for the Metro work nearby worsen the traffic, while luxury buses from the Rudra parking

area add to the snarls as they halt on the narrow road. We want development projects. We also understand that issues will happen, but with better quality of roads and management, this inconvenience can be addressed,” said Onkar Chakane, a resident of Akurdi.  
Several school buses as well as buses of the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML) frequent the narrow service road. “It is not just the people who travel in public transport that face safety issues, many children are commuting in school buses that have to pass through the road, and serious accidents could take place,” says a resident of a housing society in the area.

Making ethical sense of too many deaths

VER the past month, newspapers have been packed with reports of death. Death, in effect, haunts the newspaper. And the individual reading about it feels a sense of futility and helplessness. The citizen—as a reader, spectator or critic—feels the importance of ethicality. He realises a mere act of fury will not be enough; one has to rework one’s concepts and move towards action.

While discussing this, a philosopher friend of mine made an important distinction. He distinguished between individual death and collective death. Individual death, in search of structure and meaning, has found its symbolism and its philosophers. It fits into the philosophy of everydayness and the concept of rite of passage. It fits into the cosmos. Collective death, on the other hand, offers no such possibility.It is in this context that we shall analyse five recent events—the Iran-Israel war, the question over the Gaza strip, the Pahalgam incident, the Air India accident and the stampede in Bengaluru.Haunting the first two events stands the figure of Donald Trump, the American president seen as a clown, a jester, a monster. He is always a caricature. Despite all the attention given to him, Trump has not acquired a full semiotic effect. Symbolically, he represents a new wave—he has not only created a new politics beyond the Cold War, he has provided it with a new sociology of death.Trump has become the master of collective death while playing the deceitful role of a peacenik. He pretended to arbitrate between Iran and Israel while getting ready to bomb Iranian installations. There is a sense of machismo—a technological superiority—about Trump. He feels he and Israel are mature enough to be the masters of nuclear death. Iran and most of the Third World are immature for nuclear development.

Trump in a master of triage. He talks about the dispensability and erasure of the Third World. For him, most of Palestine is real estate to be redeemed from the indigenous people. He feels the migrant is a disposable creature and Mexican migrants, in particular, are utterly dispensable. He treats Gaza as a piece of real estate. Indigenous people, refugees, migrants and marginals—all belong in the dustbin of collective death.Benjamin Netanyahu is a successful mimic of Trump. He believes that Israel should have superiority over others in the region. Israel’s hypocrisy becomes obvious in the way it has made Palestine into a laboratory of real estate and military operations. It is ironic that Israel, a product of the Holocaust, should have little sense of its own genocidal propensities. Its attempts to starve the people of Palestine—because they are seen as irrelevant—is a sheer act of social triage.

Children’s drawings capture this beautifully. America as a nation is usually symbolised by the Statue of Liberty—standing for generosity and openness to migrants and marginal dissenters from other countries. Children’s drawings show Trump demolishing the statue and installing himself. Trump is the Frankenstein of a new politics. He has no sense of nuclear war. The American bombing of Iran is an obscenity in that sense. It turned death into a casual fact by advertising the number of casualties. Death is like an advertisement—a testimony of America and Israel.One of the ironies lies in the fact that the one of the most outstanding essays capturing the philosophy of the other was written by Martin Buber, the Israeli philosopher. He made a classic distinction between ‘I-thou’ (relationship characterised by authentic, direct encounters where the other is seen as a whole person) and ‘I-it’ (treating the other as an object, a means to an end). Buber, like Ivan Illich, argues that philosophy is born with a new grammar of the other. Barbarism becomes permissible when Ithou becomes I-it. Necrophilia as barbarism is genocidal and it’s the Western powers that are the most genocidal. Collective death, thus, becomes an everyday possibility in international relations.

Finding prudence in abstention

The Supreme Court’s judgement rejecting the approved resolution plan in Kalyani Transco vs Bhushan Power and Steel goes against the notion of finality in insolvency proceedings. The court could have considered the US doctrine of ‘equitable mootness’ and abstained from reviewing the merits of a plan that had been substantially consummated

Insolvency is an inevitable part of the collective human experience in all organised communities. In the event that a company is unable to fulfil its obligations and multiple creditors are owed money, there would be a race for diligence by these creditors to pursue their own interests and recover as much of the owed money as possible. The Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016, provides for a structured mechanism to distribute the proceeds from a company’s insolvency and, thereby, seeks to prevent such a race.Under the code, the insolvency resolution process of a company concludes with the approval of the resolution plan by the National Company Law Tribunal. If the resolution plan is not approved, the corporate debtor will proceed to liquidation and eventually be dissolved. As part of this process, prospective applicants are invited to submit what are called as ‘resolution plans’ for taking over the company in distress. This is intended to facilitate proposals from persons interested in commercially viable but insolvent businesses to rescue such entities, creating value for all stakeholders in the process.Such a resolution plan must conform to the criterions in the code and meet such other conditions specified by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Once the resolution plan is approved by a committee of creditors, it is presented to the adjudicating authority for approval.Similar to the review of an arbitral award by a court under the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996, the code includes a process in which the jurisdiction of the NCLT to review a resolution plan is limited. After approval from the NCLT, the plan is binding on the company and its employees, members, creditors, guarantors and other stakeholders.As such, the approval of a resolution grants the company a new beginning and resolves, once and for all, the financial position of the company as it stood on the day of the plan’s approval, in order to allow it to have a ‘clean slate’ for the future. The successful resolution applicant then starts running the business of the debtor without pre-insolvency liabilities hanging over its head. The concept of ‘clean slate’ is not unique to India and is accepted in jurisdictions such as Australia as well.The Supreme Court’s recent judgement in Kalyani Transco vs Bhushan Power and Steel Limited (May 2) has fundamentally challenged this notion of finality. By rejecting JSW Steel’s resolution plan, under which ?19,700 crore has already been disbursed to the creditors basis an earlier order, and ordering liquidation, the court



transactional finality highlighted in Bhushan Steel calls for consideration of the “equitable mootness”, a prudential doctrine in US bankruptcy law. Developed by federal appellate courts, it recognises there comes a point in bankruptcy proceedings where the court should abstain from reviewing the merits of a confirmed reorganisation plan, even if legal errors occurred, because the plan has been substantially consummated and unwinding it would be inequitable.Equitable mootness would address systemic problems, especially the prolonged delays in the judicial approval process, while preserving constitutional safeguards. For resolution applicants, it would provide crucial commercial certainty through reduced post-implementation challenge risks, enabling

better asset valuations and encouraging more aggressive bidding. The doctrine would particularly benefit complex multi-party reorganisations where unwinding would affect numerous innocent stakeholders.

The framework would strengthen credit recovery by reducing disruption to ongoing operations and preserving the going-concern value. Market development benefits include sophisticated resolution financing availability, greater institutional investor participation, and robust distressed asset market development. These improvements would enhance the code’s effectiveness in achieving its twin objectives of debtor rehabilitation and creditor value maximisation.While the importance of time-bound resolution process under the code has been repeated in several Supreme Court judgements, Bhushan Steel’s case is a classic example of delay in proceedings that affects commercial certainty. Until effective provisions are introduced in the code for time-bound decisions concerning resolution plans, the courts should lean towards applying this doctrine. Pertinently, the doctrine would not eliminate judicial review but would require courts to balance the harm from procedural violations against the disruption from unwinding implemented plans.Challenges to resolution plans should ordinarily be entertained only within a reasonable period post-approval, with a strong presumption against intervention after substantial implementation. Even where procedural violations are established, courts should weigh the gravity of violations against the disruption from remedial action, considering whether alternative remedies (such as damages) might suffice. Innocent third parties who have altered their position based on approved plans should not suffer due to procedural lapses by insolvency professionals or adjudicating authorities. The aim should be to reinforce, not undermine, the Committee of Creditors’ commercial wisdom by ensuring their decisions, once implemented, gain finality.While it is not perfect, the doctrine of equitable mootness represents a mature approach to balancing competing interests in insolvency proceedings. While Bhushan Steel emphasised procedural compliances, the disruption from unwinding its plan demonstrates the need for principled limits on judicial intervention. By incorporating equitable mootness, the code can provide greater certainty while maintaining essential procedural safeguards.

Tricky posers over use of fertile farmland for park

Every realty firm worth its salt has bought parcels of land in Devanahalli, which is dotted with resorts. Other business parks and educational campuses have come up nearby as the promise of plenty hangs over the region. Agriculturists have been gradually pushed out, many of them richly compensated

An agitation has been brewing on the northeastern outskirts of Bengaluru, where farmers are up in arms against the acquisition of 1,777 acres of fertile farmland across 13 villages in Devanahalli taluk. Protests had erupted first in 2022, when the Defence and Aerospace Park proposed on this land near the airport was notified by the previous BJP government. At the time, the Congress had supported the farmers. But after coming to power, it has silently continued the process of land acquisition. Around 800 families in Channarayapatna-Devanahalli have been holding protests for over three years. Things have recently snowballed into a larger agitation with support from farmers across the state.

Artificial Intelligence usesArtifical Intelligence uses While the final notification is in the works, the government has announced that 495 acres would be exempted, as farmers there have lost their land twice. The terms of compensation are yet to be worked out. Meanwhile, the land losers argue that infertile land should be acquired for infrastructure projects and are upset with industries and



infrastructure development minister M B Patil for selectively denotifying land to weaken their agitation. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured them that the final decision will be taken on July 15 after legal consultations. The issue has the potential to dent the pro-poor, pro-farmer image of the Congress government, especially Siddaramaiah. He will be hard put to explain

why he is supporting the previous government’s project. Patil, who is pushing the project, advocates a balance between industrial development and agriculture, and warns Karnataka could lose defence companies to Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. The park aims to provide a hi-tech ecosystem for the aerospace, aviation and defence industries and is expected to generate 3-4 lakh jobs.

In real estate terms, Devanahalli next to the Kempegowda International Airport is a veritable goldmine touted as the IT City’s satellite township. Every realty firm worth its salt has bought parcels of land in the area, which is dotted with resorts. Other business parks and educational campuses have come up nearby as the promise of plenty hangs over the region. Agriculturists have been gradually pushed out, many of them richly compensated. The farmers standing up for their fertile lands may appear to be a mere hurdle on the state’s development highway. But the government should keep in mind that the larger issue is about displacement and loss of livelihood.

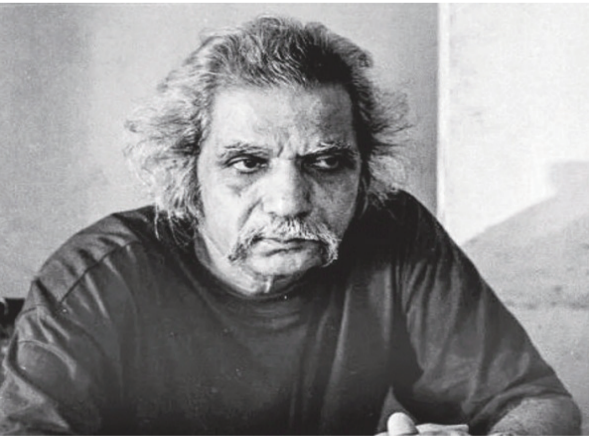
Language row: Whose tongue is it anyway

Even if we place poets Dom Moraes and Namdeo Dhasal at two ends of the language spectrum, there were others like Arun Kolatkar and Dilip Chitre who proudly straddled the middle ground with bilingual works. They embodied the multicultural, multilingual country India was expected to be

Language remains an attractive business opportunity in Indian politics. Union Home Minister Amit Shah joined a long line of political entrepreneurs when he recently said, at the launch of a book by Hindi poet and administrator Ashutosh Agnihotri, that the days of English are numbered, and that English-speakers in India would soon “feel ashamed”. But what exactly was the venture about, and was it a losing proposition?In the language business, north Indian politicians usually propose to replace English, the working language of the British Raj, with Hindi, the language in which governments after independence hoped to bind together the states, which were demarcated on linguistic basis. Indira Gandhi established the department of official language in the 1970s to give teeth to the Official Language Act, 1963. Its core project was to promote Hindi in the work of the Union government. The first step was to create vocabularies to describe the functions and processes of government.Words like nyayalaya (court) were not in common use in the 1970s. The Urdu adalat prevailed. And newfangled terms like urja mantri (minister for energy) sounded unnatural. Delhi’s governments had always relied on English, Urdu and Persian to conduct affairs of the state. Now, a new Hindi vocabulary had to be assembled quickly-and awkwardly. The news on state-controlled media baffled millions. State-sanctioned school curriculums featured monstrosities like vismaya dibodhakchin, Hindi for the exclamation mark. Only a language

bureaucrat could have dreamed that one up.But yesteryears’ monsters are now familiar friends. Across the land, we know what a nyayalaya is. Sporadically, political leaders from Devi Lal to members of the present government have even sought to make technical education accessible in Hindi, But the task of making up a fresh vocabulary is challenging. What’s the Hindi for albedo? For the sternocleidomastoid muscle? It’s better to teach children English, the language in which most of the world’s useful knowledge is encoded today. The children of so many people in government have been educated in precisely that language, often overseas, and they do not want to be ashamed.In the English versus Hindi struggle, some states sensitive to cultural domination had caught on right away: their mother tongues would become collateral damage in any attempt to unify India through one Indian language, which would push down all others to a lower status. Now, Shah seems to have pitted English against the Indian languages; more recently, he has called Hindi a “sakhi” (companion) of all Indian languages. Nevertheless, linguistically sensitive states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal would fear that Hindi is hiding in the shadow of the English bogey. The department of official language is today under Shah’s ministry. Setting aside the rhetoric, Shah’s main point concerns cultural authenticity. Ever since the rise of the right in the 1980s, we have been told that India can be authentically understood only by autochthonous Indians who spring directly from

Mother Earth, like cabbages. Unfortunately, there is some truth in this.A distressing example: bestselling anthologies of Indian literature mostly turn out, on closer inspection, to be collections of Indian writing in English. No Maithili or



Malayalam, please, we’re Indian. It is also true that schooling has divided the nation into a tiny elite comfortable in English, and the majority which identifies with mother tongues. But a handful have also made the effort to cross this manmade border, to see how the other side thinks, and some have learned to settle comfortably in no man’s land.In the world of Mumbai poetry, we could place Dom Moraes at one end of the cultural spectrum. He attended missionary school, went to Oxford, travelled the world and was steeped in the modern

English poetic tradition. Reading his work, you could imagine the poet gazing upon the rolling downs from the window of a crofter’s cottage.

We could place Namdeo Dhasal at the other end of the spectrum-a Buddhist born in Pune, raised in poverty in Mumbai, a Dalit Panthers founder, poet of Kamathipura and other gritty realities-as very Marathi. He reached English-reading audiences via the bilingual poet Dilip Chitre’s translations.

Now, consider the man in the middle, Arun Kolatkar. He had common ground with his friend Chitre-both had translated Tukaram. But Kolatkar had attended a Marathi school in Kolhapur and went to college in Gulbarga, came to Mumbai dirtpoor but rose in advertising and graphic design, in the orbit of the legendary Kersy Katrak. Like Chitre, he led a bilingual creative life, writing in Marathi and English. And that made him the ideal poet to write, in English verse, of the road to Khandoba’s shrine in Jejuri, one of India’s most deeply layered folk pilgrimages.People like Kolatkar and Chitre embodied the India that independence was supposed to create-multicultural, multilingual, progressive and not ashamed of any of it. It was expected that depressed communities would find liberation in English (the Dalit activist Chandrabhan Prasad still works tirelessly on the project), and the English-speaking minority would get over the colonial hangover and seek out their roots again. The language wars that pockmark our modern history were never supposed to happen—at all.

# Drain work held up, Southern Peripheral Road's 3rd cave-in in 2 years sees truck fall into sinkhole

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A temporary measure to channel stormwater under Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) ended in disaster on Wednesday night when a section of the road near Sector 75A caved in, swallowing a truck. The incident, in which the truck driver and his assistant escaped unhurt, occurred around 9.30pm following heavy rainfall, creating a 30m wide sinkhole. The collapse took place at a spot where GMDA had not yet connected its leg-4 drain across the Sector 75A-75 road. To temporarily manage the disposal of water, the agency had installed a temporary pipeline underground, rendering the soil around it vulnerable to erosion, especially during heavy rainfall. It was due to the eroded soil and movement of heavily loaded trucks on the surface that the road gave way on Thursday. Police have since barricaded the area. "The road was gradually settling over the past



few days, but heavy rainfall on Wednesday caused it to cave in. Once the truck is removed, we will start with the repair work," said a GMDA official. This is the third such incident on the same stretch over the past two years. In June 2023, a 30-metre stretch, a few metres away from the recently damaged spot, collapsed. In May this year, a 10-metre

stretch collapsed, creating a massive sinkhole near Sector 75. Following the collapses, the metropolitan authority carried out repair work, but failed to ensure the speedy completion of leg-IV stormwater drain. In June, TOI reported that a 100m hillock near Sector 75A lay in the alignment of leg-IV drain. GMDA started the tendering process for

dismantling it in April this year, but the work has not yet started. Moreover, GMDA officials acknowledged that the progress of the drain work was slow. The Rs 105-crore project got administrative approval in May 2019, but it remained stuck in planning and coordination stages for nearly three years. Tendering began in 2022, and work started in April 2023 with a deadline of Oct 2024. However, officials said that around 50% of the work was completed so far—nearly a year after its completion was due. Meanwhile, commuters complained of the work posing a safety risk, especially during heavy rains. There are no signages or protections along stretches where the excavated portion is open, making the area accident-prone. Dharendra Singh, a resident of Sector 79, said on Thursday that navigating the busy stretch was not an easy task. "The drain work lies incomplete for over a year.

## Told to get haircut, asked to follow rules, students stab Haryana school principal to death on Guru Purnima

**HISAR. (Agency)**

On Guru Purnima, the 52-year-old principal of a senior secondary school in Haryana's Hisar district was stabbed to death on campus, allegedly by two of his minor students, simply because he asked them to get haircuts and follow discipline. The accused — aged 16 and 17 — were in Classes XI and XII, respectively. School CCTV footage showed them fleeing after the crime and throwing a knife in the bushes. Police recovered the weapon and were looking for the suspects. The principal, Jagbir Pannu, was a disciplinarian and would often instruct students to keep their hair short, police said. He had often reprimanded the accused duo. Other teachers, too, received complaints about their misbehaviour but allegedly ignored them. Pannu, however, wasn't one to stay quiet and kept asking them to follow school rules and get their hair trimmed. The two students appeared for a unit test on Thursday morning. After it was over, they went to the principal's office and allegedly asked him to step outside. Pannu came out and was led to a spot away from CCTV cameras, where one of the students allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed him several times. The principal collapsed on the spot while the attackers fled.

## Dysfunction reigns as Gurgaon gets a rain check

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Monsoon's first spate of heavy showers this season dumped over 100mm of rainwater on the city over a few hours on Wednesday evening, overwhelming the city's infrastructure just as rapidly. As main roads across the city went 3-4 feet under water, vehicles broke down, commuters spent hours stuck in traffic and pedestrians waded through flooded streets to reach home. Delivery services and cab aggregators went offline, stranding many in offices. In several colonies, basements and ground floors of houses were inundated too. For many, it was an evening that brought back the nightmare of a July day nine years ago, when the city was gridlocked after flooding. 'Gurujam', as that episode has come to be called, was one of the worst monsoon-triggered jams in the city. "It felt like déjà vu. I witnessed the 2016 Gurujam. Nine years later, the city is still flooding after one proper spell of rainfall," Meenakshi Bhardwaj, a marketing executive who got stuck near Huda City Centre, said on Thursday. She added, "I tried to book a cab to get home from work, but I failed to get any. Finally, one of my colleagues dropped me home. When I reached, I found that my living room was flooded. Cockroaches were all over the place. It was a nightmare. It felt like an apocalypse." Unable to get back home, some took help from friends and family living nearby to ride out the storm. Others decided to walk back home. "I was stranded on Sohna Road for hours. A kind shopkeeper nearby offered me shelter. As my car didn't start, I had to take help from him and returned to my office in Sector 48 on his bike. Then I stayed in office for the night," said Ashish Verma, a resident of Sector 62.

## Woman drowns in Ghaziabad drain as wall collapses on her house in rain



**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

A 30-year-old woman drowned in a drain during heavy rainfall in Kavi Nagar industrial area on Wednesday night. She fell into the drain as a wall next to it collapsed on her makeshift house. Heavy currents as water gushed through the drain meant she was swept away. Her body was found on Thursday morning, about 250 metres from her house. Police said Zunaid Khatoon, a resident of a slum cluster near Vivekanand Nagar rail overbridge, was sitting by the wall after putting her children to sleep when the incident occurred around 9.30pm. "The soil beneath the drain wall had likely eroded, weakening the structure. As she leaned on it for support, the wall collapsed and she fell in," ACP Kavi Nagar Bhaskar Verma said. Her husband, Irshad, said he heard her scream but could do little. "She vanished within seconds. We searched the whole night, but couldn't find her," he said. Police and fire department teams were called in immediately, but the heavy rainfall and high water levels made the search difficult. The body was recovered around 6am on Thursday and sent for autopsy. Police said no formal complaint has been filed by the family. The tragedy puts the spotlight back on vulnerable housing and poor infrastructure, especially during monsoon. Wednesday's fatality follows a spate of weather-related deaths in Ghaziabad earlier this year. On May 25, a 58-year-old sub-inspector died when the roof of a police station collapsed during a storm. Just four days earlier, three people were killed and several injured in four separate incidents triggered by heavy rain and high-speed winds. In Madhuban Bapudham, a 40-year-old man was crushed by a falling tree. In Khoda Colony, a wall collapse at a school killed a woman and injured four family members. In Masuri, a woman died after falling into a drain during a lightning storm. And at Nandgram, a man was seriously injured when a large hoarding collapsed on his motorcycle.

## Near Haryana epicentre of 4.4-magnitude earthquake, quiet village near Jhajjar gets a big jolt but escapes damage

**Jhajjar. (Agency)**

It didn't leave cracks in the walls but many stories to tell over tea, 40-year-old Pradeep, a resident of Girawar, said on Thursday afternoon. The day had begun in panic at this quiet, farming village in Jhajjar, which was among places closest to the epicentre of the 4.4-magnitude earthquake that struck the region on Thursday. The question on everyone's lips since morning was: "Did you feel it?" For most in Girawar, it was quite a jolt. The village, luckily, suffered no damage. According to National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the quake, which struck at 9.04am, had its epicentre in Jhajjar district at a depth of 10km. Its ripples were felt across most places in Delhi-NCR. Normal life resumed quickly in Girawar, but the morning quake became the day's most talked-about topic. Most residents in the village, primarily farmers and landowners, described the jolt as sharp and startling. Somveer (35), a pharmacist who runs Kartike Medical Store near the village's entry gate on the road connecting to Hisar, said the quake caught him completely off guard. "I had opened my shop and was cleaning the table when the windows started shaking. I rushed outside. A few seconds later, I saw other shopkeepers doing the same," he said. Next to his shop, Kavita, who runs a tea stall, said she initially mistook the vibrations for a passing truck. "My kids were at school and I was alone. At first, I thought the ground was shaking because of a heavy vehicle. But then the plastic containers began to shake too. When others confirmed it was an earthquake, I panicked," she said. Her 11-year-old daughter Priya and 14-year-old son Arun described the moment at school. "It was the first time I experienced something like that," said Priya, with a nervous smile. Arun added, "Kids threw their notebooks and ran toward the playground. It was chaos for a moment."

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

When I wrapped up work around 6.30pm, a little earlier than usual, a glance at the live traffic map made me pause — Delhi-Gurgaon expressway was already glowing red. I thought I'd beat the rush by staying back in office. It's a decision I deeply regretted by the end of the night. I could only leave next at 9pm after an intense spell of rainfall left the city flooded. It was still drizzling and I drove into a sea of tail lights. My house in Sector 48 is just about 14km away. Normally, it takes 40 minutes during peak traffic. But it took me that time just to reach Shankar Chowk, which is barely a kilometre away. My wife and 6-year-old daughter were returning home from her drawing classes in Sector 71. Her car was stuck on a waterlogged road in Block A of Vipul World. She abandoned the car and carried the child home in her arms in waist-deep water. Thankfully, they made it back safely. Memories of the 2016 'Gurujam' returned. People had spent the night in cars on roads without food and water. I had just half a bottle of water. What if it happened again? Navigating through bumper-to-bumper traffic, I reached Subhash Chowk on Sohna Road

around midnight. From there, my house is a mere 2km. But covering that final stretch took another 1 hour and 15 minutes. Sohna Road was a mess—completely jammed.



My car had enough fuel when I left for work that morning — enough for two days of regular commute. But hours of idling, inching forward, and restarting after switching off to save fuel started getting dangerously low. Every time I came across a dry patch, I turned off the ignition to conserve what was left. But while navigating waterlogged stretches, I had to keep the engine running, fearing a stall in knee-deep water. Even the cranes deployed to tow broken-down vehicles

were stuck in the same traffic. I saw families — kids curled up in back seats, parents peering out of windows — inside cars, shielded from rain but overcome with anxiety. Every few minutes, someone would step out into the rain to check if anything ahead had changed. It hadn't. On Sohna Road, I watched husbands asking their wives and children to walk the remaining distance while they stayed back with the car. It must have been agonising. But at that point, walking felt like freedom. Two-wheeler riders and pedestrians were faring better in some ways. Soaked to the bone, yes, but at least they were moving. At one point, I seriously considered parking the car and walking home. But with the rain, deep water, and dead streetlights, it didn't feel safe. So I stayed in the car. At 1.15am, I finally reached home. The colony was pitch dark. Power had been knocked out by rain, and the backup DG system had failed too. I sat in my car for a minute before stepping out. It was hard to believe that a 14km drive could turn into such a test of nerve. But that's Gurgaon in rain — always one shower away from chaos.

## 'Sludgefest' on key Indirapuram stretches after showers

**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

With GMC failing to complete drain cleaning before the arrival of the monsoon, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning's rainfall left places like Makanpur and Kala Patthar Road in Indirapuram swimming in sludge. Filth — essentially silt mixed with a huge amount of plastic and other waste — dredged from drains by excavators but left on roadsides, caked the ground, turning one of Indirapuram's busiest spots into a public hygiene nightmare. Highlighting the civic body's failure to clean the drains, Anil Jain, a resident of Orange County, said, "As far as Kala Patthar Road is concerned, they call it Agrasen Marg. Only if changing the name would have changed the condition of the road. Near Bikaner Hotel and at many places on the stretch until a few days ago,

they dug out mounds of sludge, but it seems they forgot to transfer it. As a result, the sludge, after the rain, went back to the same drain from where it was extracted, choking it further. There is no intent on the part of GMC, and yet every year they claim that drains have been cleaned." JS Tyagi, another resident of Orange County, told TOI, "GMC, from which we had high hopes after the handover, failed miserably in carrying out its duty, and the sad part is that we are paying the price for it while GMC is busy increasing taxes." Nirmalendu Mishra, a resident of Gaur Green Society, which is a few paces from Kala Patthar Road, said, "I think Kala Patthar Road is a case study for the entire Ghaziabad. You name one civic problem, and you will encounter it here—choked and uncovered drains, encroachment,

illegal parking, flooding of roads—you just name it. An area which I think is the highest property tax-paying zone of Ghaziabad is bereft of even basic civic amenities, and GMC should take the blame." Radhey Shyam Tyagi, councillor of ward number 57, which comes under Makanpur village, admitted that the area was in a complete mess. "As an elected public representative, I am answerable, and there is no getting over the fact that our preparations for the monsoon were unsatisfactory. I will take up the matter with the GMC officials and the mayor and will demand that sludge be removed, drains be covered, and order be restored. It is just the start of the season, and hopefully, we will get things right in a fortnight." Mayor Sunita Dayal said that the drain cleaning work will be reviewed.

# Stuck in jams, trapped in cars: 400 distress calls in 7 hours in Gurgaon

**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

The traffic police helpline received more than 400 distress calls in seven hours on Wednesday as people struggled to make it home across the city, marooned on waterlogged roads or in jams triggered by vehicle breakdowns. The calls began around 7am and continued till as late as 2.30am. Most callers sought assistance in removing stalled vehicles, reported breakdowns of their personal vehicles and sought information if there were less congested routes that they could take. Some wanted to know if they would face waterlogging on the route. For the traffic police, it was an uphill battle against the elements. Till the early hours of Thursday, traffic personnel removed 222 vehicles stranded on roads across the city using 32 cranes borrowed from civic authorities. Many of the vehicles that broke down on flooded stretches were abandoned by their drivers there, police officials said. A traffic official told TOI, "People were in severe panic as they were unable to make their way home because of the jams. Traffic moved at snail's pace. A woman travelling with her nine-year-old daughter called for help. She sounded



frightened. She was unable to start her car because water got into it. This was near Sheetla Mata temple. Immediate help was sent to her, the car was towed and they were sent home. The distress calls were made to 1097 and 9999981800." Besides cars and bikes, passenger buses also broke down. Special deployments of traffic cops were made at 23 critical waterlogged locations. The most affected

spots were Subash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Sheetla Mata Chowk, Pasco traffic light near Signature Tower, Iffco Chowk, Badshapur bus stand, Himiri Chowk, 42/27 Intersection, and Z Chowk. A large cave-in on Southern Peripheral Road left that part of the city gridlocked, with the ripple effect felt in sectors around it as well as Golf Course

Road, which was choked through the evening. Police blamed the cave-in on Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) leaving the area where a drainage pipe was installed unpaved, "merely covering it with sand". Despite alerts from traffic cops, the concerned officers did not respond, leading to the road caving in and a truck falling into the resulting crater, a traffic official said. Police had to barricade the area and divert traffic. Traffic police also removed six trees from various roads that led to major snarls, including the stretch between Z Chowk and Iffco Chowk metro station, between Z Chowk and Gold Souk, in front of Medanta, Rankrola-Bhangrola Road, and PWD resthouse road. "To tackle the situation, we deployed 72 traffic cops at the 23 critical waterlogging points. Additionally, while traffic cops are usually deployed from 8am to 8pm, they worked night shifts at over 100 traffic points. We did not wait for departments concerned to remove trees. We also contacted prominent companies to announce work-from-home arrangements for their staff to reduce traffic congestion on Thursday," DCP traffic Rajesh Mohan said.

# Delhi traffic police inspector transferred for failing to tackle congestion caused by heavy rain

## Agency New Delhi.

A Delhi Traffic Police inspector posted at Model Town Circle has been “temporarily” transferred to the Rohini Circle for failing to address the traffic issues caused by monsoon showers and waterlogging on the stretch between Mukarba Chowk and Azadpur in Northwest Delhi on Wednesday, according to an official order.

The order against Deepak Sharma, Traffic Inspector, issued by K Jagadesan, Special Commissioner of Police, Traffic, on Thursday, stated: “There was heavy traffic congestion at Mukarba Chowk and Azadpur on July 9 (Wednesday), lasting for 4 to 5 hours. Despite prior instructions and the minutes of the meeting issued regarding monsoon preparedness and waterlogging, no effective implementation was observed on the ground.”

“The staff, including TI (Traffic Inspector), were not available at the most critical points, which resulted in prolonged congestion and caused immense



inconvenience to the general public,” it stated. The order further reads, “...Inspector Deepak Sharma, TI/MTC (Model Town Circle), has shown an inability to discharge his duties and failed to comply with the directions issued. His failure to take timely and proactive measures regarding waterlogging and

monsoon preparedness reflects gross negligence & incapability to run the circle.” “TI/MTC is temporarily attached to Rohini Circle...and TI/Rohini will look after the charge TI/MTC till next PEB,” it added, leaving further decision on the matter to the Police Establishment Board. On Wednesday evening, Delhi witnessed

heavy monsoon thundershowers resulting in waterlogging and traffic congestion at various locations.

Prior to the monsoon, the city administration had taken several measures, including desilting of drains, to prevent waterlogging. The traffic police and civic agencies also drew up plans to tackle the menace as well as traffic snarls during showers. After Wednesday’s downpour, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta conveyed a special meeting on Thursday and said immediate measures should be taken to mitigate the problems caused by water accumulation, and instructed that stormwater drains along the roads be regularly inspected and cleared of blockages.

“Senior officers must visit these sites, ensure thorough cleaning, and check drainage systems to identify and resolve any obstructions that may lead to future water accumulation. Field staff responsibilities and accountability should be clearly defined to address both causes and lapses,” she said.

## Soon, 500 electric buses to ply across Noida, Greater Noida. Check the routes

**Officials said that a 250-day deadline has been fixed for the completion of the project, estimated to cost Rs 675 crore. The buses will be released in a phased manner.**

### Agency New Delhi.

In a move to increase the frequency of buses, the Noida Authority is gearing up to launch a fleet of 500 electric buses that will ply across Noida, Greater Noida, and the Yamuna Expressway region. Officials said that a 250-day deadline has been fixed for the completion of the project, estimated to cost Rs 675 crore. The buses will be released in a phased manner. They further said that the tender process has already been completed, with two private bus operators being selected to run 250 buses each.

“While Travel Time Mobility India Private Limited will operate 9-m buses at a cost of Rs 55 per km, Delbus Mobility Private Limited will operate 12-m buses at Rs 68 per km. Each

electric bus is expected to run up to 300 km daily,” said an official. The project is aimed at making the buses available at a 10-minute interval, with a halt of 20 minutes after every trip. Between 10



to 20 buses are going to be deployed on each route,” the official added.

The service will cover 25 routes, including key intra-city corridors and

links to the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar.

According to officials, the routes selected include Shashi Chowk to Ace City, areas of Kasna village heading to

Sharda University, Tigri Gol Chakkar to Rajnigandha Chowk, Ek Murti Chowk in Greater Noida West to G B University, Botanical Garden to Sampoonam, and Dadi to GB University via Kasna, among others.

An additional annual operational cost of around Rs 370 crore has also been set for the project, said officials, adding that authorities are anticipating an annual revenue of around Rs 145 crore through fares and advertising.

## MCD set to hire new agencies to remove garbage

### Agency New Delhi.

Residents of at least three zones in the Capital – West, South, and Central – will soon breathe in cleaner air, with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) planning to remove piles of garbage and ensure regular sanitation.

As part of three Bills passed by the MCD House on Thursday, the civic body proposed hiring new agencies to collect and transport municipal solid waste to the designated MCD dump site or processing facility. A concessionaire will be appointed for seven years, based on the tipping fee model.

The move comes after the tender of the previous concessionaire expired almost two years ago. Since then, the MCD has given an extension to the concessionaire.

The scope of work will include door-to-door and street-to-street collection of trash; collection and transportation of street sweeping waste and silt from

drains of less than 4-ft depth; use of e-rickshaws in areas having narrow lanes, as well as appointing two tippers in each ward in addition to the already existing Fixed Compactor Transfer Station – a machine designed



to compact segregated solid waste. In all, 29 Bills were passed by the House on Thursday.

Another Bill passed pertained to owners of medium, small and micro enterprises (MSME), operating in industrial areas, obtaining or renewing factory licences while paying property

taxes, in line with the government’s ease of doing business policy. Additionally, the factory licence fee will be charged at 5% of the property tax, said officials.

“Issuing factory licences by MCD to industries operating in industrial areas established or recognised by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) or Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) is an additional compliance burden,” said the civic body.

It added that from now on, the MSME Udyam Registration Certificate or the allotment or lease deed issued by GNCTD or DSIIDC will be treated as a deemed factory licence under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. “We had an elaborate discussion with representatives of the industrial sector and came to this decision of ending the Inspector Raj system,” said Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh.

## Delhi Police busts key drug syndicate, seizes contraband worth Rs 7 crore



### Agency New Delhi.

A key member of a national drug syndicate has been arrested and contraband worth Rs 7 crore seized, the Delhi Police Crime Branch said on Thursday. The accused, Gaurav (24), was arrested from Sultanpur on June 28 while he was on his way to deliver a consignment of heroin, they added.

“The ANTF (Anti-Narcotics Task Force) team of the Crime Branch tracked Gaurav. Specific inputs about his movement and role in heroin supply were being investigated,” DCP (Crime) Sanjeev Yadav said. The police claimed they had recovered 405 gm of contraband heroin in 1,007 packets from Gaurav.

During his questioning, the police said they found out about an interwoven network of suppliers. According to the police, the accused got his supplies from a man named Vanshu, whom he met during a wedding in 2023. “The accused has never been arrested, as his customer base was limited... Efforts are on to trace Vanshu and the entire supply chain to identify the source and destination of the recovered contraband,” the DCP said. The police said that before Gaurav, a Class 3 dropout, started smuggling drugs, he was involved in the illicit liquor business with his relatives. This latest development comes on the heels of another drug bust by the Delhi Police. On July 1, the Crime Branch had seized a consignment of heroin, weighing over a kilogram, amounting to Rs 5 crore. Two people had been arrested in the case.

## Delhi HC reduces 90-year-old convict’s 3-year sentence to a day

### Agency New Delhi.

Providing relief to a 90-year-old convict, the Delhi High Court has reduced his three-year sentence in a corruption case to a day. The court acceded to the man’s request factoring in that “such imprisonment would risk causing irreversible harm and would defeat the very objective of mitigating the sentence”, given his age and health condition.

In an order issued on July 8, Justice Jasmeet Singh also weighed the “inordinate delay” – with the trial taking nearly 19 years to conclude, and the appeal before HC being pending for over 22 years, with proceedings also continuing for over four decades.

“Such inordinate delay is plainly at odds with the constitutional mandate of a speedy trial envisaged under Article 21 of the Constitution. The ‘Sword of Damocles’ and uncertainty qua the fate of the case of the appellant have been uncertain for a period of nearly 40 years, and that by itself is a mitigating factor.”



The convict, Surenra Kumar, was employed as the chief marketing manager at the State Trading Corporation of India. He was arrested for one day in 1984 for demanding a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a supplier of dried fish. He was then released on bail.

In October 2002, he was sentenced to three years in jail under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Kumar did not challenge his conviction but sought that his sentence be set off against the period of incarceration which he has already undergone. “A vital mitigating factor in considering the sentence is the appellant’s advanced age. At 90 years old, suffering from serious health ailments, he is highly vulnerable to the physical and psychological impact of incarceration,” the court recorded.

## Narcotics Control Bureau moves Delhi HC against trial court order on furnishing cell location data of investigating officers in drug trafficking case

### Agency New Delhi.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has moved the Delhi High Court seeking a stay on a trial court order directing it to preserve and disclose the Cell Location ID charts and mobile data of its investigating officers (Ios).

While the agency submitted that such disclosure “poses a serious threat to operational confidentiality, national security and ongoing investigation”, Justice Ravinder Dubeja on Tuesday sought a response from a drug trafficking case accused, on whose application the trial court had issued the directions. The high court has posted the matter next for consideration on October 9.

The accused, Naveen Fogat, was booked in July 2023 in a pan-India probe into parcels of LSD, a hallucinogenic drug, seized from a courier facility. Fogat was allegedly involved in shipping the LSD and drug trafficking.

However, Fogat, represented by advocate Aditya Giri, told the high court on Tuesday that there were custodial irregularities preceding his formal arrest in 2023, following which he had filed an application under Section 94 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, seeking the location data of the NCB investigating officers to substantiate his claims.

Arguing before the HC, Fogat submitted that Cell Location ID charts would help reveal the alleged custodial irregularities committed by NCB investigating officers Chetan Sharma and Amit Kumar Tiwary.

On May 21 this year, after charges were framed before the trial court, Fogat filed an application before the special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act court seeking the preservation and production of call detail records and tower location charts of the mobile phone belonging to him, his relatives, and the two investigating officers.

## Delhi Govt plans to build Rs 3,000-crore elevated road over Munak Canal; seeks NOC from Haryana

### Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Government is planning to construct a 20-km-long elevated corridor over the Munak Canal from Bawana to Inderlok at Rs 3,000 crore to improve connectivity between North and Northwest Delhi, and take over the maintenance of the canal. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta held a meeting with Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh and senior officials from the Haryana Government, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and other departments to discuss the matter.

Gupta said that by taking over the maintenance of the Munak Canal, the government would be able to strengthen it to ensure uninterrupted water flow. “The canal flows openly through Delhi, and there is no effective mechanism in place to ensure the security of the canal or its water. In several areas under Delhi’s jurisdiction, the canal’s banks are unpaved, leading to frequent contamination of the water. The canal lining (pitching) has also broken down in several places due to a lack of maintenance. These factors contribute to pollution and hinder the natural flow of the canal, even though the treated water from it quenches the thirst of nearly 2 million residents of Delhi,” the Chief Minister’s Office said in a statement.

Gupta also emphasised that the canal is not only a lifeline for Delhi’s drinking water supply but also holds cultural and religious significance. The government also aims to improve the surrounding areas so that religious and cultural events can be held properly. “Large-scale Chhath Puja celebrations are held in this canal, reflecting its social importance,” she said. She told Haryana officials that if they are facing any difficulties in maintaining the canal, the Delhi Government is ready to take over its upkeep, said officials.

## Two-storey building collapses in Delhi’s Azadpur market; 1 dead

**The building falls within the influence zone of the tunnelling works being carried out for the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor of Delhi Metro, the DMRC said.**

### Agency New Delhi.

A 45-year-old man was killed as a double-storey building collapsed in Delhi’s Azadpur market early on Friday morning, the police said. The incident occurred at around 2 am when the building housing shops and godowns collapsed at the Tokri Walan area near Pul Mitthai.

The police identified the deceased as Manoj Sharma, and said that he worked at shop number 7 A, which was located on the ground floor of the building and owned by Gulshan Mahajan. Sharma had been working for Mahajan for the last 30 years, the police said.

The ground floor of the building had three shops, 5A, 6A and 7A, with their respective godowns on the first floor. A truck parked near the ground floor of the building was also severely damaged, the police said. “This location falls within the

influence zone of the ongoing tunnelling works being carried out for the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor of Delhi Metro. The buildings had already been identified as unsafe prior to the commencement of tunnelling work in the area and had been evacuated,” the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said in a statement, adding that an ex gratia of ₹ 5 lakh has been announced for the next of kin of the deceased.

A police official said that Sharma was found lying under the debris and was immediately rushed to Hindu Rao Hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

“An FIR is being registered under sections 106(1) (death by negligence) and 290 (negligent construction of buildings) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further



investigation will be undertaken,” a police officer said. The DMRC said that letters requesting evacuation of the building had been issued to residents on June 12. “It was clearly communicated that these structures were in an extremely dilapidated condition and therefore, as a precautionary measure, the evacuation of the structures was necessary. Accordingly, the buildings were subsequently

evacuated,” the DMRC said.

Pointing out that necessary subsoil grouting and external supports were provided at the site to stabilise the structure and mitigate any risk due to tunnelling, the DMRC said that the tunnelling work is being executed by AFCONS.

The DMRC said it would conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. On April 19, a six-floor, under-construction building collapsed in the Mustafabad area of northeast Delhi, leading to the deaths of 11 people. The collapse was said to be caused by dust storms and heavy rain in the capital. Azadpur market witnessed a building collapse in 2022 when a four-storey, under-construction building at Shivaji Road collapsed due to alleged overload, leading to five people being injured.

NEWS BOX

Not a surface to come out swinging: Ollie Pope on England's slow batting approach

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
England batter Ollie Pope admitted that the Lord's surface on Day 1 of the third Test against India didn't allow the hosts to adopt their usual high-tempo style, highlighting India's disciplined bowling performance that kept scoring opportunities to a minimum. Speaking at the post-match press conference on Friday, Pope said the pitch required patience and tactical shot selection, a departure from England's typical aggressive approach. "This wasn't a surface where you could come out swinging. The Indian attack held their lengths and made it hard to score," Pope noted. England ended the day at 251/4, with Joe Root unbeaten on 99 and Ben Stokes supporting him on 39. The start was noticeably slower than England's recent first-innings efforts, a point Pope acknowledged, while insisting that the side had adapted well to the conditions. "It's not necessarily the way we're used to going about putting together a first innings, but I think 250 for four is a pretty good score obviously would have liked some more runs," he added. "But the



nature of the surface and the way the Indian attack bowled was pretty good throughout." India's standout bowler was Nitish Kumar Reddy, who made an immediate impact by removing both openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley, finishing with figures of 2 for 46. Jasprit Bumrah, returning to the XI, was typically frugal, taking 1 for 35 from his 18 overs. Ravindra Jadeja picked up Pope's wicket with a sharp turning delivery that took the edge to the keeper.

**READING MATCH SITUATIONS: POPE**  
Pope emphasised the importance of reading match situations rather than rigidly applying an attacking template. "Sometimes you might see some more aggressive shots on a pitch that's really moving and nipping around — because that's your best way of putting pressure back on the bowlers," he explained. "But today called for a different approach."

Signe Gaupset scores brace as Norway beats Iceland 4-3 at Euro 2025

**Gaupset netted both her goals inside 26 minutes and became the youngest player to score twice in a Women's European Championship match.**

**THUN. (Agency)**  
Signe Gaupset became the youngest player to score twice in a Women's European Championship match as she led Norway to a 4-3 win over Iceland on Thursday. UEFA said Gaupset, who is 20 years and 22 days, had beaten the previous record by exactly a year as Vivianne Miedema was 21 years and 22 days when she bagged a double for the Netherlands in the 2017 final. Gaupset netted both her goals inside 26 minutes and also set up Norway's other two, which were scored by Frida Maanum in the second half. Norway was already guaranteed top spot in its group, while



Iceland was already eliminated. Iceland was nevertheless keen to end its tournament with a positive result and took an early lead when Sveindís Jónsdóttir tapped in a rebound in the sixth minute. The team then slashed the deficit with two late goals. Hlín Eiríksdóttir scored Iceland's second in the 84th minute and Glódis Viggósdóttir added a penalty in stoppage time after Eiríksdóttir was fouled by Marit Bratberg Lund, who was shown a second yellow card and sent off. Norway finished with a maximum of nine points in Group G, five points above host nation Switzerland and Finland after they drew 1-1. Switzerland advanced because of a superior goal difference to Finland. Iceland finished bottom of the group with zero points. Norway will play the runner-up of Group B in the quarterfinals, on July 16 in Geneva. That will be Spain, Italy or Portugal — who play their matches on Friday.

Mitchell Starc reflects on journey to 100 Tests: Huge honour, makes me feel old

- Mitchell Starc will become second Australian fast bowler to play 100 Tests**
- Mitchell Starc reflects on journey to 100 Tests: It makes me feel old**
- Starc has played all matches since a finger tendon injury in 2022**

**New Delhi. ((Agency))**  
Veteran Australian pacer Mitchell Starc is set to join an elite group when he takes the field against the West Indies in the third Test at Sabina Park on Sunday, becoming just the second Australian fast bowler after Glenn McGrath to reach the milestone of 100 Test matches. "It makes me feel old," Starc said when asked about the landmark, nearly 14 years after his debut. While Kraigg Brathwaite last week became the 82nd player in history to reach 100 Tests, only 12 others have done so as frontline pace



bowlers. He entered his 100th Test five wickets short of the 400 mark, another rare feat among fast bowlers. Starc's journey has been one of resilience and sacrifice. Despite battling a litany of injuries early in his career — including back, knee, ankle, foot, calf, and shin troubles — he has remained a cornerstone of Australia's attack, often choosing national duty over lucrative T20 contracts to manage his workload. "I've tried to look after my body and find ways through pain barriers to

make an impact for the team," Starc told cricket.com.au. "I've been a player that's been injured and left the team a man down before — I never wanted to do that again. So, finding ways when things weren't going well, or if I was carrying something, to still be able to push through and finish games and contribute — that's been important. But I've also had a lot of support along the way — from trainers, physios, and teammates who are also my best mates — they've all played a part

Mitchell Starc wary of pink ball challenge ahead of day-night Test in West Indies

- Sabina Park hosts its inaugural day-night Test match**
- Australia has limited experience with the pink Dukes ball**
- Starc nears 400 Test wickets milestone in Jamaica**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Sabina Park is all set to host its first-ever day-night Test, and Australia pacer Mitchell Starc is already gearing up for the unique challenge of bowling with the pink Dukes ball under lights. Most of the Australian squad has little experience with the pink ball, and even Starc admits it's a relatively new experience for them. With only one training session so far, the players are adapting to conditions in Jamaica, where the pitch looks promising for both bat and ball. For Starc, this match holds extra significance: it will be his 100th Test, and he is just a few wickets shy of reaching the monumental 400-wicket milestone. Known as one of the best bowlers in pink-ball cricket, Starc has claimed 74 wickets in day-



night Tests at an impressive average of just over 18 runs per wicket. With only five wickets remaining to hit 400, the left-arm pacer is eager to add to his tally on Jamaican soil. Starc believes the pink-ball format adds an exciting new dimension to the game. "It's quite funny that I'm playing my 100th Test in a pink-ball game. It's something different, but I'm looking forward to the challenge," he said. According to Starc, the pitch at Sabina Park promises to be the most even surface of the series so far. Unlike the previous Tests in Barbados and Grenada, which featured unpredictable bounce and movement, Sabina Park is expected to offer a fair contest between bat and ball. "It looks like it's probably the best of the three pitches we've had so far," he added. Speaking ahead of the match, Starc acknowledged that

playing with the pink Dukes ball at Sabina Park presents new challenges for the Australian team. "There might be a few things going on at night with the pink Dukes. It's a new one for us as a group. I think Usman [Khawaja] is the only one who's played with a pink Dukes before, and it was an English Dukes ball. He said the county game went for a day and a half," Starc explained. This will be Australia's first day-night Test away from home, adding extra excitement to the occasion. The pink ball is known to behave differently under lights compared to the traditional red ball, often offering more swing and seam movement, especially in the evening sessions. Starc's experience with the pink ball will be vital to Australia's bowling attack. Australia has played 13 pink-ball Tests to date, with their only loss coming against the West Indies at the Gabba in 2024. That match was a rare moment of joy for the West Indies, who have generally struggled with the pink-ball format. Only four players from that victorious team are expected to feature in this Test, adding a fresh twist to the contest. The installation of floodlights at Sabina Park was completed just in time for this historic Test, enabling the ground to finally host a day-night match.

England took a different approach: Trott credits hosts' classical long-format batting

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Former England batter Jonathan Trott praised England's adaptability after the hosts adopted a more conservative batting approach — a departure from their usual 'Bazball' style — on Day 1 of the Lord's Test against India. England showcased a more measured side to their game in the third Test, ending the day on 251 for 4 after choosing to bat first. Joe Root led the effort with an unbeaten 99 off 191 balls, while Ben Stokes offered a steady presence with 39 from 102 deliveries. The day's run rate, just a touch over three an over, marked a noticeable shift from England's typically aggressive philosophy. It was an interesting day, starting right from the toss. England took a different approach compared to the first two Tests. I thought Ollie Pope came out in



typical 'Bazball' style, attacking early, but quickly realised that this wasn't that kind of pitch. Credit to him for adjusting his game. We also saw Joe Root look fluent — a beautiful cover drive and a clip through mid-wicket off Siraj stood out. Once he got going, it felt like he'd bat deep. I thought England might go after Jadeja in the final over of the day, but sense prevailed,

especially with Ben Stokes carrying a bit of a niggles," said Trott, speaking on JioHotstar. Trott's comments summed up a day when England clearly prioritised playing the conditions over forcing the pace. The Lord's surface offered little pace or lateral movement, and from the early overs, it was evident that batting would demand patience. Ollie Pope initially looked to set the tone with attacking intent, but pulled back smartly when the risks became apparent. The highlight of the day was Joe Root's calm, classy innings. Coming in during a delicate phase, he settled quickly, showcasing sharp footwork and precise shot selection. His elegant cover drives and wristy flicks were reminders of the form that has made him one of England's most reliable batters over the past decade.

Djokovic or Sinner: Roger Federer reveals his prediction for Wimbledon semifinal

- Sinner takes on Djokovic in the Wimbledon 2025 semifinal**
- Federer picks Djokovic to beat Sinner in the Wimbledon semifinal**
- Djokovic eyes a record-extending 25th Grand Slam**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer has weighed in on the much-anticipated Wimbledon 2025 semifinal clash between world number one Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic, backing the Serbian veteran to come out on top in the high-stakes encounter scheduled for Friday, July 11. Federer's prediction came in response to a fan's unexpected question during a chance meeting. Initially caught off guard, the eight-time Wimbledon champion eventually named Djokovic as his pick, despite acknowledging the challenge posed by the in-form Italian. Sinner, 23, has enjoyed a strong campaign this year and currently sits at the top of the ATP singles rankings. He reached the semifinals after his Round of 16 match against Grigor Dimitrov ended prematurely due to the Bulgarian retiring with a pectoral injury. Sinner had already taken a



two-set lead and appeared on course for victory regardless. Djokovic, now 38, is chasing a historic 25th Grand Slam title. The Serb has shown signs of vulnerability in this year's tournament and suffered a scare in his quarterfinal match against Flavio Cobolli, where he took a nasty fall while chasing a point.

in helping me keep going." Since tearing a tendon in his finger during a Test against South Africa in late 2022, Starc has not missed a match through injury. In fact, he bowled through that very game despite the damage — a sign of the grit that has come to define his career. "There are a few scars and sore bits most days," he admitted. "Whether it's jabs or painkillers along the way, I've learnt what I can and can't push through. I'm never going to go into a game that I don't believe I can finish." "You learn the difference between good pain, bad pain, and general soreness. All of that shapes a young fast bowler — I had to figure it out pretty early on, or I probably wouldn't have lasted this long." Starc has played a key role in Australia's transition over the past decade, forming a formidable pace trio with Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. He's also a two-time ODI World Cup winner and was part of the side that lifted the World Test Championship trophy in 2023. Not bad for someone who began his cricketing journey as a wicketkeeper. "I never thought I'd play this many Tests," Starc said. "There's been a fair bit of stubbornness, maybe even some stupidity at times."

Kapil Dev's 1983 jersey: Dinesh Karthik takes fans on MCC Museum tour

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Former Indian wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik recently gave fans a heartfelt and intimate tour of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Museum at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground in London. Often called the "Home of Cricket," Lord's holds a magical place in the sport's history, and the MCC Museum is where that magic lives on — in every photo, jersey, and trophy. "Welcome to Lord's — a place where the game doesn't just live; it remembers. Today, I'm taking you on a walk through time — through stories, traditions, and the quiet heartbeat of cricket's most iconic home. Now, this is my favorite corner: the MCC Museum. It may look like a trophy cabinet, but it's filled with stories. That's the Don, the OG. He may not look like much here, but trust me — Sir Don Bradman gave bowlers nightmares for years. And just here, the 1983 display — Kapil Dev's jersey, the World Cup replica. This is the moment Indian cricket grew up. Before that, winning a World Cup felt like science fiction,"



Karthik said in a video shared by Star Sports. "This isn't just about cricket gear or old photos. It's about memories, emotions, and the legacy of those who shaped the game. These are the moments that inspired generations. Walking these halls reminds you why people fall in love with the game," Karthik added. The museum is a treasure trove of cricketing memories. One of the most moving moments of the tour was when Karthik stood in front of Kapil Dev's iconic jersey from the 1983 Cricket World Cup, proudly displayed alongside a replica of the trophy that India lifted for the first time that year. For Indian fans, that moment wasn't just a memory — it was the birth of a cricketing dream that still inspires millions. Throughout the tour, Karthik explored the museum's many wonders — from the Ashes urn to bats used by legends like Sir Donald Bradman, to photos of timeless teams. But what made it truly special were his personal reflections and deep love for the game.

Despite not being at his dominant best, the 7-time Wimbledon champion has managed to grind his way into the last four. In terms of head-to-head matchups, Sinner currently holds a 5-4 edge over Djokovic, having won the last four encounters between the two. However, the Italian has never beaten Djokovic on grass, and their last Wimbledon meeting in 2023 ended in a straight-sets win for Djokovic in the semifinals. Federer's support for Djokovic is notable given the shift in recent momentum between the two players. Nevertheless, the Swiss icon believes the experience and resilience of the Serbian could prove decisive at this stage of the tournament. As Sinner aims to assert his status as the sport's current frontrunner, and Djokovic fights to extend his legacy, all eyes will be on Centre Court to witness whether the torch will be passed — or if the old guard will rise once again.

## New banks coming soon? India eyes first permits since 2014, says report

**CHENNAL (Agency)**

India may soon see a fresh round of banking licences being issued after nearly a decade, as officials from the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are discussing ways to expand the banking sector to support long-term growth, reported Bloomberg. The government and central bank are said to be considering multiple steps to create more, larger and stronger banks that can support India's ambitious economic growth plans over the coming decades. These discussions are still at an early stage and no final decision has been made, the report said.

According to Bloomberg, options being considered include allowing large companies to apply for banking licences with restrictions on shareholding, encouraging non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) to convert into full-service banks, and making it easier for foreign investors to raise stakes in state-owned banks.

There has been no official comment yet from the Finance Ministry or the RBI. However, market reaction was visible. The Nifty PSU Bank Index, which tracks state-run banks, erased an early 0.8% loss to end 0.5% higher in afternoon trading in Mumbai. The index has gained around 8% so far this year. India last issued fresh banking licences in 2014. In 2016, the country barred large industrial or business houses from applying for banking permits, a policy that may now be reconsidered. Allowing business groups to open banks would be a big and sensitive decision, the report said. To manage risks, any such move would likely come with restrictions on ownership and control. The authorities are also said to be looking at merging smaller banks to create larger institutions. In addition, some NBFCs in southern India, where companies such as Apple are expanding their manufacturing footprint, may be encouraged to apply for full banking licences. Currently, only two Indian banks, State Bank of India and HDFC Bank, feature among the world's top 100 banks by total assets, according to Bloomberg data. In contrast, banks from China and the United States dominate the top 10 positions. India's banking sector is among the most tightly regulated in the world, with strict rules on foreign ownership and new entrants. At present, foreign direct investment in state-run banks is capped at 20% and requires government approval. According to the Bloomberg report, authorities may consider relaxing this limit, though the government intends to retain majority ownership in public sector banks.

## Got Rs 5 lakh health insurance Should you buy a top-up or higher sum insured

**Kolkata . (Agency)**

Health expenses don't stay the same, they quietly climb every year. For many families, a basic Rs 5 lakh health insurance cover that felt fine once may not feel enough anymore. So what should you do? Raise your main cover or add a top-up instead? It's a question more and more people are asking as hospital bills grow and unexpected treatments crop up. India Today.in spoke with Ajay Shah, Head – Distribution at Care Health Insurance, to help you figure out which is the smarter move, adding a top-up or simply raising your main policy's sum insured.

**FIRST, HOW DOES A TOP-UP WORK?**

Think of a top-up like an extra layer on your main cover, a safety net that kicks in only when needed. Shah explains, "A top-up plan comes in effect when your medical expenses extend beyond the base policy Sum Insured amount. Think of your base policy as your first layer of protection. The top-up is a second layer that gets activated once the bill goes beyond that limit." So if your hospital bill crosses your base Rs 5 lakh cover, your top-up takes over and pays the rest, up to whatever extra limit you've chosen. **WHY NOT JUST RAISE THE SUM INSURED?** You absolutely can, many people do. But bigger cover means bigger premiums every year. That's where many families feel the pinch. A top-up, on the other hand, costs less because it doesn't pay for smaller claims, it only comes in when things get really expensive. As Shah puts it, "Unlike increasing your base coverage, which may raise premium amounts significantly, a top-up may give you higher financial security at much lower cost, because it doesn't cover smaller claim amounts."

## ITR-2 and ITR-3 excel utilities released: Who can file and what's new

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The Income Tax Department has now made the excel utilities for ITR-2 and ITR-3 available. This allows people with taxable capital gains, crypto earnings, and other incomes to start filing their ITRs from today. The Income Tax Department wrote on X, "Excel Utilities of ITR-2 and ITR-3 for AY 2025-26 are now live and available for filing." So, if you have been waiting to file your income tax return (ITR) for this year, and you fall under these categories, you can now get started. The extended due date to file your ITR for the financial year 2024-25 is September 15, 2025. Here, it must be noted that at present, only the excel utilities for ITR-2 and ITR-3 are out. This means you can prepare your return using the downloadable excel tool, but the full online filing on the portal is not live yet. The Income Tax Department is expected to enable online filing soon.

**WHO SHOULD FILE ITR-2?**

As per the latest update, ITR-2 is meant for individuals or Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who are not eligible to file ITR-1 (Sahaj). This form is meant for taxpayers who do not have any income from business or profession and do not earn any income like interest, salary, bonus, commission or any other payment received from a partnership firm. It can also be used by people who need to club the income of their spouse, minor child or someone else, provided the income being clubbed falls under the same categories.

# Inox Clean Energy files for Rs 6,000-crore IPO

**When completed, this will  
mark the largest renewables  
fund raise via an initial public  
offering (IPO) to date,  
according to market sources.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

MUMBAI: Inox Clean Energy, part of the \$12-billion Inox GFL group, has filed for the largest initial share sale in the renewable energy space targeting to mop up over Rs 6,000 crore. A major portion of the proposed offer will be a fresh issue.

According to market sources, at Rs 6,000-crore plus, when completed this will be largest renewables fund raise via an initial public offering (IPO). The Sebi filing has been done under the confidential route.

The other two recent IPOs in the green energy space were Waaree Energies' Rs 4,300 crore issue that was closed in October 2024 and the yet to be launched Juniper Green's Rs 3,000-crore issue.



The \$12 billion Inox group, promoted by Vivek Jain and Devansh Jain, is into green energy as well as into industrial and medical gases along with cryogenic gases. Inox Clean Energy is the group's third major vertical and is engaged in the business of developing and operating renewable energy projects as well as manufacturing solar cells and modules through its majority-owned arm Inox Neo Energies and wholly owned subsidiary Inox Solar, respectively. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence

Currently, its operational capacity is 157 mw (107 mw wind and 50 mw in solar) and under-construction capacity of 400 mw (350 mw hybrid and 50 mw solar) and has a pipeline capacity of over 2.2 gw, according to a recent Care Ratings report. The group is present in across the renewables value chain – wind/ solar manufacturing, RE projects under EPC, O&M, RE power generation and consumption. With a proposed equity dilution upwards of 10% through the IPO, Inox Clean is aiming for a market

capitalization of around Rs 50,000 crore, market source told TNIE. The company is likely to use the IPO money to part fund its Rs 6,500-crore planned capex for setting up new facilities in solar and as an independent power producer. The company has strong financials and had recently raise Rs 700 crore in equity, including Rs 90 crore raised at the company level and Rs 600 crore at the Inox Neo Energies level through minority stake dilution to private investors.

According to a recent Care Ratings report, the company is expected to spend Rs 6,500 crore to commission its under-construction green energy projects and manufacturing capacities. This capex is expected to be funded through a mix of project level debt, cash accruals generated from underlying projects, and envisaged equity contributions from investors and promoters. The report states the company has ambitious plans to add 10 gw in the next three to four years. Its subsidiary Inox Solar, is setting up 4.8 gw solar cell and 7.2 gw solar module manufacturing facilities and are expected to be commissioned by next fiscal.

## Govt says iPhone production unaffected by Foxconn's recall of Chinese workers

**New Delhi (Agency).**

NEW DELHI: As iPhone manufacturer Foxconn recalls its Chinese employees from India, the Indian government has said it is not concerned about any potential disruption to iPhone production in the country, citing Apple's alternative manufacturing options overseas. It means Foxconn can deploy employees from other regions such as Vietnam, Taiwan, or Brazil if needed. "I would look at it more as an opportunity. If the workers want to go back, it's between the company and the workers. They will have to make arrangements to ensure the work continues — production won't be impacted. We facilitated their visas," said the senior official from MeitY.

Last week, reports indicated that Foxconn Technology Group, the Taiwanese contract manufacturer for Apple, had recalled around 300 Chinese engineers and technicians from its Indian factories. This move leaves mainly Taiwanese support personnel still based in India.

Although the exact reasons behind the recall are unclear, it is believed to be linked to China's broader efforts to limit technology transfers and restrict the export of advanced manufacturing equipment to India. The decision could potentially disrupt iPhone assembly lines at Foxconn's key manufacturing hubs in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, ahead of the launch of iPhone 17 in the coming months. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses "And I think, as far as Apple is concerned, they have alternatives overseas. We are monitoring the situation. The primary responsibility lies with the company — Apple — to ensure that the manufacturer doesn't impact production," the official added. In FY 2024-25, Apple assembled iPhones worth \$14 billion in India — roughly one out of every seven iPhones produced globally — through facilities operated by Foxconn, Pegatron, and India's Tata Group. Between March and May 2025, Foxconn exported 97% of its India-made iPhones to the U.S. market, amounting to \$3.2 billion in shipments. According to reports, Apple is aiming to increase iPhone production in India to account for 25% of its global output. This ambition was underscored in May 2025, when Apple CEO Tim Cook announced that the majority of iPhones sold in the US during the April-June quarter would be manufactured in India — a milestone in Apple's efforts to diversify its supply chain beyond China.

# Ford recalls over 850,000 cars in the US due to potential fuel pump failure

**NEW YORK. (Agency)**

Ford is recalling more than 850,000 of its cars across the U.S. because the low-pressure fuel pump inside the vehicles may fail — and potentially cause an engine stall while driving, increasing crash risks.

The recall covers a wide range of Ford and Lincoln-branded vehicles made in recent model years. That includes certain Ford Broncos, Explorers and F-150s, as well as Lincoln Aviators and Navigators, documents published this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration note.

Ford plans to send out notification letters to affected owners starting this Monday (July 14), to warn of safety risks related to potential fuel pump failure. But a remedy is still "under development," the NHTSA's recall report notes. It wasn't immediately clear if there was an estimate for when a fix would become available. But this week's recall report noted that owners will receive an additional letter with



instructions to take their car to an authorized dealer for that service when the time comes — and that there will be no charge. The Associated Press reached out to Ford for further comments Thursday.

The Michigan-based automaker isn't aware of any accidents or injuries related to this recall, this week's report notes. But owners should look out for potential warnings. Prior to fuel pump failure, customers may encounter poor engine performance, for example, a check engine light or a decrease in

engine power. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses "Fuel pump failure is "more likely to occur" during warm weather or if there's low fuel in the tank, the recall report notes. And loss of fuel pressure and flow can be caused by internal contamination of a car's jet pump, amid other factors. Ford also identified supplier changes during a review of the manufacturing process, the report adds. Ford estimates that 10% of the 850,318 vehicles it's recalling in the U.S. have this fuel pump risk. The recall covers certain Ford Broncos, Explorers and Lincoln Aviators between the 2021 and 2023 model years, in addition to 2021-2023 model year F-250 SD, F-350 SD, F-450 SD and F-550 SD vehicles. Select 2021-2022 Lincoln Navigators, Ford Mustangs and F-150s are also impacted, as well as some 2022 Expeditions.

# Glenmark-AbbVie deal: A turning point in Indian drug innovation

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Glenmark Pharma's licensing pact for its investigational cancer drug ISB 2001 is not just a deal — it's a turning point in Indian pharma/biotech innovation. It reinforces the notion that India-based innovation can command global terms on par with leading biotech nations.

Ichnos Glenmark Innovation (IGI), a wholly owned innovation arm of India's research-led generic drug maker, based in Switzerland, entered into this landmark global licensing agreement with US pharmaceutical major AbbVie. ISB 2001, currently in Phase 1 trials for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, is a first-in-class trispecific antibody developed using IGI's proprietary BEAT platform, targeting BCMA, CD38, and CD3.

As part of the agreement, IGI will receive a \$700 million upfront payment, with potential milestone payments totaling up to \$1.225 billion, and tiered double-

digit royalties on net sales. AbbVie secures exclusive rights to develop, manufacture, and commercialize ISB 2001 across North America, Europe, Japan, and Greater China, while Glenmark retains rights in emerging markets and India.

A reset moment for Indian pharma innovation

The \$700 million upfront payment is unprecedented for a domestic biotech player and signals a major shift in how global markets value Indian R&D capabilities. Early Phase I data on ISB 2001 showed a 79–83% overall response rate and strong tolerability in heavily pretreated patients — remarkable results at this stage for a novel oncology agent. The deal also transforms IGI's funding model. According to Glenmark Chairman Glenn Saldanha, IGI will soon be self-funded, reducing dependence on parent capital. This frees up Glenmark to

reinvest in R&D or explore shareholder-friendly initiatives. Prior to this deal, the company was net-debt; it is now net-cash. Following the announcement, Glenmark shares surged nearly 10%, hitting a 52-week high. Analysts believe this elevates Glenmark from a generics-focused player to a serious contender in biologics and innovation-led pharma.

Broader implications

If ISB 2001 proves successful, this deal could spark a wave of high-value licensing transactions for Indian innovation — not just for generics or biosimilars. Global pharmaceutical companies and venture capital firms may increasingly look to India as fertile ground for early-stage biotech innovation and CDMO/CRDMO expansion, especially amid efforts to diversify pharmaceutical supply chains away from China.

# Crude oil Imports from US surge over 50% in H1; Russia remains top supplier

**According to S&P Global  
Commodity Insights, India  
imported nearly 271,000  
barrels a day (b/d) of crude  
oil from the US in the  
January-June 2025 period**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India's crude oil imports from the United States surged more than 50% in the first half (H1) of 2025. However, Russia retained its position as the country's largest crude supplier.

According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, India imported nearly 271,000 barrels a day (b/d) of crude oil from the US in the January-June 2025 period, a 51% increase from 180,000 b/d during the same period last year. Meanwhile, Russia remained India's top crude supplier during H1 of 2025, with shipments averaging 1.67 million b/d -



marginally up from 1.66 million b/d a year earlier.

"Crude supplies from the US have been rising but limited to a few refiners in India. This allows room for other refiners to grow US imports further during the year," said Abhishek Ranjan, South Asia oil research lead at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

India imports about 88% of its crude oil requirements. Since early 2022, when Western countries imposed sanctions on Russian energy exports following

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, India has capitalised on discounted Russian crude, turning it into a cornerstone of its import strategy. Meanwhile, volumes of US crude had declined over the past two to three years, as Indian refiners prioritised Russian crude due to discount. India's demand for US crude is showing signs of revival after Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in mid-February, both countries had pledged to deepen

energy cooperation. Tariff dynamics are also influencing crude trade. On April 2, the US imposed reciprocal tariffs on India and several other countries, but paused the increases for 90 days starting April 10 to allow for trade negotiations.

"With a modest level of Russian imports in the early months of 2025, volumes are rising again, supported by lower crude prices that enable higher volumes to be procured below the price cap. As the global oversupply is expected to continue putting pressure on prices, we expect Russian flows to remain at current levels, if not increase," Ranjan said.

Among other suppliers, crude imports from Iraq and Saudi Arabia fell modestly - by 4% and 2%, respectively - while imports from Angola saw a sharp 22% year-over-year decline in H1 of 2025. In contrast, imports from Nigeria rose by 26% to about 158,000 b/d over the same period. The report also noted that crude oil imports from Brazil rose by 80% YoY in H1 of 2025, highlighting India's growing preference for non-OPEC suppliers as it seeks to diversify its energy sources.

‘Trying To Stay Active’:

# Gauahar Khan

## On Balancing Professional Life With Pregnancy

Gauahar Khan and her husband Zaid Darbar are all set to welcome their second child, having shared the joyful news in April. Throughout her pregnancy journey, the actress has kept fans updated on her lifestyle and professional commitments. Now, she's opened up about how she manages to strike a balance between her pregnancy, personal life and work responsibilities. Gauahar Khan posted a video answering one of her fans' questions. A fan asked her how she balanced her profession, podcasting, and personal life during her second pregnancy. The actress responded with a video, stating that she is unable to exercise regularly and is instead attempting to stay active through her profession.

She said, "I'm not working out a lot, and hence I'm trying to stay



super active through my work. This is a great question, as I recently started my podcast as well, but I like being active and getting all the work done. In my last pregnancy, I worked till almost nine months with Zehaan being my first."

Moreover, speaking about her second pregnancy, the actress said, "I can't say that I'm more chill this time around. My second pregnancy is more difficult. Each pregnancy is very different, and what you feel each time is different. There are too many myths surrounding pregnancy, but the whole experience is very personal, and it differs from one woman to another. You can't say that yeh hi hota hai toh yeh hi hoga." On the personal front, Gauahar married Zaid Darbar, the son of music composer Ismail Darbar, in 2020. The couple had their first child, Zehaan, in May 2023. Professionally, Gauahar recently launched an online platform called MaaaNoranjan to share unique experiences regarding her pregnancy journey. In one of them, she also mentioned

having a miscarriage before welcoming her son.

Gauahar is also seen in Fauji 2, where she plays Lieutenant Colonel Simarjeet Kaur, a powerful and rigorous cadet teacher with armament knowledge. Her personality is both commanding and inspiring, guiding new recruits through the difficult obstacles of military life. Vicky Jain, Ashish Bhardwaj, Utkarsh Kohli, Rudra Soni, and others are also part of the show.



## Sangeeta Bijlani Celebrates 65th Birthday With Ex Beau Salman Khan, In Pics



Veteran actress Sangeeta Bijlani turned 65 yesterday and marked the occasion with a celebratory gathering attended by close friends and family, including her former partner, Salman Khan. The iconic star of the 1980s hosted a glittering birthday bash in Mumbai, drawing several well-known faces from the film industry. She even cut a cake in front of the paparazzi stationed outside the venue, adding a touch of charm to the evening. Photos shared on Instagram captured Sangeeta Bijlani looking radiant in a white top with a plunging neckline, paired with a shimmering, sequin-embellished golden mini skirt. She happily posed alongside Salman Khan for the cameras. The actor kept his look casual and stylish in a black T-shirt and denim jeans.

Other notable guests at Sangeeta's birthday celebration included television actor Arjun Bijlani and his wife, Neha Swami. The couple was seen posing for the cameras alongside the birthday girl and superstar Salman Khan. Another star from the 1980s, Meenakshi Seshadri, also attended the event. Adding to the surprise appearances, Ranveer Singh's parents were also spotted at the bash.

The veteran star was also seen cutting an adorable cake as her loved ones gathered around, cheering and singing the birthday song to celebrate her special day.

Salman Khan and Sangeeta Bijlani were reportedly serious about each other for several years before eventually parting ways. In the late 1980s, the couple were even said to be on the verge of tying the knot, with wedding invitations allegedly already printed. But the relationship came to an end for reasons known only to them.

Following their split, Sangeeta married cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin in 1996. The marriage ended in divorce in 2010. Years later, Salman and Sangeeta were seen sharing a warm moment at the actor's 57th birthday celebration, where they exchanged friendly hugs, sparking nostalgia among fans.

## Jubin Nautiyal To Aditya Narayan, Bollywood Singers Pay Respect To Their Gurus



**Stebin Ben** thinks if there's one artist who has silently shaped the way he thinks about music, it would be Arijit Singh.

Guru Purnima is a religious festival dedicated to offering respect to all spiritual and academic gurus. On this auspicious day, Bollywood singers were seen talking about their musical gurus and paying respect to them. Jubin Nautiyal, Aditya Narayan, Shalmali Kholgade, Sagar Bhatia and others shared learnings from their gurus that they hold onto.

**Jubin Nautiyal**

As per a Hindustan Times report, Jubin Nautiyal revealed his musical guru to be the legendary A.R. Rahman. The singer recalled meeting the music genius at the age of 18 when Rahman advised him to wait till 21 to let his voice mature naturally. "His humility despite such greatness taught me that the deeper you go into your art, the more grounded you become," Jubin stated.

**Shalmali Kholgade**

The Lat Lag Gayi singer believes music producer Pritam to be her guru. She still remembers when she started out, she was doing more live shows than she should have when Pritam advised her not to have a "make hay while the sun shines" attitude but to think of herself as a "Lambey race ka ghoda," an advice she holds close to her heart.

**Siddharth Mahadevan**

Siddharth Mahadevan believes Ustad Zakir Hussain and Javed Akhtar are his gurus. While Ustad Zakir Hussain taught him discipline and technical excellence alongside emotional expression, Javed Akhtar's work still continues to guide him as a musician as well as a human being.

**Stebin Ben**

Stebin Ben thinks if there's one artist who has silently shaped the way he thinks about music, it would be Arijit Singh. According to Stebin, Arijit Singh has helped him realise that people connect to emotion, not perfection.

**Sagar Bhatia**

The legendary singer Gurdas Maan Sahab has been Sagar Bhatia's guru for the last 15 years. He recalled the day when he first met Gudas Maan; he hugged Sagar, and tears started to roll down his cheeks to express his gratitude towards the music maestro.

# Shivangi Joshi

## Gives Shoutout To Smriti Irani's Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2



Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, the iconic television drama, is all set to make a grand return to the small screen. After a wait of 25 years, the makers are back with a brand new season, and fans are eagerly anticipating the return of Smriti Irani as Tulsi Virani. Produced by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures, the first promo of the upcoming season was recently unveiled, sparking excitement across the internet. The promo opens with a family of four dining at a restaurant, fondly reminiscing about the original show. As they debate whether Smriti Irani would find time to return to television, the scene transitions to a nostalgic moment featuring Smriti Irani as Tulsi, watering her tulsi plant.

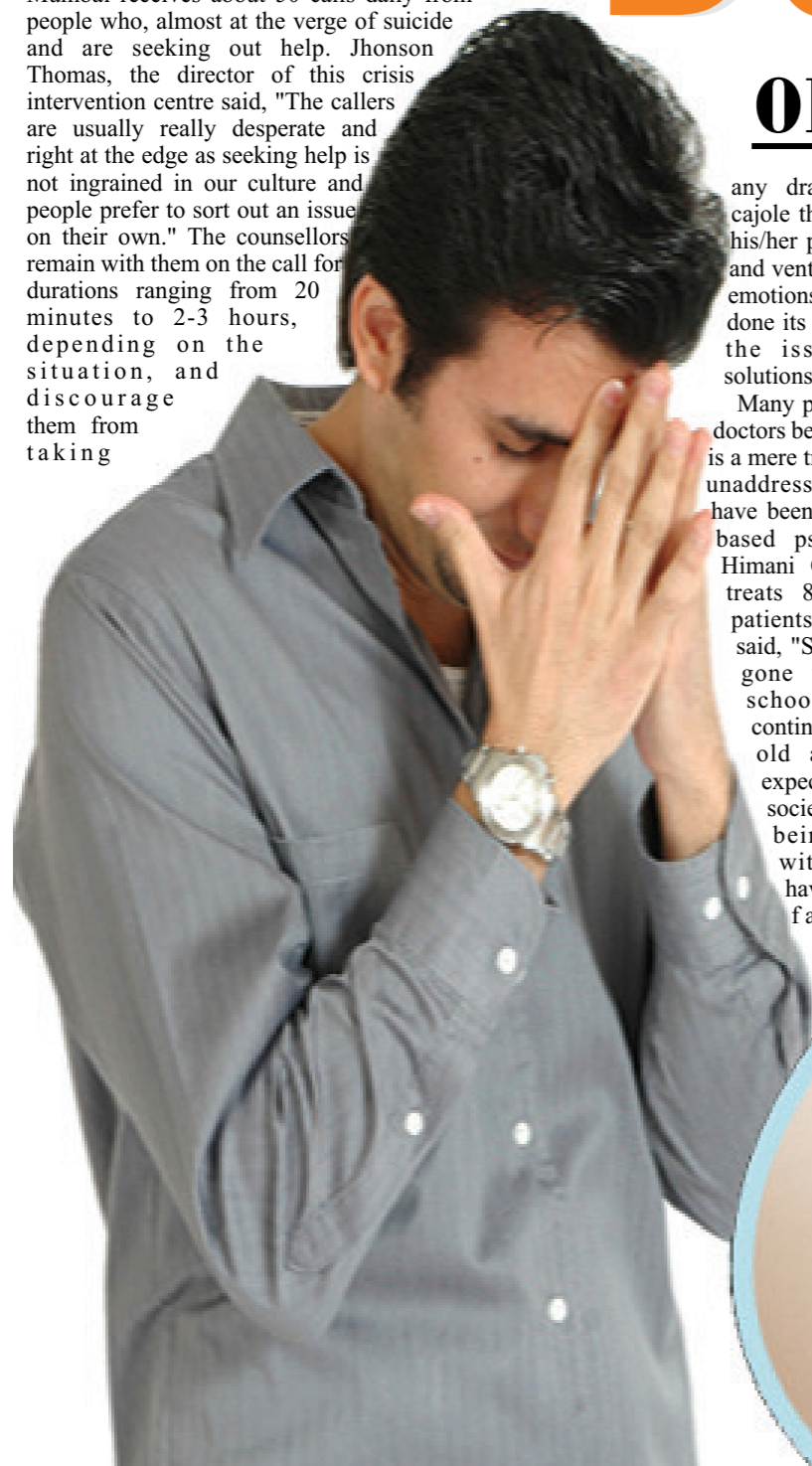
In a moment that gave fans goosebumps, Smriti Irani officially announced the comeback of Kyunki after a quarter of a century. Since the teaser's release, several television celebrities have taken to social media to share their reactions to the much-anticipated promo of Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2.

The latest one to express excitement for the upcoming show is Shivangi Joshi. She shared the promo on her Instagram handle and asserted, "Ek kahaani jisme television ka itihaas badla, Jahan Tulsi Virani har aangan ki shaan bani... phir se laut rahi hai, par ek naye mod ke saath! Dekhiye 29th July se, raat 10:30 baje, sirf StarPlus par aur kabhi bhi JioHotstar par," she wrote. The show, which originally aired in 2000, revolutionised Indian television and became a cultural phenomenon. Now, as Ektaa Kapoor aims to recreate that magic while resonating with a younger, modern audience, she is expected to incorporate contemporary themes and social dynamics. According to sources, the new season will continue to retain the emotional depth and essence that made the original so beloved. Joining Smriti Irani in the much-anticipated sequel is another fan-favourite character, Mihir, portrayed once again by Amar Upadhyay. Adding to the nostalgic appeal, Hiten Tejwani and his wife Gauri Pradhan will also feature in the series, bringing both star power and familiarity to the revamped version.



The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) statistics reveal that a total of 1,35,445 people committed suicide in 2012 which amounts to an average of 15 suicides an hour or 371 suicides daily. Maharashtra ranked second on the suicide index with Tamil Nadu topping it.

Aasra, a 24x7 suicide helpline based out of Mumbai receives about 50 calls daily from people who, almost at the verge of suicide and are seeking out help. Jhonson Thomas, the director of this crisis intervention centre said, "The callers are usually really desperate and right at the edge as seeking help is not ingrained in our culture and people prefer to sort out an issue on their own." The counsellors remain with them on the call for durations ranging from 20 minutes to 2-3 hours, depending on the situation, and discourage them from taking



# Depression

## on the rise, undetected

any drastic step. "We cajole the caller to share his/her problem in detail and vent out their bottled emotions. Once that is done its easier to address the issue and offer solutions," he added.

Many psychologists and doctors believe that suicide is a mere trigger reaction to unaddressed issues that have been piling on. City-based psychologist, Dr Himani Chaphekar, who treats 8-10 depression patients every month, said, "Stress levels have gone up right from school level which continues well into the old age. Excessive expectations to excel, societal pressures and being unsatisfied with what you have are the factors

that contribute largely to depression." Commenting on the fact that Indians do not take their mental health very seriously and are sceptical of addressing it she added, "There are many stigmas and misconceptions associated with mental health and well being.

While people rush to a doctor for a normal cold and flu they avoid seeing a psychologist as they feel that a psychological disorder is their own doing that they need to be ashamed of." Emphasising on the need for quick identification and diagnosis of such disorders, she added, "Very few people know that mental health is directly co-related to hormonal imbalance or chemical changes/imbalance and is hence also physiological. All this misconception ensures that people are not able to distinguish between sadness, normal anxiety and clinical depression that requires treatment."

Adding to it another

y-based psychiatrist, Neville Misquitta said, "The stigma for mental health patients arises from the behaviours and emotions that sets them apart from others. Once these are controlled, there is no stigma. And modern medication can do this. If diagnosed with depression the person needs to follow the prescribed medical advice. The road to recovery is normally smooth but one needs to be patient."

Speaking about the average age group of the callers on the suicide helpline Thomas added, "15-45 is the most prominent age group that is prone to suicidal tendencies globally. The second most vulnerable age group comprises 60 plus people. While for the first age group its usually a break-up, loss of a loved one or a general loss that's the biggest trigger, among the second age group the reasons range from loneliness, chronic illnesses, coping with the lack of loved ones to coming to

terms with retirement and making a transition to a sedentary lifestyle."

Examinations, especially the waiting period between exams to the results being declared is when students are most vulnerable. In recent times, unemployment, an unsatisfactory financial position and marital discord have also been seen as the major reasons of depression. Blaming the changing social scenario for the rise in depression rates and subsequent suicides, Thomas said, "India has been in a transition phase, since the last 15-20 years, with a changing value and support system. The MNC culture has brought about long working hours, lesser time spent with family, more distractions and more reliance on technology etc." Pointing out the flaws in a nuclear family structure he added, "Joint families earlier used to be a huge protective set-up as there were so many people to talk to. Man is social animal and needs to constantly talk things out."

Corporations and educational institutions all have a provision for in house counsellors who can be approached. "While companies do have a counselling cell, employees refrain from using it openly or otherwise as firstly you cannot discuss work related problems there and secondly no one wants to be seen as a whiney, problematic employee," said Neelam Puri, an IT professional. "The constant competition these days is really nerve wrecking. From climbing the corporate ladder, to looking good, to managing all the stress factors related to city life and then the financial and emotional upheavals really takes a toll and all of us do feel depressed every now and then," confessed Nafisa Begum, an advertising professional





pregnancy and is doubled by the eighth month. There are changes such as:

- Increase in blood volume
- Increase in cardiac output
- Increase in heart rate
- Decrease in blood pressure

However, women who has a late pregnancy or has a pre-existing cardiovascular diseases, will not be able to handle the increase the cardiac input, heart beat rate and the blood volume to the body.

**The cardiac ailments which can prove fatal during pregnancy are:**

**Cardiomyopathy:** For women with Cardiomyopathy, the heart is weak and is not able to pump large amount of blood through the body and maintain a normal electrical rhythm for the pregnant mother. This can lead to heart failure or irregular heartbeats called arrhythmias. **This can be lethal for both the mother and baby.**

**Heart valve disease:** For women with heart valve disease, heart's valves do not work the way they should and the heart will not be able to handle the changes in the blood volume and pressure. It can be lethal for both the mother and the baby.

**How should the mother prepare her heart for pregnancy?**

**Lethal heart diseases:** Women with heart ailments or a family history of

cardiac disorders should consult a cardiologist and a gynaecologist before planning a baby.

**Congenital heart defect:** If the mother or father had a congenital heart defect, there is a 5 - 10 per cent chance that the child could have it at birth. If both the mother and father had a congenital heart defect at birth, there is a higher risk that the child would be born with it. Such parents are asked to do a foetal ecogram before the 24th week of pregnancy.

Anti-epileptic drugs: seizure recurrence. Doctor's consultation is extremely important in such situations.

Anti-epileptic drugs can also induce a cardiac problem with the baby. Most women do not have the luxury of stopping medications during pregnancy without



# Pregnancy

## Mom-to-be take special care of your heart



# Ten commandments for good eye health

Eyes are the most neglected especially when we spend hours straining our eyes in front of the screen - computer or smartphones.

Even if you have good vision and have no trouble in reading, go for a vision check at least once a year. This is a good way to detect various eye related ailments and prevent it with timely treatment.

**Do not ignore!** If you face any abnormality with your vision never neglect it. Take action and consult an ophthalmologist at that instance. This action of yours will help prevent major problem in the future.

**Blink your eyes regularly** Keep blinking your eyes, to keep your eyes fresh and avoid eyestrain. Computer users tend to blink their eyes far less, thus it is recommended that they should follow the eye exercise of blinking their eyes every three-four seconds.

**Splash water** Splashing your eyes with water will help to relieve your eyes from excessive stress. Thus, whenever you feel your eyes are strained, go splash some water on them.

**Go for a routine check-up**



This negligence can cause blindness or vision impairment in the long run. Follow the Ten Commandments for good eye health and vision, to keep your window to a colourful life safe.

**Wash your hands** Wash your hands thoroughly before touching your eyes. Our hands are filled with dirt and minute pollutants, when they meet your eyes can cause eye infections and conjunctivitis.

**Quit smoking** Smoking is bad for the human body including your eyes. Excessive smoking or constant chewing of tobacco can cause macular (eye-nerve) degeneration or blindness, due to the presence of harmful compound, nicotine.

**UV protect your eyes** Yes, sunshine is good for eye health, but nothing in excess is ever good. If your work demands you to stay outdoors, then always wear good UV protected sunglasses. This will help prevent or delay the problem of cataract.

**Wear safety goggles** Eye injuries can also impair your vision in a great way; in order to avoid it always remember to wear safety goggles or eyewear, while working with chemicals, playing sports, bursting crackers or while swimming.

**Stare at a distance** All work and no play will surely make your lethargic and add strain to your eyes. Take a break and change the focus of your eyes to greener or look at a distance. Practice eye exercises for good vision.

**Eat healthy food** Nourish your eyes with foods that improve your eyes like carrots, apricots and blueberries. All these foods are rich in beta-carotene and are good for vision.