

# India-US trade deal talks deadlocked as government stands firm on 'red line'

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**India-US trade talks deadlocked over agriculture demands**  
**India firm on dairy sector, which employs 80 million small farmers**  
**Interim pact aims to reduce tariffs, broader deal targeted**

**The Sikh Times New Delhi.** Hopes of an India-US bilateral trade deal before the July 9 deadline set by Donald Trump when the reciprocal tariffs are scheduled to come into effect got dimmer as the stalemate over the trade talks hit a deadlock on Tuesday, over key agricultural demands, sources told . This comes despite the White House reaffirmed earlier on Tuesday India's importance as a "key strategic ally" in the Indo-Pacific region, while confirming that a long-anticipated trade deal between New Delhi and Washington was "very close" to announcement.

According to top government sources, India has refused to budge on dairy, a sector employing over 80 million people in India, many of them smallholder farmers.

"There is no question of conceding on dairy.



That's a red line," a senior government source said. Special Secretary Rajesh Agarwal, who is leading the Indian delegation in Washington to reach an interim trade agreement with the US, has extended his stay by another day in an attempt to break the impasse.

The trade talks in Washington, which entered

the sixth day on Tuesday, are expected to continue through Wednesday, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also scheduled to meet his US counterpart, Marco Rubio, on the sidelines of a diplomatic meet.

Notably, India expects duty concessions for a wide array of labour-intensive sectors, including textiles, garments, gems and jewellery, leather goods, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oilseeds, grapes, and bananas. "These concessions do not hurt any domestic interests in the US and are unlikely to

face resistance," the source added.

The interim trade pact is being projected as a first step toward a broader bilateral trade deal. It also aims to do away with high tariffs of up to 26 per cent on Indian exports—a deadline that looms with urgency, as the US pushes for a breakthrough before July 9.

## JP Nadda Salutes Doctors For Selfless Service On National Doctor's Day

**National Doctors' Day is marked every year on March 30 to honour the contributions of medical practitioners across the country.**



**New Delhi.** Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday hailed doctors for their unshakable sense of duty, and selfless service to humanity.

National Doctors' Day is marked every year on March 30 to honour the contributions of medical practitioners across the country. "On National Doctor's Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all doctors for their selfless service to humanity. Their round-the-clock dedication brings hope and saves countless lives every single day," Mr Nadda said in a post on X.

"In every health emergency, you have stood tall at the frontlines, driven by compassion and an unshakable sense of duty. Your care, courage, and sacrifice make you the true heroes of our society," he added. The Union Health Minister also expressed gratitude "to all healthcare workers whose relentless efforts" are paving the way towards a healthy country.

The day is dedicated to the medical professionals, who with tireless dedication, compassion, and relentless efforts are the guardians of health. Union Minister of State for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav expressed heartfelt gratitude to all doctors across the country. "Your selfless service, compassion, and perseverance are the true strength of our healthcare system.

## Jaishankar's Stern Message in the U.S.: "Double Standards on Terrorism"

**The Sikh Times New Delhi.**

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar delivered a powerful and clear message at the Global Anti-Terror Forum in Washington D.C. today. In his hard-hitting address, he outlined India's uncompromising stance on terrorism and questioned the double standards of Western nations when dealing with terror threats.

Dr. Jaishankar emphasized, "Terrorism cannot be categorized as good or bad based on religion, region, or political convenience. The world must collectively decide whether it stands against terror or stands with it."

He asserted that India will not remain a passive observer anymore. "We are not a country that will quietly suffer. We will act, we will respond, and we will lead," Jaishankar said, stressing India's emergence as a decisive power on the global stage. Without naming any country, Jaishankar made a clear reference to Pakistan, saying,



"Some nations continue to use terrorism as a strategic weapon. They provide safe havens, training, and resources to terrorists who are sent across borders to destabilize peace." Experts have noted that this was a direct reference to Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism, an issue India has raised at multiple international platforms over the years.

Jaishankar delivered a bold message to the U.S. administration, stating, "If you want to lead the world, you must take a consistent and firm stand against terrorism. You cannot claim to fight terror on one hand and host its sympathizers on the other." This remark comes in the backdrop of the controversial

U.S. invitation extended to Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir—widely regarded in India as a patron of terrorism and a threat to regional stability. **News continue page 02**

## Randeep Surjewala denies leadership change in Karnataka amid buzz

**Agency Karnataka.**

Amid buzz over a possible leadership change in Karnataka, Congress General Secretary Randeep Surjewala said there is no such exercise underway. This comes amid statements from several Congress leaders and open calls from DK Shivakumar's supporters demanding that he be made Chief Minister. Earlier today, Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain claimed that nearly 100 MLAs are in favour of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar taking over as Chief Minister. "It's not just about change. Most of the MLAs want effective administration," Hussain said. He argued that DK Shivakumar deserves the opportunity, citing his efforts in strengthening the



party and leading multiple agitations.

Surjewala put these speculations to rest, stating that if any MLA has concerns, real or perceived, they should be addressed within the party and the government. Surjewala added that both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar have confirmed that the state has more than enough funds for development.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, Surjewala said the opposition party is pushing this narrative because it wants the Congress government's guarantees to collapse. "From R Ashok to Vijayendra, all of them have said they want our guarantees to be stopped," he said, challenging the BJP to openly admit that it does not want people to benefit.

### Karnataka BJP legislator sparks row with vulgar remarks against Chief Secretary

**Agency Karnataka.**

Karnataka BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar has stirred controversy with a derogatory remark directed at Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh. "The Chief Secretary works at night for the state government and all day for the Chief Minister," Kumar said with a smirk, during a protest at Vidhana Soudha.

The comment was made while Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy was seen speaking to M N Karibasavanna Gouda, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Vidhana Soudha Security) near the Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha, where BJP leaders had gathered for a planned protest. In the video, the DCP Gouda is seen smiling as MLC Ravi Kumar makes the remark.

Responding to the remark, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge said, "It is not bizarre, it is their mindset and their mentality. This is what is taught in Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) shakhas. He is an RSS man, is he not? These people cannot win elections on their own. They are not the popular choice of the people; they are pushed into the BJP by the RSS."

Magician and also not having the magic powers like 'Alladdin ka Chirag' which was able to fulfil any wish only by rubbing a finger." The tribunal stated that the police were not given adequate time to make the necessary preparations. "Because of shortage of time on 4 June 2025, the police was unable.

In its remarks, the tribunal noted, "Therefore, prima facie it appears that the RCB is responsible for the gathering of about three to five lakh people. The RCB did not take the appropriate permission or consent from the Police. Suddenly, they posted on social media platforms and as a result of aforesaid information the public were gathered." The tribunal was critical of the RCB's last-minute announcement of the celebration, calling it a "nuisance".

"Suddenly, the RCB created the aforesaid

## AI is a powerful tool – it is not a substitute for humans: Vijender Gupta

**The Sikh Times**

**New Delhi, July 1, 2025.**

"The use of AI in legislatures is the need of the hour. It can not only make our functioning faster, easier, and more scientific but also strengthen democracy. But it is equally true that no technology is completely flawless. There are concerns and shortcomings attached to it, which must be discussed," said Vijender Gupta, while addressing a seminar held today. Gupta added that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legislatures is vital for improving efficiency, transparency, and decision-making.

Gupta, speaking on the topic "Usage of AI in Legislatures," explained that AI can help analyse large volumes of reports, prepare summaries, and compare old data, enabling legislators to access timely and precise information and prepare for sessions more effectively. He further said that AI-based portals and chatbots can empower citizens to know how active their elected representatives are, which will strengthen

transparency and accountability. Hon'ble Speaker stated that "no technology is completely flawless" and stressed the need to address critical concerns related to "data security", "bias and prejudice", and "language and technological access".

Gupta elaborated that AI learns only what the data teaches it—if the data is incomplete or tied to any one perspective, AI will generate similar biased suggestions. He warned that this could lead to one-sided policies that may harm weaker sections. He further underlined that if AI algorithms are not fair and neutral, powerful groups could misuse them to make policies favouring their interests or to weaken opposition voices. This, he said, can disturb the balance of democracy. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that AI algorithms remain accurate, fair, and impartial.

Hon'ble Speaker highlighted that India's



diversity must be kept in mind, as not every representative is technically equipped, especially those from rural backgrounds. He stressed that "proper training arrangements"

must be ensured so that no one is excluded from this technological shift.

Gupta further pointed out that AI could impact jobs in legislative secretariats, research departments, and data analysis teams. He emphasised that "experienced people who have safeguarded democracy for years should not be sidelined," and that AI must not become a replacement for human jobs. He said, "AI must not become a replacement for human jobs. They are very professional and focused."

Hon'ble Speaker raised an important question on accountability, asking, "If any suggestion or information from AI turns out to be wrong, who will be responsible—the machine, the government, or the technology company?" He called for clear policies and a robust accountability framework to address this.

Gupta also reminded the gathering that AI

"does not understand emotions like humans do" and that in legislatures, many subjects require an emotional understanding—such as reservation, secularism, women's safety, discrimination, and violence—where AI's role is naturally limited.

He pointed out that most AI technologies are still owned by foreign companies, and their direct use could affect the "autonomy and confidentiality of our constitutional institutions."

Gupta concluded by saying, "we should oppose AI. We must take its benefits, but we must also prepare strong policies, robust monitoring, and accountability systems. AI is a tool—powerful, but not a substitute for humans. It is useful only when used with human wisdom, sensitivity, and respect for democracy and the Constitution." He said this while addressing the Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India Region, Zone-II in Dharamshala.

Frant News continue..

### Jaishankar's Stern Message in the U.S.: "Double Standards on Terrorism"

Jaishankar reiterated India's tough position on national security, referring to major terror incidents such as the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Pulwama, and Uri. "India will not compromise with its sovereignty or with the lives of its citizens," he declared.

The External Affairs Minister highlighted India's growing influence in international forums such as the United Nations, G20, BRICS, and SCO. "India is no longer a silent observer. We are now shaping decisions, not just following them," he said.

Jaishankar's speech was widely appreciated by Indian diaspora communities in the U.S., who described it as "a voice of Indian pride and dignity." Several diaspora organizations called his address "historic and bold."

Dr. S. Jaishankar's speech in Washington marks a pivotal moment in India's foreign policy narrative. His clear, assertive message not only reflects India's rising global stature but also puts the onus on the world—especially powers like the U.S.—to abandon hypocrisy and truly stand united against terrorism.

### Vazhakulam Charitable Trust to ease renal burden with free dialysis facility

**KOCHI.** In response to the growing number of renal patients and the need for improved dialysis facilities, the Vazhakulam Charitable Trust is set to launch a free dialysis centre for the public and residents of Vazhakulam. The unit, established in collaboration with St George Hospital, aims to offer free dialysis treatment to 32 patients daily.

"Several middle-class families are struggling due to the rising treatment cost. For most families, the cost of dialysis treatment is unbearable. Thus, the aim of establishing a dialysis centre is to help the public. We will launch the unit with public participation. Around 60% of the furnishing work is over. We aim to launch the unit by the mid-July," said Siju Sebastian, the chairman of the Vazhakulam Charitable Trust.

Also, the fund is raised to provide treatment facilities to patients free of cost. "Eight dialysis machines will be procured for the centre. Individuals, institutions, and trusts are already contributing to the initiative. We also encourage public and community participation, with local families sponsoring a dialysis session for at least one patient annually," said Dr Mathews Numpeli, technical advisor to the centre.

"The unit is being set up in a building owned by St George Hospital, which will also provide doctors and medical staff. Infrastructure work and procurement of machinery are currently under way.

### GHMC pulled up over inaction on illegal structures



**Telangana.** The Telangana High Court on Monday came down heavily on the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for failing to act against illegal constructions in Rajendranagar and for negligence in property tax collection.

During a hearing presided over by Justice B. Vijay Sen Reddy, the court responded to a petition filed by Syed Rahimunisa and six others, who alleged that GHMC officials had not taken action against encroachments on their land in Khanmet, Rajendranagar. The petitioners urged the court to direct the civic body to remove the unauthorised structures. Although the court did not order immediate demolitions, it issued strict directions to GHMC. Justice Reddy instructed the corporation to submit weekly updates on demolition activities starting next Monday. He also ordered that a large display board be erected at the encroached site, listing the names of GHMC officials and Standing Counsels responsible for monitoring unauthorised constructions.

"How long will this go on? Generations have changed, but illegal constructions continue unchecked," the judge remarked. To ensure transparency, he directed that the names of the responsible officials be illuminated with electric lamps to ensure visibility at night.

## Decade-old abandoned tower crane poses danger at Vytila

**KOCHI.** A tower crane abandoned during metro construction activities over a decade ago is not only posing a danger to hundreds of vehicles and pedestrians at the busy Vytila junction, but also hindering the junction development plan. The crane was used by ERA Constructors, which later abandoned the huge machine at the start of Kaniyampuzha road when the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) terminated its contract with the firm, citing delays and unsatisfactory work, on the direction of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

"The crane has been lying here for nearly 13 years. Exposed to rain and sunshine for years, many parts of the machine have rusted. With the ground getting loose following heavy rain these days, there is a threat of the crane getting uprooted and falling over the vehicles using the Kaniyampuzha road and also a section of buildings there, including my house," said Vytila councillor Sunitha Dixon.

The issue has been brought to the notice of the Vytila Mobility Hub Society (VMHS), on whose land the machine is idling now. However, no action has been taken yet, she rues. "Since the agreement is between the DMRC and ERA Constructors, the state government should take steps to contact them and ask them to remove the machine and also collect fines towards illegally parking the tower crane. It will incur a



good amount to shift the vehicle from there. The huge crane, which got corroded from top to bottom, itself cost 7 crore then," Sunitha added.

#### Vytila Junction devpt hindered

Meanwhile, the abandoned tower crane is hindering the development of the busy Vytila Junction, where the authorities are planning major measures to decongest it.

"The crane is preventing the widening of the Kaniyampuzha road, which connects the Mobility Hub. Further the vehicles coming from the Aluva side and proceeding to Tripunithura direction can be redirected through the section. The vehicles can take a right turn from before the Vytila metro station to further proceed to the temple town," said

Sajan P John, Chief Operating Officer, Kochi Water Metro Ltd. The OCC of the Water Metro is located inside the Vytila Hub.

In fact, the metro authorities have submitted a proposal to the authorities to decongest the busy Vytila Junction by diverting vehicles through the western end of the Vytila Mobility hub.

"The crane is posing a major hindrance for that. The traffic police should levy a penalty on the contractor and take steps to shift it from the busy junction," he added. The Vytila United Forum Action Council also batted for the junction improvement by diverting the vehicles through the hub. "The western end of the hub currently lies as a vacant forested land, and it should be developed to ensure diversion and smooth flow of traffic," said Thampy V R, chairman, adding that the crane poses a big hurdle to the plan.

#### Looming threat

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## Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation gets national credit rating for 11th successive year

**Navi Mumbai.** India Rating and Research, a nationally recognised financial institution, announces the credit ratings of various institutions every year. Like in the last 10 years, this year too, the best credit rating of "India Double A Plus Stable (AA+ Stable)" was bestowed upon Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation for the year 2024-25. This makes Navi Mumbai the only municipal corporation in the country to have received the Double A Plus rating of financial strength for eleven consecutive years.

NMMC, renowned for its exceptional liveability standard, consistently prioritises the quality of citizen services whilst maintaining strict oversight of revenue collection and expenditure. Under Municipal Commissioner Kailas Shinde's leadership, alongside the dedicated accounting department headed by Chief Accounts and Finance Officer Satyawan Ubale, the corporation achieved an



optimal balance between collections and spending. "This diligent financial management resulted in securing the prestigious credit rating once again, bringing pride to Navi Mumbai's residents," said Shinde. Shinde added that "NMMC's robust financial position stems from successful tax collection efforts in the previous

financial years. The amnesty initiative, offering property tax arrears relief, received substantial public participation. The Property Tax Department achieved record collections exceeding 26 crores in the first quarter of the fiscal, whilst other departments met their targets completely. These tax revenues enabled the provision of superior civic amenities."

He maintains vigilant oversight of financial planning. "Through effective tax collection policies, prudent civic expenditure, and implementation of e-governance systems, operational transparency improved significantly. The accounts department utilises the 'Host to Host' system for transactions, ensuring direct bank transfers to suppliers. This enhanced transparency whilst promoting paperless operations. Contractor payments and staff salaries are disbursed punctually," said an official.

### Death toll in Telangana pharma plant explosion rises to 35, search continues for 17 missing

**Telangana.** The death toll in the explosion at Sigachi Industries' pharmaceutical plant in Pashamylaram has risen to 35, a senior police official confirmed on Tuesday. "Several bodies were found under the debris during the removal process. So far, 31 bodies have been recovered from the rubble, and three others died while receiving treatment in hospital," said District Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj told PTI. He added that the final phase of the rescue operation is underway to trace the 17 people still missing.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accompanied by some of his cabinet colleagues, visited the accident site.

Pranaam Hospitals in Miyapur said they received 21 patients on Monday with burns and head injuries. However, two were declared brought dead and one succumbed this morning.

Similarly, Dhruva Hospitals in Patancheru told PTI that they received 11 patients on Monday out of which two were referred to superspecialty hospitals. "Out of the nine patients, five are on ventilators. We have seven patients with burns ranging from 40-80 per cent burns and two are with 10 per cent burns," the official said. According to a revenue department official, the identity of nine bodies has only been established so far while the remaining need to undergo DNA profiling.



## Ahmedabad customs seize smuggled goods worth Rs 163 crore in Gujarat

**Ahmedabad.** Signalling the scale of smuggling operations in Gujarat, the Ahmedabad Customs recently seized Rs 163 crore of smuggled goods, including 8 million counterfeit cigarettes, psychotropic substances, and luxury watches. The data was revealed by the chief commissioner of customs Ahmedabad zone, Pranesh Pathak, at a seminar conducted in the city on Monday. "As India's economy grows, it is becoming a bigger target for global smuggling networks. These crimes threaten public health, national security, and investor confidence," said Pathak.

The announcement comes alongside new data from FICCI's anti-smuggling arm CASCADE, which pegged the size of India's illicit trade economy at Rs 7.98 lakh crore in FY23 in a report released by them. The five sectors most affected are FMCG (packaged foods), FMCG (personal and household care), alcohol,

tobacco, and textiles and apparel. In fact, textiles and apparel alone accounted for over Rs 4 lakh crore of



this, followed by FMCG products, alcohol, and tobacco, the report suggests.

Experts at the seminar pointed to punitive taxes as a key driver. "Smuggling

thrives on cost arbitrage created by high indirect taxes and regulatory gaps. When duties on products like tobacco, liquor, and gold are significantly high, it creates strong incentives for illegal trade, undermining legitimate businesses and eroding govt revenues."

The disparity between legal and illegal market pricing not only distorts fair competition but also exposes citizens to spurious goods, which can become a grave public health issue. Tackling this issue requires a balanced tax policy along with robust enforcement and greater inter-agency coordination," said P C Jha, former chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC).

Pathak said enforcement was stepped up across land, sea, and air routes. "Recent seizures show just how aggressive and organised these networks have become," he said, referring to the Godhra Customs operation involving counterfeit cigarettes worth over Rs 150 crore.

## Opposition intensifies protests over surgical equipment shortage at Thiruvananthapuram MCH

**The UDF has formed a Health Commission led by health expert Dr S S Lal to study the serious issues in the state health sector that are affecting people.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** Though the health department has started efforts to put out the fire after the unit head of the Urology department at Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College came out openly about the shortage of surgical equipment, the Opposition has decided to intensify the protests. The UDF has formed a Health Commission led by health expert Dr S S Lal to study the serious issues in the state health sector that are affecting people. The five-member commission was asked to submit a report within the next six months.

The preliminary report will be submitted within three months. The commission will meet the public, health experts, and experts from other institutions related to the health



health policy and the 'Health Vision- 2025'. The other commission members are Dr N Sreejith, Dr Rajan Joseph Manjooran, Dr P N Ajitha, Dr O T Mohammad Basheer.

Meanwhile, Congress has decided to organise protests in 13 districts except the capital district where the protest has been organised earlier, against the shortage of surgical equipment on July 1 in front of all medical colleges.

The state-level inauguration will be held in Kannur. Meanwhile, the BJP state leadership has demanded the state government to come out with a white paper on the funds it got from the Central government and the details of the expenditure. BJP former state president K Surendran on Monday alleged that the state government has only spent 83 per cent of funds allotted to the state through Central projects.

"Through the National Health Mission in

2021-2024, the Central government has given Rs 1,198.54 crore for the rural health sector.

For the urban health sector, Rs 1,770 crore has been given. In 2022-2023, the state had spent only 37.9 per cent. In 2024-2025 through NHM Rs 1,351.79 crore was given to the state. BJP will organise a protest march towards the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College superintendent's office on Tuesday," Surendran told reporters.

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# 100-bed AYUSH Wellness Centres to be established in every UP district: CM Yogi

## The Sikh Times

Gorakhpur, July 1: CM Yogi Adityanath announced that following the establishment of Uttar Pradesh's first AYUSH University, the government will now set up at least one 100-bed AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre in every district. These centres will offer key treatments such as Panchakarma and Ksharasutra. In addition, the state government has decided to open one AYUSH college at each of the six divisional headquarters that are currently without such facilities. The CM was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Uttar Pradesh's first AYUSH University—Mahayogi Guru Goraknath AYUSH University—on Tuesday. Welcoming President Droupadi Murmu, the chief guest, and Governor Anandiben Patel, the special guest of honour, CM Yogi stated that both the central and state governments are continuously working to ensure holistic health for all. Prior to 2014, India's traditional systems of medicine had not gained global recognition. After taking office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed the Ministry

of AYUSH, integrating Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Homeopathy, Naturopathy and Siddha, and gave traditional medicine a national platform. CM Yogi noted that the Mahayogi Guru

various traditional systems including Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy and Siddha. The university will also emerge as a major centre for research and development in the AYUSH sector. The Chief Minister highlighted that the university will play a significant role in providing employment opportunities to both farmers and youth. Through this institution, cultivation of medicinal plants will become a viable source of income. He added that the university will also be instrumental in promoting traditional medicine as a new form of health tourism. He expressed confidence that the university will emerge as a premier destination for health tourism in the future. During his address at the inauguration ceremony, CM Yogi also spoke about the connection between Ayurveda and the Nath tradition.

He explained that Rasashastra and metallurgical sciences in Ayurveda are linked to the legacy of the Navnath and 84 Siddhas. The credit for systematically organising these disciplines, he said, goes to Mahayogi Guru Goraknath.



Goraknath AYUSH University is a result of PM Modi's vision for comprehensive wellness. With the inauguration complete, the university will now move forward with its admission process. It will offer medical services across

Rasashastra and metallurgical sciences in Ayurveda are linked to the legacy of the Navnath and 84 Siddhas. The credit for systematically organising these disciplines, he said, goes to Mahayogi Guru Goraknath.

## Police raid crime hotspots in Panchkula's Rajiv Colony

Panchkula: The operation was carried out in coordination with teams from Sector 14 police station, Sector 16 police post and other units. Looking to crack down on anti-social elements, the police carried out raids at crime hotspots in Rajiv Colony today. The operation, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shriram Gupta, was carried out in coordination with teams from Sector 14 police station,

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SULEKHA DEVI W/o MANOJ MUNI R/o H.No. D-146, Jeevan Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110014, declare that name of my husband has been wrongly written as MANOJ MUNI in my minor daughter, namely SAPNA KUMARI, aged 17 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my husband is MANOJ MUNI, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAJENDER KAR SHAHNI S/o PREM KUMAR R/o 88-B, Balbir Vihar, Kisan Suleman Nagar, PO: Sultanpur C-Block, Dist. North West Delhi, Delhi-110068, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJENDER KAR SHAHNI in my Driving Licence No. DL11 19950089523. Further I declare that the name of my father is SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA, who is my Caste Certificate No. 1022 dated 11/05/2019. Further I declare that my husband is SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA S/o RAM KUMAR GUPTA R/o House no. 2800-B, Col-102, Near Old Bus Stand, Vishram Nagar, Trinagar, Onkar Nagar, PO: Onkar Nagar, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 declare that my husband SHAILENDRA AGARWAL expired on dated 09/04/2018 and death certificate was issued with registration no. 1022 dated 11/05/2019. Further I declare that the name of my minor daughter namely VAISHANI aged 13 years may be known as SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA in future for all purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

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## NEWS BOX

## Turkish police detain cartoonist over Prophet Muhammad caricature, sparking protests

**ANKARA, Turkey.** Turkish police on Monday detained a cartoonist over a caricature depicting the Prophet Muhammad, an act that also sparked an angry protest outside the Istanbul office of his satirical magazine, officials and reports said.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya announced on X that Leman magazine's cartoonist was taken under custody for questioning. The minister also shared a video of the cartoonist — identified only by his initials DP — being taken into custody on a stairwell, with hands cuffed behind the back. Earlier, the country's justice minister said an investigation was launched into the magazine, citing possible charges of "publicly insulting religious values." A group of youths, reportedly belonging to an Islamist group, hurled stones at Leman's headquarters after it published a cartoon depicting Prophet Muhammad and Prophet Moses exchanging greetings in mid-air as missiles rain down from the sky. Yilmaz Tunc, the justice minister, said that cartoons or drawings depicting the Prophet harmed religious sensitivities and social harmony. "No freedom grants the right to make the sacred values of a belief a subject of humor in an ugly way," he wrote. The incident evoked memories of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris, when two armed gunmen stormed the offices of the French satirical magazine known for its provocative cartoons, including depictions of the Prophet Muhammad. The attackers killed 12 people, including prominent cartoonists.

## Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra Suspended Over A Leaked Phone Call

**Thailand.** Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was suspended by the country's Constitutional Court on Tuesday, as it opened a probe into her conduct in a diplomatic spat with Cambodia.

"The Constitutional Court with a majority of 7-2 suspends the respondent from Prime Ministerial duty from July until the Constitutional Court has made its ruling," said a statement, after a group of conservative senators lodged a case accusing Paetongtarn of breaching ministerial ethics during a border row with Cambodia. A long-standing territorial dispute boiled over into cross-border clashes in May, killing one Cambodian soldier. When Paetongtarn called Cambodian statesman Hun Sen to discuss tensions, she called him "uncle" and referred to a Thai military commander as her "opponent," according to a leaked recording which caused a backlash. Conservative



lawmakers accuse her of kowtowing to Cambodia and undermining the military, and allege she breached constitutional provisions requiring "evident integrity" and "ethical standards" among ministers.

## Why We Still Need A Cure For HIV Despite Powerful Treatments

**Sydney.** Over the past three decades there have been amazing advances in treating and preventing HIV. It's now a manageable infection. A person with HIV who takes HIV medicine consistently, before their immune system declines, can expect to live almost as long as someone without HIV. The same drugs prevent transmission of the virus to sexual partners. There is still no effective HIV vaccine. But there are highly effective drugs to prevent HIV infection for people without HIV who are at higher risk of acquiring it. These drugs are known as "pre-exposure prophylaxis" or PrEP. These come as a pill, which needs to be taken either daily, or "on demand" before and after risky sex. An injection that protects against HIV for six months has recently been approved in the United States.

So with such effective HIV treatment and PrEP, why are we still spending millions looking for HIV cures? Not everyone has access to these drugs.

Access to HIV drugs and PrEP depends on the availability of health clinics, health professionals, and the means to supply and distribute the drugs. In some countries, this infrastructure may not be secure. For instance, earlier this year, US President Donald Trump's dissolution of the USAID foreign aid program has threatened the delivery of HIV drugs to many low-income countries. This demonstrates the fragility of current approaches to treatment and prevention. A secure, uninterrupted supply of HIV medicine is required, and without this, lives will be lost and the number of new cases of HIV will rise. Another example is the six-monthly PrEP injection just approved in the US. This drug has great potential for controlling HIV if it is made available and affordable in countries with the greatest HIV burden. But the prospect for lower-income countries accessing this expensive drug looks uncertain, even if it can be made at a fraction of its current cost, as some researchers say.

So despite the success of HIV drugs and PrEP, precarious health-care systems and high drug costs mean we can't rely on them to bring an end to the ongoing global HIV pandemic. That's why we also still need to look at other options.

# Musk threatens new party as Trump says 'shut shop, go back home' amid fight over US budget bill

### Musk warned he will launch the America Party the day after the bill passes and target lawmakers who back it; Trump, in a thinly veiled threat, suggested cutting funding for SpaceX and Tesla.

**world.** US President Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk clashed again on Monday over the proposed government spending bill, which Trump has dubbed as a "One Big Beautiful Bill." The exchange marked a fresh escalation in their bitter public feud, after Musk fell out with the US President over his objections to Trump's flagship legislation. As the bill makes its way through the US Senate, Elon sharpened his criticism, threatening to form a new political party and warning lawmakers against supporting it.

"Every member of Congress who campaigned on reducing government spending and then immediately voted for the biggest debt increase in history should

hang their head in shame! And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth," he wrote on X.

With lawmakers set to vote on the bill, Musk accused Republicans of backing "debt slavery" and warned that his proposed political party would target those who support the legislation after campaigning to cut government spending. "If this insane spending bill passes, the America Party will be formed the next day. Our country needs an alternative to the Democrat-Republican uniparty so that the people actually have a VOICE," he wrote.

"VOX POPULI VOX DEI 80% voted for a new party," he claimed.

'No more rocket launches...'

However, the remarks drew a sharp rebuttal from Trump, who said Musk may have to "go back to South Africa" without the billions in government subsidies received by his companies. "Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump wrote on Truth Social. In a thinly veiled threat, Trump also suggested cutting government support for SpaceX and Tesla — the

billionaire's companies. "No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have



DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!," he added.

Musk later hit back on X, writing: "I am literally saying CUT IT ALL. Now."

Trump is hoping to seal his legacy with the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which would extend his expiring first-term tax cuts at a cost of \$4.5 trillion and beef up border security. But Republicans eyeing 2026 midterm congressional elections are divided over the package, which would strip health care from millions of the

poorest Americans and add more than \$3 trillion to the country's debt. Musk has previously made his opinions about Trump's bill clear. Days after he left the

federal government last month with a laudatory celebration in the Oval Office, he blasted the bill as "pork-filled" and a "disgusting abomination." When Trump clapped back to say he was disappointed with Musk, back-and-forth fighting erupted and quickly escalated. Musk suggested without evidence that Trump, who spent the first part of the year as one of his closest allies, was mentioned in files related to sex abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

Musk ultimately tried to make nice with the administration, saying he regretted some of his posts that "went too far." Trump responded in kind in an interview with The New York Post, saying, "Things like that happen. I don't blame him for anything." It's unclear how Musk's latest broadsides will influence the fragile peace he and the president had enjoyed in recent weeks. Musk has spent recent weeks focused on his businesses, and his political influence has waned since he left the administration.

## Netanyahu to visit White House on July 7 as Trump presses for ceasefire in Gaza

**WASHINGTON.** US President Donald Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House next Monday as the American leader steps up his push on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza. The impending visit was confirmed by two US administration officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on it. The trip will be Netanyahu's third visit to the White House since Trump returned to office in January, and it comes after the United States inserted itself into Israel's war against Iran by attacking Iranian nuclear sites. After brokering a ceasefire between the two countries, Trump has signaled that he's turning his attention to bringing a close to the fighting between Israel and Hamas. Trump on Friday told reporters that "we

think within the next week we're going to get a ceasefire" in Gaza, but didn't offer any further explanation for his optimism. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday that Trump and administration officials

were in constant communication with Israeli leadership and that bringing about an end to the Gaza conflict is a priority for Trump. "It's heartbreaking to see the images that have come out from both Israel and Gaza throughout this war, and the president wants to see it end," Leavitt added. "He wants to

save lives." Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer is in Washington this week for talks with senior administration officials on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other matters. Talks between Israel and

Hamas have repeatedly faltered over a major sticking point — whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement. About 50 hostages remain captive in Gaza, with less than half believed to be alive. With Netanyahu's visit, the timing of which was first reported by Axios, Trump will embrace the Israeli leader while continuing to push back against skeptical questions from Democratic lawmakers and others about how far US and Israeli strikes have set back Iran's nuclear program.

A preliminary report issued by the US Defense Intelligence Agency, meanwhile, said the strikes did significant damage to the Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan sites, but did not totally destroy the facilities.

## Bangladesh anti-government protests: Uprising, unrest and elections

**DHAKA.** Bangladesh on July 1 marks one year since students launched protests that culminated weeks later in the overthrow of the government. After ruling with an iron fist for 15 years, Sheikh Hasina became the latest leader to be toppled by force since independence from Pakistan in 1971. The Muslim-majority nation of about 170 million people is now in political limbo, led by a caretaker government until elections slated for 2026. Here are five key events in the South Asian country since protesters took to the streets a year ago.

- July 1, 2024: Anti-government protests - University students launch

demonstrations to demand reforms to a quota system for sought-after public sector jobs. They say the scheme is used to stack the civil service with those loyal to Hasina, who won a fifth term as prime minister months earlier in a vote without genuine opposition.

violence intensifies later in July with police opening fire. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment exporter, and the industry is hit hard by the protests. Clashes escalate despite a curfew, the deployment of soldiers and an internet blackout. Up to 1,400 people are killed in the unrest, according to the United

Nations. Thousands of protesters storm Hasina's palace, with millions on the streets celebrating, some dancing on armoured cars and tanks. Hasina flees Dhaka by helicopter to neighbouring ally India, as army chief General Waker-Uzzaman announces the military will form an interim government. Bangladesh has a long history of military coups and the army retains a powerful role. Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus returns to Bangladesh at the behest of student protesters to lead the government as its "chief adviser".

Yunus says he inherited a "completely broken down" system of public administration. The 85-year-old microfinance pioneer embarks on an ambitious programme to overhaul democratic institutions that he says are required to prevent a return to authoritarian rule.

Rebellion over welfare reform On Tuesday, Starmer faces a vote in Parliament on welfare spending after watering down planned cuts to disability benefits that caused consternation from Labour lawmakers. Many balked at plans to raise the threshold for the payments by requiring a more severe physical or mental disability, a move the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank estimated would cut the income of 3.2 million people by 2030.

After more than 120 Labour lawmakers said they would vote against the bill, the government offered concessions, including a guarantee that no one currently getting

approaching those of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss, who lasted just 49 days in office in 2022 after her tax-cutting budget roiled the economy. John Curtice, a political scientist at the University of Strathclyde, said Starmer has had "the worst start for any newly elected prime minister."

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## Over 14 million people could die from US foreign aid cuts under Trump: study

**PARIS.** More than 14 million of the world's most vulnerable people, a third of them small children, could die because of the Trump administration's dismantling of US foreign aid, research projected on Tuesday.

The study in the prestigious Lancet journal was published as world and business leaders gather for a UN conference in Spain this week hoping to bolster the reeling aid sector. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) had provided over 40 percent of global humanitarian funding until Donald Trump returned to the White House in January.

Two weeks later, Trump's then-close advisor -- and world's richest man -- Elon Musk boasted of having put the agency "through the woodchipper." The funding cuts "risk abruptly halting -- and even reversing -- two decades of progress in health among vulnerable populations," warned study co-author Davide Rasella, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). "For many low- and middle-income countries, the resulting shock would be comparable in scale to a global pandemic or a major armed conflict,"



he said in a statement. Looking back over data from 133 nations, the international team of researchers estimated that USAID funding had prevented 91 million deaths in developing countries between 2001 and 2021. They also used modelling to project how funding being slashed by 83 percent -- the figure announced by the US government earlier this year -- could affect death rates. The cuts could lead to more than 14 million avoidable deaths by 2030, the projections found. That number included over 4.5 million children under the age of five -- or around 700,000 child deaths a year. For comparison, around 10 million soldiers are estimated to have been killed during World War I. Programmes supported by USAID were linked to a 15-percent decrease in deaths from all causes, the researchers found. For children under five, the drop in deaths was twice as steep at 32 percent. USAID funding was found to be particularly effective at staving off preventable deaths from disease.

# UK's Starmer faces down revolt over welfare reform after troubled first year in office

**LONDON.** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer marks a year in office this week, fighting a rebellion from his own party over welfare reform and reckoning with a sluggish economy and rock-bottom approval ratings. It's a long way from the landslide election victory he won on July 4, 2024, when Starmer's center-left Labour Party took 412 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons to end 14 years of Conservative government. In the last 12 months Starmer has navigated the rapids of a turbulent world, winning praise for rallying international support for Ukraine and persuading US President Donald Trump to sign a trade deal easing tariffs on UK goods. But at home his agenda has run onto the rocks as he struggles to convince British voters — and his own party — that his government is delivering the change that it promised. Inflation remains stubbornly high and economic growth low, frustrating efforts to ease the cost of living. Starmer's personal approval ratings are

approaching those of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss, who lasted just 49 days in office in 2022 after her tax-cutting budget roiled the economy. John Curtice, a political scientist at the University of Strathclyde, said Starmer has had "the worst start for any newly elected prime minister."

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After more than 120 Labour lawmakers said they would vote against the bill, the government offered concessions, including a guarantee that no one currently getting

benefits will be affected by the change. It pledged to consult with disability groups about the changes, and do more to help sick



and disabled people find jobs. Some rebels said they would back the bill after the concessions, but others maintained their opposition. Artificial Intelligence uses

it dropped a plan to end winter home heating subsidies for millions of retirees. Last week, Starmer announced a national inquiry into organized child sexual abuse, something he was pressured to do by opposition politicians — and Elon Musk. "It's a failure of leadership for a prime minister with such a big majority to not be able to get their agenda through," said Rob Ford, professor of politics at the University of Manchester. "I can't think of many examples of a prime minister in postwar politics suffering such a big setback when presiding over such a strong position in the Commons." It also makes it harder for the government to find money to invest in public services without raising taxes. The government estimated the welfare reforms would save 5 billion pounds (\$7 billion) a year from a welfare bill that has ballooned since the COVID-19 pandemic. After the concessions, it's only likely to save about half that amount.

## NEWS BOX

## Strength coach sets Guinness World Record

**AHMEDABAD.** Strength and conditioning coach Jesal Trivedi, 47, has entered the Guinness World Records. Trivedi recently received his certificate for a feat accomplished earlier this year on Jan 12 — running 50km with a 40-pound backpack in 8 hours and 50 minutes. For Trivedi, the marathon was not just a test of physical endurance but a challenge to societal norms, proving that age is no barrier to achieving extraordinary goals. His record-breaking effort stands as a testament to determination, resilience and disciplined strength training. A former Gujarat state heavyweight boxing champion, Trivedi turned to fitness coaching after a shoulder injury ended his boxing career. Over the past decade, he has focused on bridging the gap between gym-goers and endurance athletes. "Strength and endurance are two sides of the same coin," he said. "Many people chase fad diets and fitness trends focused solely on leanness. I wanted to prove that concurrent training can unlock extraordinary potential in both strength and stamina."



His preparation for the Guinness challenge involved months of calisthenics, strength conditioning and a focused sports nutrition regimen. "In an age where lifestyle diseases are rampant, staying fit, regardless of age, gender, or profession, is not optional, it's essential," he added.

## Land reclaimed, polluted water sale stopped at Sunnam Cheruvu



**HYDERABAD.** In a major operation on Monday, HYDRAA launched a crackdown at Sunnam Cheruvu, cleared illegal structures within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) limits and halted the sale of contaminated groundwater.

Officials confirmed that borehole operators were supplying water with high levels of lead, cadmium and nickel — metals known to cause cancer and other health issues. Dissolved oxygen levels were found to be zero, making the water unfit even for irrigation, as per Pollution Control Board (PCB) reports. Tankers were seized, and sheds around boreholes demolished. HYDRAA has lodged complaints against individuals involved.

"Tests confirmed the presence of cancer-causing agents. Supplying such water to hostels, offices or homes is a crime," said HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath. "Encroaching on lake land and extracting water illegally falls squarely under our jurisdiction. Landowners with valid claims can pursue legal remedies, including compensation or TDR, but cannot obstruct restoration."

## CSL to build two tugs for Polestar Maritime Ltd

**KOCHI.** The Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has received an order from Polestar Maritime Ltd to build two 70-tonne bollard pull tugs. This is in addition to the three bollard pull tugs of similar capacity under construction at the Udupi Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

Polestar Maritime is a major player in the niche market of harbour tugs, coastal towing and marine services at ports. The tugs will be built



in accordance with the designs of Robert Allan Ltd, a leading design house for harbour tugs. CSL and Udupi-CSL have introduced the Robert Allan tugs in India, complying with the Approved Standardised Tug Design and Specifications (ASTDS) of the central government. The vessels will be jointly constructed by CSL and Udupi-CSL under a work-share agreement at the CSL yard in Kochi. The vessels will be propelled by two main engines of 1,838 kW and 2.7m propellers from Niigata IHI Power Systems, Japan.

CSL has already delivered four tugs under the 'Made in India' initiative and the present order book includes 18 tugs and two green tugs, which are in various stages of construction.

"We are very happy to receive a repeat order from Polestar Maritime. CSL is committed to transform the industry by introducing the battery electric tugs through the upcoming Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) announced by the Union government."

## Turf club gets BMC nod for clubhouse and banquet hall

**Mumbai.** BMC has approved a layout proposal submitted by the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) through its architect for the construction of a new clubhouse and banquet hall at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse. The approval comes less than a year since the lease deed was signed between BMC and RWITC for 93 acres to be used for horse racing and allied activities. The project, to be on 32 acres, will be designated for Racecourse club/gymkhana use. The approval is for two buildings: a multi-storey clubhouse and a single-level banquet hall. The clubhouse will rise to a height of 32 metres and include two basements for parking, ground and upper floors for sports and leisure facilities, and five floors for lodging, offering a total of 177 rooms.

Amenities will include squash and badminton courts, padel courts, restaurants, a mini theatre, library, fitness centre, and children's play areas. The ground floor will also house a swimming pool and support utilities. According to the approved plan, a floor space index (FSI) of 0.3 was applied to the net buildable area, allowing a total built-up



area of 34,455 sq metres. Of this, 17,864 sq metres is existing construction to be retained, and 16,591 sq metres are newly proposed. While BMC has cleared the layout and subdivision, several statutory NOCs — including from the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee (MHCC) and others — will be required before construction begins.

Municipal commissioner Bhushan Gagrani said, "When the lease was renewed, it included a clause that the civic body would facilitate the construction of a new clubhouse. This development in no way affects the 120 acres of public open space, which will remain green and accessible." Officials say the approval was

granted after multiple rounds of review, document submissions, and plan revisions between Dec 2024 and June 2025 among the architect, Ameet G Pawar, and civic authorities. The proposal went through holds and resubmissions in that period as authorities insisted on updated survey data, NOCs, revised drawings and ownership documents. The final permission came on June 27.

A lease deed for the land — signed in Aug 2024 — was preceded by a BMC resolution (ACR-231) passed on July 2, 2024, permitting the lease of 93 acres to RWITC for purposes related to horse racing and related activities. While sub plots 'D', 'E', and 'F' are covered under this lease, the remaining subplots (including one marked for a public park) are to be developed by the BMC.

An official from the building proposal department said, "The municipal commissioner's approval was given on June 9 while the plan was approved in June 27."

"The proposal also includes the allocation of 25% of the area for open spaces (RG/LOS), though distributed across multiple points. Meanwhile, BMC's proposal for the development of a public park on 120 acres of the racecourse land is yet to be finalised."

## Gujarat waives 80% duty on property transfers sans sale deeds

**GANDHINAGAR.** In a major relief for thousands of property owners in Gujarat, the state govt on Monday announced a waiver of up to 80% on stamp duty for property transfers done through allotment letters and share certificates (without sale deed): a long-standing issue affecting older housing societies. The decision, issued by the revenue department under Section 9A of the Gujarat Stamp Act, comes in response to representations made by citizens and elected representatives.

The move specifically benefits residents of societies, associations, and non-trading corporations where properties were allotted without sale deeds — a practice common between 1982 and 2001. Many such homes, especially in older parts of Ahmedabad and other urban centres, were originally transferred to residents solely through share certificates or allotment letters, without any formal registration.

Dipak Patel, an advocate who specializes in property-related matters, explained that the controversy began in April this year, when a govt notification stated that residents in such cases would have to pay four times the standard stamp duty. "That sparked outrage as the decision affected residents of societies constructed between Sep 1, 1982, and 2001 as residents of societies built after 2001 have sale deeds. The govt still collected several crores since April 10," he said.

However, in a partial rollback aimed at easing the burden, the new decision caps the payable stamp duty at just 20% of the original amount, plus applicable penalties.

Patel clarified that the relaxation only applies to housing transfers conducted via share certificates or allotment letters, not those formalized with registered sale deeds. "This brings long-awaited relief to thousands of residents who were suddenly asked to pay a hefty duty on homes they have owned for decades," Patel said. "It is not a full rollback, but it makes compliance financially feasible."

## Kerala State Maritime Board to crack down on unregistered inland vessels



**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** In an effort to curb unsafe and illegal vessel operations in Kerala's backwaters and inland waterways, the Kerala State Maritime Board (KSMB) is launching a statewide crackdown on unauthorised vessels — including houseboats, shikaras, speedboats, and other mechanised crafts. The Board will strictly enforce the Inland Vessels Act, 2021, which aims to establish a uniform regulatory framework for inland navigation and ensure safe water transportation for the public.

According to the data with the Board, there are approximately 1,500 inland vessels of various categories operating in the state. KSMB Chairman N S Pillai told TNIE that the initiative is intended to bring an end to the illegal operation of inland vessels. "The Central Act will be strictly implemented in

Kerala. We have formed dedicated enforcement squads, and speedboats have been procured for inspection activities. Surprise checks will be conducted, and illegal vessels will be seized and destroyed," he said. The Maritime Board has announced July 15 as the final deadline for vessel owners to submit

applications for mandatory registration.

"We are providing operators an opportunity to come under the legal framework. If they fail to do so, we will have no choice but to seize the vessels. Any vessel that does not meet safety standards will be confiscated and destroyed to prevent further illegal operations," said Pillai.

This enforcement drive comes amid increasing reports of unregistered and unsafe boats operating in the state, posing serious risks to public safety and the environment. In Alappuzha, which is a major hub of backwater tourism, there are currently 821 registered houseboats, 241 shikaras, 444 motorboats, and 134 speedboats under the Board. According to Alappuzha Port Officer Jismon Jacob, a significant number of vessels in the region are operating without valid registration.

## 'I miss mum': Girl dies by suicide in hostel in Telangana's Parkal

**HANAMKONDA.** Racked with the pain of her mother's death from her early childhood years, a 15-year-old girl ended her life by hanging, stating in her suicide note that she had "no will to live" without her mother, and that she was going to "meet her". The heart-wrenching incident occurred in the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Girls' Hostel in Narsakkappally village in Parkal on Monday.

The deceased, Eku Srivani, was a resident of Parkal town and had been staying in the hostel since she was in the 6th grade. Srivani was a quiet student and barely interacted with her hostmates. Some sources alleged that she was constantly harassed by the hostel staff, and that the harassment provoked her to take the extreme step.

Srivani, who studied in Class 10, hanged herself in the hostel washroom on Monday. Her hostmates said that the warden broke the door open after she failed to respond to repeated knocks and calls. They were all frightened on seeing Srivani's lifeless body hanging from the ceiling.

cause of death was suicide by hanging after examining tOn learning about the girl's death, her father and relatives staged a protest in front of the hostel, demanding justice. Police said that the girl had left behind a suicide note in which she mentioned that she was "not interested in living". "Her mother had died in her early childhood years, and she mentioned in the note that she was going to meet her," the police added. he ligature injuries on her neck.



arrest," an officer with the Cherthala police station said. The Cherthala First Class Judicial Magistrate remanded them for 14 days for illegally climbing atop a public water tank and entering the drinking water supply

officer said.

## KWA suffers Rs 1.4-lakh loss

Given the breach and the potential contamination, the authorities were forced to drain the entire tank, disrupting the drinking water supply to several parts of the panchayat.

"The tank has a capacity of 16 lakh litres. The entire water was drained. Drinking water supply to more than 50,000 people was disrupted for two days. The incident has raised concerns over public safety, hygiene, and need for enhanced security around essential public infrastructure," a KWA official said. A preliminary estimate put the loss the water authority suffered at Rs 1.4 lakh. "The exact loss will be ascertained in the coming days," the official said. The tank was chlorinated on Monday and distribution resumed by evening after water samples were tested, the official added.

## Maharashtra introduces bill empowering Nasik Kumbh Mela authority to permit temporary townships



**Mumbai.** The state govt has introduced a bill granting sweeping powers to the Nasik-Tribakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority for managing the Simhastha Kumbh Mela, scheduled to be held in Nasik next year. The bill follows an ordinance introduced in June. The Kumbh Mela is organised every 12 years, and the last event in 2015 attracted 2.5 crore devotees. According to the bill, the authority will have the power to provide road connectivity from a nearby major road to the new township or city. The permission for such development, including the layout, city, or township, shall last only as long as decided by the authority and will not exceed two years. Additionally, no court will have the jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding against any action or order issued by the authority. The bill states that the authority will have the power to prosecute those guilty of obstructing or failing to cooperate with any officer or employee authorised by the authority. Punishment could be a jail term extended up to one year, a fine, or both. According to the bill, the 22-member authority will be headed by the Nasik Divisional

planning scheme, rule, bye-law, or notification made under any law, will not be applicable. According to the bill, the authority will have the power to provide road connectivity from a nearby major road to the new township or city. The permission for such development, including the layout, city, or township, shall last only as long as decided by the authority and will not exceed two years. Additionally, no court will have the jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding against any action or order issued by the authority. The bill states that the authority will have the power to prosecute those guilty of obstructing or failing to cooperate with any officer or employee authorised by the authority. Punishment could be a jail term extended up to one year, a fine, or both. According to the bill, the 22-member authority will be headed by the Nasik Divisional

Commissioner. A committee of ministers will be set up to review the work of the authority, review its report, and approve the fees imposed by the authority.

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12 years, and the last event in 2015 attracted 2.5 crore devotees. According to the bill, the authority will have the power to grant permission for any development, including the layout of any new temporary city or township for the purpose of stay or tourism for citizens attending the Kumbh Mela. It will also have the power to grant permission to construct structures, including buildings or any material such as tents and huts, streets, and amenities around such a city or township. The bill also states that during the period such permission is given, the provision of any plan, including the development plan, regional plan, final town planning scheme, rule, bye-law, or notification made under any law, will not be applicable. According to the bill, the authority will have the power to provide road connectivity from a nearby major road to the new township or city.

## Burnt cash case: More questions are raised than answered

On the night of March 14, 2025, remnants of burnt currency were found—for which a video is available—in the outhouse of the premises allotted to Justice Yashwant Varma, then a judge of the Delhi High Court. This revelation raises serious questions which need to be answered. What was the quantum of currency that was found? Why was the currency not seized? Why was a panchnam not prepared by the Delhi Police present at the spot? Why was the outhouse not cordoned off to ensure that the scene of the incident was protected or secured? Why was the currency not preserved for inquiry and investigation? Why was an FIR not registered against unknown persons? To all these questions, the In-House Committee ("Committee") set up by the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court provides no answers; they are otherwise unavailable. For all these questions, the Committee says that these were not within its remit. In the absence of any explanation for why the police acted as they did, the Committee concluded that since the currency was found in the outhouse of the judge's residence, it must have been placed there with the judge's tacit or active consent. The Committee consisted of two sitting Chief Justices and one judge of the High Court. It found no more than what was already available in the public domain in the form of videos recorded by the fire services department. Justice Varma had categorically stated that the currency did not belong to him and that he was not aware of who had placed it in the outhouse. The mainstream media has quoted various amounts of currency, ranging from ₹15 crore and beyond, in large bundles, which were found in the outhouse. The currency in the alleged quantum could not have entered the premises without the knowledge of the CRPF personnel stationed at his residence. Managing to cart large quantities of currency and placing it in the outhouse would necessarily have entailed the active involvement of several persons. No evidence to that effect was before the Committee, nor has it been alleged by anyone to date. In fact, the issue became far more serious when it was revealed that a CCTV camera was placed in a security room at the entrance, constantly monitoring ingress into the premises. This CCTV apparatus was controlled by the security personnel and not by the family. When the CCTV camera was seized, the FSL report revealed that the hard disk was blank. This constitutes a major security lapse, as it is the State's responsibility to protect the judge.

This again raises several vital questions. When did the CCTV camera stop working? Did the security personnel make any complaint in that regard? No answers are available. The Committee never investigated why such footage could not be retrieved. The person who placed the currency must have been aware that the CCTV equipment was not functioning. Surprisingly, the Committee blames the judge for not seizing and preserving the CCTV footage, assuming he knew and had control of the functioning of the CCTV. What authority did he have to seize the footage when it was never in his custody and control? The Committee proceeds on the assumption and concludes that the keys of the outhouse were under the tacit or active control of the family, even though there was ample evidence that the keys were in the possession of the staff and not the family, as reflected in a paragraph of the Committee's report. Part of the paragraph reads as follows: "50. What has further come on record in the shape of statements of witnesses No. 31, 32, 34, 35, 40, 46 and 47 is that the storeroom was occasionally locked, and the key to the lock was accessible to all of the residents of 30 Tughlak Crescent, New Delhi including the security staff and the personal staff of Justice Yashwant Varma..."

INDIA-CHINA ties have witnessed a flurry of activity recently. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong visited New Delhi on June 12-13 for talks with his Indian counterpart Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. One of the outcomes of the discussions was the announcement that the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra would be resumed this summer. The yatra had been put on hold in the wake of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) standoff that began in the summer of 2020. Last week, in quick succession, India's NSA Ajit Doval and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited China for meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), of which India has been a long-time member. The Indian leaders also had bilateral meetings with their Chinese counterparts, further adding to the impression in India that there is a reset in the difficult relationship between the two most populous countries.

The Indian media started carrying stories that the Dragon and the Elephant are dancing again. The Indian industry began to believe that imports from China would once again be easy and cheap. This narrative, when seen against the backdrop of India's Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran strongly arguing in favour of more foreign direct investment from China, is unfortunately leading many in India to hasty and wrong conclusions. We must keep in mind that the bilateral relationship deteriorated because Beijing sent troops to eastern Ladakh with the aim of changing the status quo on the LAC as well as to drive home the message that China was the big power in the region and that India better kowtow to it. Hence, China is entirely responsible for this recent downturn in relations. Frankly, the onus is on Beijing to make conciliatory moves to repair it. A Chinese saying puts it aptly: "The one who ties the knot must untie it." As is well known, there has been disengagement of troops in eastern Ladakh but no de-escalation of forces as yet. So, while some conditions have been met on the LAC for a better relationship, the situation is not exactly as it was before 2020. In these circumstances, a better description would be that though the Dragon and the Elephant are in the same room, they are sticking to their own individual corners, eyeing the other carefully. Not only is there no question of the two dancing with each other, there is no recognition that the other is even a potential dance partner. Furthermore, there seems to be no attraction between the two. Things become even clearer if we add to this picture the economic side of the Delhi-Beijing relationship—exports from China of rare earth magnets, so important for our nascent EV (electric vehicle) industry, have virtually been stopped over the past three months. China has reached an agreement with the US, the main target of rare earth export controls, but shipments to India have not been cleared till date, driving India's EV companies to the brink of a crisis. Now we hear of similar weaponisation of specialty fertiliser exports to India. The supply of tunnel boring machines to India has been blocked by China Customs for over a year. This clearly underlines China's approach towards India. What

## India-China tango remains elusive

Onus on Beijing to rebuild relations as the 'one who ties the knot must untie it'



China really desires is that India recognise it as a great power and then dance to China's tune. This is what mandarins in India's Finance Ministry are acquiescing to when they argue for relaxations in the FDI regime for China. Yes, in the immediate aftermath of the June 2020 Galwan clash, India had banned many Chinese apps from the domestic market and also ruled that Chinese firms such as Huawei could not participate in our own 5G trials and rollout. All those were excellent steps and any rollback of them cannot be countenanced. So how should one analyse and assess the current steps? As there has been some thawing of the military situation in eastern Ladakh, although there is no return to status quo ante, repairing and rebuilding overall ties is a good measure. The careful and calibrated moves made by the Indian Government are the correct way forward. Doubtless, we have to deal with China and manage relations. However, there is no need for India to be overenthusiastic in this

process. Mutual interest should be the lodestone for deciding the way forward. Mutual respect is essential if ties have to be rebuilt. At the same time, the Indian industry will be well served if it doesn't expect everything to be hunky-dory with China in the near future. Such an outcome will be unrealistic and impractical. We in India must utilise this opportunity to manufacture here some of the products denied by China. Rare earth magnets will be a good start. The best supply chain for this product will be if it is entirely in India. Then there can be no surprises of the recent kind. The broader and more pertinent point is that we must be more ambitious about making in India. To quote a young Indian entrepreneur (not being named) who is now a start-up veteran, "We must aim at manufacturing in India for the world". It is this ambition that must fire our industry and business people. When that happens, we shall get China off our back and not be dependent on imports from our northern neighbour.

## Must find internal reset for Pakistan bother at the SCO

**India needs to assess why it lacks clout in the 10-member grouping that China dominates, though its relationship with the latter is on the mend. Beijing's cliche of a dance between the dragon and the elephant apart, China's tango with its client state Pakistan is the most visible at the moment**

If a multilateral grouping that runs by consensus fails to find common ground, consequences follow. That is why the recent Defence Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Qingdao, China, did not issue a joint outcome statement. India had sought explicit mention of terrorism in the document, especially cross-border terror, including a reference to the April Pahalgam terror attack, where tourists were killed after religious profiling. However, "one member country", Pakistan, refused to yield. It instead sought to insert a paragraph on disturbances in Balochistan to needle India. And China, in its capacity as SCO chair, made little effort to sort out the matter. Since it was unacceptable that a bloc founded with the primary purpose of combating terrorism omitted a reference to it, visiting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the outcome document. "When the main purpose of the organisation is to fight terrorism, and you are not allowing a reference to that, the outcome loses meaning," external affairs



minister S Jaishankar later said. The SCO Charter adopted in 2002—a year after China, Russia, and four Central Asian countries floated it—had resolved to make "mutual intraregional efforts to curb terrorism, separatism and extremism". In 2017, India and Pakistan joined the grouping. India needs to assess why it lacks clout in the

10-member grouping that China dominates, though its relationship with the latter is on the mend. Beijing's cliche of a dance between the dragon and the elephant apart, China's tango with its client state Pakistan is the most visible at the moment. Evolving consensus when the aggressor and the victim of terror have an equal say is tough if the latter does not have a strong counterweight. It is not without reason that India excluded SCO member states from the global outreach programme by multi-party delegations of parliament to explain its post-Pahalgam strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and the refusal to give in to nuclear blackmail. India needs a balm for the Pakistan headache. It must engage with SCO but with calibrated expectations. While exposing the double standards of those who deny cross-border terror, India must also invest more in deterrence and diplomatic assertiveness. The message should go out that multilateral organisations not calling out all variants of terror disrespect their fundamental objectives.

## The silence that grew loud in me

**For years now, especially as I grew older, my strongest feeling about the harassment that I faced—that every Indian girl and woman has faced—has been regret. My silence during those times was utterly wrong. I now feel I let other girls down by not shouting out loud every time I was harassed by the boys, men and unclejis of Delhi, calling them out at once and publicly shaming them**

Once on a flight from somewhere to Delhi, I sat comfortably in my usual aisle seat, having long outgrown the youthful urge to sit by the window. The window seat, I had grown to realise, was strategically a bad move. This time, the middle seat beside me was empty, and I closed my eyes in relief. I looked forward to some elbow room and no threat of a possibly smelly, uncouth passenger beside me for the next two-and-a-half hours, an all-too-common occurrence nowadays.

An argument two rows ahead made me open my eyes. A rough, unkempt man was having loud words with the air hostess about a seating mix-up. She looked at the empty seat next to mine, clearly intending to send the man there. I froze in horror. Meeting her eyes, I rolled mine and gave the faintest shake of my head. Her lips twitched slightly, and she led him away to an empty seat elsewhere. When she passed by me before take-off, I discreetly murmured, "Thank you". She smiled, shaking her head, as if to say, "No problem". The wonderful yet sad thing about this encounter was the instant understanding that silently passed between two Indian women, even across generations, that some men were best avoided. For years now, especially as I grew older, my strongest feeling about the harassment that I faced—that every Indian girl and woman has faced—has been regret. Regret that I had felt so sullied by the words or deeds of 'eve-teasers' that I usually pretended that nothing had happened. This was the wrong thing to do, I realised because it only

gave them the guts to harass more girls and women. My silence during those times was utterly wrong. I now feel that I let other girls down by not shouting out loud every time I was harassed by the boys, men and unclejis of Delhi, calling them out at once and publicly shaming them. The Greek word for repentance, 'metanoia', means to change one's mind and direction. It is described as 'implying a fundamental shift in perspective and attitude towards sin and God'. Good poetry expresses our feelings when we are glad, sad or sorry, and the Bible is a rich source of great poetry. The words attributed to King David come to mind, though uttered in a different context: 'Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing." (1 Chronicles 21:8).

To stay silent, I feel, was cowardly and also a sin, the sin of not speaking up against wrongdoing. It fell on the wrong side of personal dharma. As 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, 'For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret.' Matthew 3:8 says, 'Do the things that show you really have changed your hearts and lives.'

And it's hard not to think of this: 'So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin' (James 4:17). But also, this verse: 'For whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.' (John 3:20). Each one of us can and must do what we can to make things better. I would like to be able to use



these words at journey's end: "I have fought the

good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (Timothy 4:7). It would be sad to have to think, instead, of King Solomon's moving words of regret. Here, I must leave the modern versions of the Bible and return to the one I grew up with, the King James Version: "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

The goal of peaceful co-existence is stated in the Book of Isaiah, which scholars say had three authors: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). For moral and spiritual encouragement on why we must school our minds to be brave and do the right thing, I also find reassurance in these words from Isaiah 54:4, partly quoted here: 'Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth'. Other encouraging words from Isaiah 41:10-13 say, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed ... For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you."

# More Noida sectors now ask for drain covers

**Noida.** After Noida Authority's decision to cover stormwater drains in six sectors, RWAs from sectors 40, 50, 51 and 22 have also demanded similar projects in their areas."We have submitted several petitions to the Noida Authority for the cleaning and covering of the open stormwater drain. Now that other similar drains have been covered in some sectors, we hope the same will be carried out in Sector 40," said AK Sehgal from Sector 40."I was happy to see TOI's story about some drains being covered, but was saddened at the same time to learn that the Dadri drain is still not included in the project. I am requesting Noida Authority to take up our demand on priority," he said.Residents of Sector 50 made a similar request. Puneet Gupta, from C block, told TOI that residents, particularly of C-138 to C-172, are gravely affected by the open drain that flows through the sector.

"The open drain which flows between Sectors 50 and 49 has houses and schools on both sides, which have faced foul smell, pollution, and health hazards from the drain. We requested the covering of the



drain, but there's no response from the authority on the matter so far," said Gupta. While Madan Sharma, RWA president of Sector 22, wrote to the authority over covering the open drain in the sector, senior officials of Noida Authority said they are aware of issues related to open drains in residential sectors and are taking up those issues one by one. Meanwhile, in a meeting with Noida Authority officials on Monday, residents of Arun Vihar urged the completion of work on the newly covered drain in the sector along with other works including removal of encroachment in common areas and on green spaces, restoration and maintenance of sewerage lines, upkeep

and development of parks, and installation of streetlights on newly erected poles, etc.Officials from the

Noida Authority assured that visible action will soon be taken, and regular follow-ups will also be conducted.

## How pendency affects cases: No witness, no testimony and an acquittal after 34 years

**Ghaziabad.** A man accused of rioting and trespassing in 1991 walked free last week when the trial court decided to close the case in the absence of any witness, illustrating how long pendency frustrates not just those seeking justice but also those dispensing it.In the pendency queue for three decades, the case reached the fast-track court in 2023 after multiple hearings at various platforms. As most witnesses had died by then and others skipped hearings, the trial court said it had little option but to close it.The case was the result of a neighbourhood dispute in Sahibabad when five men allegedly barged into Ishwar Lal's house on March 21, 1991. According to the complainant, Ishwar's father, the

accused — Atar Singh, Shiv Kumar Singh, Nandu, Prem Kumar, and Babbu — attacked the family and damaged property before being chased away by neighbours.An FIR was registered against the five accused under sections 147 (rioting), 452 (house trespass with the intention to cause hurt), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 427 (mischief causing damage to property) of the IPC.However, as the case meandered through the justice system, two of the accused — Atar Singh and Prem Kumar — died, while police failed to trace Shiv Kumar. Babbu Kumar's case was separated in 2017, leaving Nandu as the sole defendant facing trial.

## Blasts rock Aravalis near village where miners brought down a hillock in Haryana

**Gurgaon.** In Pathri village on the Rajasthan-Haryana border near Rava, where charges set by illegal stone miners brought down a hillock last Dec, several explosions carved apart more Aravali hills last week.The blasts sent debris spilling into nearby agricultural fields of Ferozepur Jhirk in Nuh district. By the time subdivisional magistrate (SDM) Lakshminarayan reached the spot with police and forest officials, the perpetrators fled. Locals reported seeing trucks and heavy machinery retreating towards Rajasthan."The ground shook, and we immediately knew something was wrong. Shepherds who were in the hills told us about the blasts," said Ushman, a resident of Pathri. The episode showed the limits of govt interventions since Supreme Court rapped the Haryana govt and chief secretary for failing to protect the hillock in Basai Meo, which is in a ravaged section of the Aravalis along the state border. The SC-appointed Central Empowered Committee has also surveyed the area and two state investigations by the Anti-Corruption Bureau and forest department are on. The miners have also built a network of roads through Basai Meo village to create a transit corridor between Rajasthan — where mining is allowed through leases — and south Haryana, where mining is banned since 2009 under SC orders, to show they will stop at nothing. The SDM has requested a formal demarcation of the border by the mining department to assess the extent of damage on the Haryana side of the Aravalis. "We inspected the area and found the rocks from the Aravalis on the Haryana side are broken, but the extent of the damage is yet to be analysed," said a mining officer.Pathri is a 20-minute drive from Basai Meo, where a 1.5km road is the subject of the ACB investigation into alleged collusion between officials of the land consolidation department and those associated with miners.Nuh deputy commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena told TOI, "We have already filed an FIR and established a temporary police post in Basai Meo.

## Indian part of Cambodia 'digital arrest' call centre held at IGIA

**Gurgaon.** Chasing money trail after a cyber fraud was reported in the city, city cops last week took into custody a 24-year-old woman from Delhi's IGI airport on the suspicion that she was allegedly part of a Cambodia-based gang that targeted Indians with 'digital arrests'.Khushboo, police said, belongs to Surat in Gujarat and told cops that she was working at a call centre owned by Chinese citizens in an area called Mango Park in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. At the call centre, staffers were allegedly taught to pose as police, CBI and customs officials to threaten online users and extort."In the first stage, victims are told their documents are linked to illegal activities. Then, impersonators posing as CBI officers appear on video calls, claiming to 'digitally arrest' the person. Finally, scammers pretending to be income tax or customs officials extort money under the guise of investigation clearance," said Priyanshu Dewan, ACP (cyber).The ACP was leading the investigation into the Cambodia-based operations after an 81-year-old Gurgaon resident filed a complaint that she was cheated of Rs 2.9 crore in Dec 2024.

The complainant said a caller claimed her

Aadhaar card was linked to hawala transactions. Cyber cons then forced her to stay on a video call — or "digital arrest" — for three days while another person posing as a CBI officer coerced her into transferring money to avoid arrest.



Based on this complaint, an FIR was registered at the Cyber East police station in the city under sections 318(4) (cheating), 336(3) (forgery), 348 (making or possession of any instrument for counterfeiting a property mark) and 340 (forged document) of BNS. Khushboo, investigators said, is the 16th accused to be arrested in the case. Cops arrested her

from the Delhi airport on June 28 after getting a tip-off that she was flying back to India. During questioning, Khushboo told police she initially went to Dubai in search of a job in Nov 2023. From there, her friend's husband took her to

Cambodia in Aug 2024. She joined the call centre and was paid 700\$ (approximately Rs 60,000) to carry out cyber frauds."Khushboo was assigned to the first team, which initiated contact with targets and instilled fear by mentioning criminal charges," said inspector Amit Sharma, in charge of the Cyber East police station.

The 24-year-old said her colleagues at the Mango Park call centre were Indians, and there were several other call centres like theirs across the southeast Asian country.

The amount that the gang amassed from cybercrimes was allegedly funnelled through a network of fake accounts, police said.Cops traced one account, in which Rs 39 lakh was transferred, owned by another Indian citizen, Surendra. He allegedly gave access to the account to cyber cons in return for Rs 5 lakh.

## FIR registered against 2 labour department officials on corruption charges in Gurgaon

**Gurgaon.** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered an FIR against two officials of the labour department in the city under the Prevention of Corruption Act after being accused of demanding a bribe of Rs 5,000 and accepting Rs 3,500 in cash for approving a business registration application.

According to ACB, A Quarantine Education Abroad — a private company — applied five times through the official labour department portal for registration of a commercial establishment. Each application was allegedly rejected by labour inspector Manoj Kumar without valid justification."Despite submitting all required documents and paying the full govt fee, the application was repeatedly turned down, with arbitrary objections



raised and no time provided to address them," said Naveen Kumar, the complainant, in his complaint filed in Dec 2023. The complaint said that on Sep 21, 2023, Naveen visited the Labour Department in Gurgaon to ask why the applications were repeatedly rejected. Manoj Kumar claimed the govt fee might have been underpaid. The complainant

countered that the full govt fee was paid, after which Manoj asked him to reapply and visit him.A fresh application was made online on the same day, and for approval, Manoj Kumar and clerk Ankit Kumar demanded a bribe of Rs 5,000 and took Rs 3,500 on Sep 22, 2023. Naveen recorded this conversation on his phone and submitted it to the officials. The recordings, translated and transcribed over three pages, confirmed the bribe amount and details of the transaction. During the investigation, a voice sample was obtained and sent to the forensic lab in Madhuban, and it matched the sample of the accused.A report was sent to ADG ACB in April 2025 recommending the registration of an FIR against the accused.

## GMDA boosts water supply, new treatment unit goes live at Chandu Budhera plant



daily needs, especially during summer. Several parts of Old Gurgaon are also likely to benefit from the upgrade. Residents of villages and colonies including Dayanand Colony, Gurgaon Gaon, New Colony, and Arjun Nagar have seen an improved supply. Similarly, tail-end areas of DLF 1, 2, and 3, and sectors 21, 22, and 23, which have often reported low pressure and inconsistent supply, have also seen some improvement this summer has been lower. "The additional capacity has brought stability in water supply, and we are better positioned now. We have an improved

supply from Chandu Budhera and we have also worked closely with MCG and developers to ensure that the local distribution network is functioning properly. Raw water availability at Basai was also ensured by interconnecting both plants through new pumping machinery. As of now, Basai is running at optimal levels," a GMDA official said. Meanwhile, in May this year, water storage at the Basai plant dropped to 598 million litres — less than half of its 1,385 million-litre capacity, due to inadequate raw water availability. However, GMDA stabilised the supply by transferring untreated water from Chandu Budhera to Basai using upgraded motors. This interconnection has allowed both plants to undergo

operate closer to the optimal capacity. Residents too, expressed their satisfaction over the improved water supply. Sector 21 RWA president Prakash Lamba said, "The water supply in Sector 21 has improved over the past few weeks. One major reason is that MCG disconnected the Mullaheera village line, which was previously linked to our supply and diverted the water. GMDA's overall water distribution has also improved — we are seeing the difference." "We have not had complaints regarding water supply over the last two weeks. But GMDA needs to ensure that this consistency is maintained. Even a single technical fault or power outage can disrupt the entire supply cycle," said Dhruv Bansal, a resident of DLF 1.

In Sector 83, however, residents said much more work needed to be done. "We have been living here since 2018, but the supply was only made available in Nov last year," said Sunil Sharma, RWA president of Emaar Palm Garden. "Although supply to our society has improved recently to around 100–150 KLD, it is insufficient as our daily requirement is nearly 400 KLD." To further bridge the gap between demand and supply, work on the plant's fifth unit is undergoing.

## News box

### Haryana shocker: Badminton coach found dead under suspicious circumstances in Sonipat; blue marks found on body

**ROHTAK.** A 25-year-old badminton coach was found dead under suspicious circumstances near the Ravidas Hostel in Sector-7, Gohana. The deceased, identified as Amit Silhag, was employed at the Sonipat district stadium. Police reached the spot and started investigation and the body has been sent for postmortem. As per details, some boys were playing volleyball in the stadium in Sector-7 of Gohana. During the game, the volleyball went behind. When the boys reached to pick it up, they saw a young man lying unconscious. They immediately informed on Dial 112. As soon as the information was received, the police reached the spot and started an investigation.

Blue marks found on the body, FSL team collected evidence. Police said that blue marks are visible on the body of the deceased, which prima facie makes the case appear to be a murder. However, the actual cause of death can be confirmed only after the postmortem report. The FSL (Forensic Science Lab) team was also called to the spot, which collected evidence from the spot.

The police took the body into custody and sent it to the civil hospital. The relatives of the deceased have been informed. Police said that the investigation of the case is going on and the police is investigating all aspects, including whether it is a murder or the death occurred due to some other reason.

### GMRL seeks land buried under 1L tonnes of debris for Gurgaon metro project

**Gurgaon.** GMRL has sought the transfer of a 10-hectare parcel of land in Sector 10 from HSV to set up a temporary casting yard for the new metro project. The land, however, is presently encroached upon and buried under nearly 1 lakh tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. According to GMRL, a casting yard is required for phase 2 of the metro corridor and needs to be ready by Oct to keep the timeline on track.

The site, originally earmarked for an auto market, has been used as a dumping ground. C&D waste accumulated over the years now forms towering mounds across the land, with encroachers using parts of the plot. "The site is essential for phase 2 of the project, and we need to begin preparatory work by Oct. There is a huge amount of C&D waste on the site which needs to be cleared quickly," a senior GMRL official said. The matter was also flagged in a recent high-level review meeting chaired by chief secretary Anurag Rastogi. In the meeting, GMDA, HSV, MCG, HSIIDC, and police were directed to coordinate and ensure land-related bottlenecks were resolved promptly for the metro project to stay on track. HSV had allotted 5.23 hectares of land in Sector 33 for setting up the casting yard for phase 1 of the metro corridor. Additional land was also provided by MCG for the same. Meanwhile, GMRL last week shortlisted the joint venture of Deutsche Bahn Engineering & Consulting (DBEC) and Hill International for the role of general consultant (GC) for the project. The GC will play a key role in overseeing planning, design vetting, construction supervision, and integration of the metro corridor.

### Portion of Sohna highway caves in again, 3rd time since May



**Gurgaon.** A portion of Sohna highway caved in on Monday evening, raising serious doubts about the effectiveness of a sewer repair work, which was carried out by GMDA recently. GMDA had finished repairing the sewer line at the site last week. This is the fifth such cave-in over the last two years due to an old pipeline, which is prone to damage. A deep sinkhole — around two metres wide and six metres deep — formed on the highway near SD Adarsh Public School, the same stretch where similar incidents have occurred in the past. The 1,800mm-dia sewer line, which is laid underneath the highway, has settled and collapsed multiple times over the past two years. Major incidents were reported in Dec 2023, July 2024 and again in May 2025, when a 12-foot-deep pit opened up near Sispal Vihar due to a collapsed sewer line and its chamber. On June 18, a smaller section of the road caved in, prompting NHAI to close nearly one and a half lanes to traffic as a precaution.

GMDA said only after excavation will the extent of the damage become clear. A GMDA official said, "We will start dewatering the site to assess it." With monsoon activity intensifying, residents fear that more such cave-ins could follow unless structural repairs are prioritised and expedited. Mahesh Khatana, RWA president of MVN Athens, said, "It's a complete mockery of public infrastructure. Lack of seriousness shown by civic agencies is unacceptable. This is sheer wastage of public money and constant inconvenience for commuters. The govt must hold those responsible accountable."

NHAI, which is responsible for maintaining the road surface, was waiting for compaction before starting the resurfacing. But the road collapsed before that process could even begin. "We will again request GMDA to repair the damage," an NHAI official said.

# Kerala healthcare on ventilator? Doctor's Facebook post triggers storm, and a probe

Agency New Delhi.

A senior Kerala doctor's Facebook post exposing shortages of "multiple equipment" at the state's oldest Government Medical College Hospital in the capital Thiruvananthapuram has ignited a political storm, with the opposition Congress alleging the state's public health sector is on "ventilator support". Dr Haris Chirakkal, head of the Urology Department, claimed in the now-deleted post that three of four scheduled surgeries were postponed due to a shortage of essential equipment. The allegation drew a swift rebuttal from Kerala Health Minister Veena George and the Director of Medical Education (DME), who Chirakkal said, had been informed about the crisis.

Both minister George and the head of Kerala's Directorate of Medical Education, K V Vishwanathan, however, denied having any prior knowledge of the issue and cited numbers on equipment procurement, which Chirakkal dismissed

as an attempt to "whitewash" the crisis.

The controversy has forced the CPI(M)-led LDF government of CM Pinarayi Vijayan to launch a probe.

## TOP UROLOGIST EXPOSES SURGICAL EQUIPMENT CRISIS IN KERALA HOSPITAL

The storm was triggered after Dr Haris Chirakkal on Friday took to Facebook to express frustration over the persistent lack of surgical equipment, which he said forced the postponement of critical surgeries. "Every department in the medical college is facing problems. Some of the purchased equipment is unusable. At present, patients are on the waiting list until August 4... The fact that many patients are paying individually and agents are collecting money has created a problematic situation. Patients are forced to buy surgical equipment," he wrote,



adding that he had been raising the issue with authorities concerned for months without resolution. "If a vigilance investigation takes place, it could become a serious issue. It would portray that doctors have accepted bribes... There is a thought in me about quitting the job... I made that post because I was tired from constantly having to plead," Chirakkal added.

He later deleted the post at the insistence of a relative, a CPI(M) leader, following an assurance from the Health Minister's office that the issue would be addressed, reported the New Indian Express.

Chirakkal, however, stood firm, saying, "What I said was fact. I don't want to go into hiding after telling the truth. There are no political intentions behind my disclosure." "Let them take action. I am tired of the service. Why should we hide truths because it will bring shame to the system?" he asked, asserting that he was not afraid of any action.

## BOTH CONGRESS AND BJP SLAM CPM OVER "FAILING PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM"

The post, though deleted later, played its role. It went viral and made the powers that be in Kerala act. Pinarayi Vijayan's CPI(M) government drew sharp criticism from the BJP and the main Opposition Congress, which seized the opportunity to target the Left Front.

Dangerous stunts outside Greater Noida college, car owners fined Rs 1.2 lakh after

Agency New Delhi.

A video showing passengers in two moving cars performing dangerous stunts outside a college in Greater Noida trended on social media Monday, prompting the traffic police to issue challans worth nearly Rs 1.2 lakh.

In the video, a Maruti Suzuki Brezza is seen overtaking another vehicle at a dangerously high speed before abruptly slamming on the brakes outside a college in the Knowledge Park area of Greater Noida. One of the passengers leans out of the window, waving his hands. Meanwhile, two men in a Maruti Suzuki Baleno are seen speeding, with a man extending a baseball bat out of the car's window and swinging it in the air.

After a 10-second video clip surfaced on social media with the background music of a trending track, the traffic police fined the owners of Baleno and Brezza Rs 63,500 and Rs 57,500, respectively. Lakhman Singh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the exact date of the incident is yet to be ascertained. "We have referred the matter to the Knowledge Park police for further action, including seizure of the vehicles involved," he said. According to the police, the fines were imposed under provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, including Section 184 (dangerous driving), Section 189 (speeding), Section 179 (disobedience and obstruction), and Section 194B (seatbelt violation).

"A case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125 (act endangering life) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered Monday and teams were formed to nab the suspects," said Sarvesh Singh, Station House Officer, Knowledge Park. In June, a man and a woman who performed a stunt on a moving motorcycle on the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway were penalised with a challan of Rs 53,500.

**'Failed to understand decorum': Delhi High Court slams another lawyer who appears for virtual hearing from park**

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court Saturday pulled up a woman lawyer who turned up for a virtual hearing from a park and reiterated that bar associations should sensitise their members about maintaining decorum while appearing in hybrid courts.

After noting the advocate, who was appearing through videoconferencing, moving around in a park while dealing with a bail petition, Justice Girish Kathpalia recorded in his order, "Some counsel has appeared through videoconferencing, using her mobile phone, while moving around in a park and on being asked, she informs that she is standing in Agra court."

"Despite repeated directions, certain sections of the Bar have failed to understand (the) decorum of the court. The facility of videoconferencing, which was started during (the) Covid pandemic, was extended in order to ensure that the counsel may appear through videoconferencing sitting in his/her office so that the counsel is spared of running around in different court complexes in Delhi. But this does not mean that the counsel would appear standing in a park," said Justice Kathpalia.

The court noted that similar directions had been issued earlier and sent to all bar associations across Delhi, with a request to sensitise their members, however, it appeared that this had not been done.

In a similar incident in January, when another advocate appeared from a park, Justice Kathpalia emphasised that "hybrid courts also are courts only". He noted that advocates were not following specific directions to maintain court decorum while appearing virtually.

## Two more, including former employee, arrested in Delhi CNG pump owner robbery case; Rs 6.75 lakh recovered

Agency New Delhi.

Days after the police arrested four people in connection with robbing a CNG pump owner in Delhi's Ghitora, two more people were arrested in the case on Monday, including a former employee who was nursing an old grudge against him, the police said. The total amount recovered from the six accused so far adds up to Rs 6.75 lakh. According to investigators, after robbing Karan Chopra at his farmhouse, the robbers allegedly took him to his office in Gurgaon to steal more cash. They fled with Rs 30 lakh cash and some jewellery, officers said.

The accused arrested on Monday include the key conspirator Adhesh Kumar, 38, a former driver of the businessman; and Amit Kumar, 28, the police said, adding that Rs 50,000 and a Hyundai

Aura used to ferry the accused to the farmhouse was recovered from Adhesh.

In the first batch of arrests, four people were arrested on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, including Chopra's



current drivers Satendar Singh, 35, and Anil, 54, as well as one Santosh Tripathi, 40, and Shammi, 49. They were arrested from different parts of Delhi, investigators said.

The police said Adhesh tipped off

Satendar and Anil about the location of the cash.

According to the police, on the night of June 23, Karan Chopra – who has multiple CNG filling stations across the National Capital Region – was at his farmhouse in South West Delhi's Ghitora when a man knocked on his door posing as a delivery boy. As soon as he opened the gate, four men shoved him aside and barged in, claiming that they had guns. They then robbed the house of jewellery and cash, before taking Chopra hostage and driving him to MG Road in Gurgaon. "They told him to stay calm, and let them leave with the cash," a police officer said earlier, adding, "They took whatever cash and jewellery was at the house and then took Chopra to his office at MG Road in Gurgaon in his car to take more cash."

## After a 10-year hiatus, Purana Qila's popular boat ride makes a comeback

Agency New Delhi.

The moat has been cleaned, boats have arrived, and a ticketing counter has been set up. Almost 10 years after it was suspended, the popular boat ride on the Purana Qila lake finally made a comeback and was opened for visitors on a trial basis after the inauguration on Monday. A 20-25 minute ride costs between Rs 125 and Rs 150 per person. The ride starts from the Talaqi Darwaza side of the lake, and services are available between 9 am and 6 pm. Both two-seater and four-seater paddle boats are available.

A non-profit, Sabhyata Foundation, played a key role in the resumption of services. It serves as a 'Monument Mitra' for five iconic Delhi landmarks: the Red Fort, Purana Qila, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Safdarjung Tomb, and Humayun's Tomb.

Monument Mitra, also known as the 'Adopt a Heritage' project, is a scheme by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to involve private and public sector companies in developing and maintaining amenities at protected monuments.

Ajay Verma, CEO, Heritage and Events, Sabhyata Foundation, explained that they signed an MoU with the ASI on

April 1, 2024, under which they are functioning as 'Smarak Sarthi'. For the past four-five months, preparations were underway at Purana Qila to operate boats and related facilities. A lot of work has gone into enhancing the visitor experience, including building a cafeteria, new toilets, and other amenities, according to the non-profit.

A major launch event is planned for September. Currently, there are five to six boats – the number is expected to increase to 20-25 later. On Monday, Ohi Pecha, a Hotel Management student from Udaipur, was the first visitor to experience the resumed service. "It was a good experience... I came with friends. We did boating for 20 minutes, but they said we could do it for as long as we wanted since we were the first ones."



## As blasting continues unabated in Aravallis, Nuh administration lodges FIR, orders border demarcation

**Mining in the Aravallis in the Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Nuh districts has been prohibited by the Supreme Court since 2002.**

Agency New Delhi.

The sub-divisional magistrate of Nuh in Haryana said Tuesday they have filed a complaint, and ordered round-the-clock patrolling through a newly-established temporary police post after receiving complaints of ongoing blasting work by illegal miners at the Aravallis.

Laxmi Narayan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, told The Indian Express he reached the site on June 27 with officials from the State Enforcement Bureau after receiving complaints from the Pathri village. The village is located on the border of Haryana and Rajasthan. While Rajasthan allows mining via leases, all such activities have been banned in Haryana by the Supreme Court. The official said the alleged illegal miners fled with their machinery by the time the team reached, but they saw some of the trucks that had damaged substantial hillocks in the protected

Aravallis. Speaking with The Indian Express, the SDM said, "We will take strict action against all those responsible."

An FIR was filed over the weekend. I have ordered that a fresh and clear demarcation of the border be done by the mining department by erecting new pillars and signboards. We will assess and know the full damage done thereafter."

He said the First Information Report (FIR) has been filed against unknown persons under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act.

Mining in the Aravalli region in the Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Nuh districts has been prohibited by the Supreme Court since 2002. In May, the Supreme Court had

taken exception to the Haryana Government's alleged inaction against illegal mining in the Aravallis in Nuh. The

Haryana Government by July 15, and said it found the chief secretary's affidavit evasive and insufficient for shifting the onus to the forest department.

In June, the Haryana Government began efforts to restore 25,000 hectares of degraded forest area in the Aravallis – long been hailed as the "lungs" of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Aravalli range passes through Gurgaon, Nuh, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Mahendergarh, and Charkhi Dadri districts of Haryana. Nuh has the largest recorded forest area among these, with 14,606 hectares.

The range, which extends from Southwest Gujarat in Champaran to Northeast Delhi and Haryana, acts as a natural barrier against incursion of sand, loo, and dust from the Thar desert.



top court had noted that the mining mafia in the region seemed to be protecting the errant officials aiding the illegalities. The apex court sought a detailed report from



# What's your Favourite Fragrance?

Beauty tricks for the no make-up lovers

For those who are really not that high on makeup and prefer to go without it, choosing the right colour shades for yourself can be tricky. Subtle makeup when done perfectly can highlight your features naturally, making it look as if you aren't wearing makeup at all.

What are the shades that you can choose?

From baby pinks and purples to lighter shades of maroons and reds - the list just goes on. Beauty professional Anisha Sharma says, "The best way to select a subtle shade for your skin is by testing

which ones of those suits you better. Sometimes, women who are very fair or the ones who are slightly darker, tend to select a lip shade like nude which then makes your complexion dull. Like a baby pink will suit a person who has a fair complexion and a light purple will suit someone with a wheatish or a darker skin shade."

Ways of selecting the right colour Make-up professional Meghna Butani says, "The right way to select a particular hue for yourself, especially a lip colour, is by testing the shade on the back of your hand. However, if you are planning to choose an eye shadow or a blush, it is always advisable to ask the lady at the sales counter to show you a tester which you can then put on and try out."



**W**hile you may splurge on clothes, electronics and gadgets - this season go all out to buy a perfect perfume for yourself. Make yourself feel special with our guide to choosing the right fragrance for yourself. For men

Sporty perfume: For the ones who like sporty fragrances, a mixture of musk and bergamot is the perfect combination. It is an invigorating scent and keeps you fresh all day long.

Classic perfume: There is nothing that can make a man smell better than classic perfumes. Strong base notes in cedar wood, bergamot and rosemary are the best options when it comes to picking a classic perfume.

Stoic perfume: A strong yet unwavering

fragrance with notes of wood and earth are the perfect option for the festive season. You can also opt for floral notes with traditional spice for the day while for the evening, a combination of bergamot with patchouli and black pepper with tobacco will be a better option.

For women

Fruity perfume: A popular choice, the fruity scent works wonders during festive occasions. You can opt for the tangy ones - orange and lime combined with cedar wood or warm musk.

Floral perfume: Some of the floral fragrance which includes notes of jasmine and bergamot or rose with geranium or ylang ylang are popular amongst women. These perfumes ease the senses and are also

very romantic in their form.

Woody perfume: If you do not wish to go in for a fruity or a floral scent, you can always opt for a woody perfume. The strong scent is perfect for an evening wear and includes notes of warm musk, spicy wood, saffron, white and black pepper intertwined with patchouli.

Keep these in mind

How many times have you walked into a perfume store and been baffled by the wide range of scents, thinking which one to buy? Well, there are a couple of things that one must keep in mind when choosing a perfume.

> The first step to choosing a perfume is understanding the base notes and the middle notes of the perfume which ultimately is the smell that you choose to wear.

> Always apply the scent on your wrists to understand the scent of the perfume better.

> Smell coffee beans between applying perfumes on your wrists so as to de-clog your nose.

> Remember that a perfume smells differently on every person.

# Hair today, gone tomorrow

Hair has a personality of its own and not one that is easy to please. When your tresses behave well, you feel good. But a moody mane can give you tress stress. What's worse? Hairloss. Hair's...er... here's all the help you need.

**Q. When do I seek help?**

The popular notion is that if you shed around 100 hair strands a day, it is time to consult an expert. But there is no universal standard number. The rule: if you consistently, for a minimum period of two weeks, notice more hairloss than otherwise, take action. Sometimes, when you run a hand through your hair and strands detach easily, that too, is a red flag.

**Q. Does oiling help?**

Yes. The traditional champi (massage) with coconut oil has been proven to have tremendous benefits on hair and scalp. Coconut oil has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties that boost hair health. A good massage improves blood circulation in the scalp.

**Q. Do hair spas work for hairloss?**

Not really. Hair spa will not reduce hairloss. It helps with frizziness and dryness, as deep conditioners, serums and hair packs help in that. Though it does reduce hair breakage that usually happens while combing and washing hair.

**Q. Do touted wonder cures like saw palmetto work in controlling hairloss?**

Saw palmetto is a plant whose fruit extract is used to make medicines for hairloss. Believed to work in combating hairloss, it actually blocks an enzyme called 5 alpha reductase which can help in addressing thinning hair. However, it works better in male pattern hairloss. Do consult your dermatologist before trying it out.

**Q. Do DIY remedies or kitchen cures prevent or control hairloss?**

No matter how many articles you have read on social media about onion juice, kari patta or aloe vera helping in re-growing hair, the fact remains that these topical treatments affect just the texture and look of your hair. Hair density is not affected by topical

treatments.

**Q. Is there an anti-hairloss diet?**

Green foods provide biotin and red and orange foods have iron and antioxidants - all necessary for hair growth. For a hair-raising experience: eat eggs, fish and lean chicken, sprouts, soya, paneer and nuts such as almonds, walnuts, and omega-3 enriched flaxseeds. Multivitamins with B complex, vitamin C and iron can help combat hair loss,

but it is best to see a dermatologist before quaffing them down.

**Q. Does red light therapy work?**

Yes, it can stimulate hair growth. The most commonly used wavelengths for treating hairloss with red light therapy are in the range of 630-670 nanometers. The visible red light is capable of being absorbed by the

molecules of the hair follicle leading to possible re-growth, following a natural biological reaction. Try this with a reputed trichologist.

**Diet tip:** Control your sugar intake: it is a pro-inflammatory agent, which in excess may aggravate hairloss. Nutritional deficiencies and hormonal issues too can lead to a thinning crown



## Indian Railways increases train ticket fares from July 1: New charges for Mail/Express trains

**Kolkata.** Indian Railways has raised fares in certain categories of train journeys. The Railways stated the details of the revisions in a social media post. Interestingly, Indian Railways carry more than 700 crore passengers or more than 85% of the world's population, every year, say reports. It is understandable from this single piece of statistic what a huge population will be impacted if Indian Railways hikes fares. The changes are being implemented from July 1. "Basic fare of trains will change from 1st July! Which classes will be affected? Do know before travelling," wrote the Railways in its social media post on X (@RailMinIndia). Let's find out who will be paying more from today. Reports state that the fares were last revised five years ago.

The proposed bonds have been rated AA- by both ICRA and Care Ratings, signalling a relatively stable credit outlook. This move comes at a time when more corporate giants are looking to tap the retail bond market, as investor appetite for fixed income products grows amid volatile equity markets. Are local/suburban train fares rising?

By any account, most passengers travel by suburban trains, or which are known as local trains. These trains connect important urban agglomerations with their neighbourhood and millions of passengers travel by these trains mostly to and from their places of work. There has been no change in these fares, Railways have stated. This will leave all daily passengers unaffected. There has been no change in either single journey tickets or multiple ride tickets popularly known as season or monthly tickets. Moreover, there has been no change in the fares of general trains up to 500 kms.

## Ola Electric Sales Crash 45% In June, Market Share Plunges To 19%

**New Delhi.** Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric sold 20,189 electric scooters in the month of June -- a massive 45 per cent drop (year-on-year) compared to 36,859 units from the same month previous year (June 2024), the government's VAHAN data showed on Tuesday.

This decline has taken a toll on its market share, which has shrunk from 46 per cent in June 2024 to just 19 per cent now. The situation is no better on the stock market. Ola Electric, which is nearing the one-year mark since its public listing, has seen its share price fall steeply. On Tuesday afternoon, the stock was trading at Rs 42 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), down from Rs 1.16 or 2.69 per cent.

The share also touched its 52-week low of Rs 41.82 today, far below its 52-week high of Rs 157.4.

Over the past one month, the stock has lost 21.74 per cent of its value. Compared to its listing price of Rs 76, the stock is now down 43 per cent.

The long-term view is even more worrying. In the last six months, the share price has fallen by more than half -- 51.25 per cent -- and over the past year, it is down 53.9 per cent. Investor sentiment took a further hit earlier in June when a large block deal took place. Around 14.22 crore shares worth Rs 731 crore changed hands, reportedly with Hyundai Motor Company as the seller. The average selling price was Rs 51.40 per share. On the financial side, Ola Electric has reported disappointing results for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25. The company posted a net loss of Rs 870 crore, which is more than double the Rs 416 crore loss it had in the same quarter of the previous year. Its revenue from operations also fell by 62 per cent year-on-year (YoY), dropping to Rs 611 crore.

This was mainly due to lower vehicle deliveries, which stood at 51,375 units in Q4 FY25 -- down from 1.15 lakh units a year ago.

## Raymond Realty listing: Shares open below discovered price; brokerages still bullish on long-term prospects

**New Delhi.** Shares of Raymond Realty listed on the BSE at Rs 1,005 and on the NSE at Rs 1,000 on Tuesday, marking a weaker debut than the discovered price of Rs 1,039.30 on the NSE and Rs 1,031.30 on the BSE. According to ET, the listing followed the real estate arm's demerger from Raymond Ltd, giving shareholders one Raymond Realty share for every Raymond Ltd share held, thus directly exposing them to the group's property business for the first time.

Brokerages remain bullish despite the lower-than-expected opening. As reported by ET, Ventura Securities has pegged a target price of Rs 1,383 per share based on FY28 DCF projections, while SBI Securities values the stock between Rs 897 and Rs 1,430 depending on valuation multiples.

SBI has assigned a base case fair value of Rs 1,148, assuming a 10 per cent YoY EBITDA growth in FY26 and a 13x EV/EBITDA multiple.

Raymond Realty's flagship operations are centred on a 100-acre land parcel in Thane, of which 40 acres with 4 million sq ft carpet area are under active development, holding an estimated revenue potential of Rs 9,000 crore. The remaining 60 acres will be developed over the next 6-8 years, potentially adding Rs 16,000 crore in revenue.

Combined, the Thane land bank carries a Gross Development Value (GDV) of Rs 25,000 crore.

The company has also expanded through six Joint Development Agreements (JDAs) across Mumbai in Bandra, Mahim, Sion and Wadala. The JDA portfolio is expected to generate Rs 14,000 crore in revenue, with the model allowing Raymond Realty to skip land acquisition costs and focus on execution, a strategy that keeps its balance sheet light.

Around 40-45 per cent of future revenues are expected to come from JDA projects over the next seven years, rising to 70 per cent in the long term.

# Why India's ultra-rich love family offices

**Number of family offices in India rose from 45 in 2018 to nearly 300 in 2024**  
**Family offices manage investments, succession, philanthropy, and tax planning**  
**India faces \$1.3 trillion wealth transfer in next decade, boosting demand**

**New Delhi.** India's wealthiest families are reshaping the way they manage money. No longer content with informal advisors or fragmented portfolios, the ultra-rich are increasingly embracing family offices—sophisticated, structured setups designed to navigate complexity, reduce risk, and preserve generational wealth with intent. The shift is both rapid and dramatic. From just 45 in 2018, the

number of family offices in India has grown to nearly 300 by 2024. The rise reflects more than growing fortunes. It points to a more deliberate way of managing wealth—one that is professional, globally oriented, and built to outlast founders. As Surabhi Marwah, Partner and Co-Leader of Private Tax at EY India, puts it, "The Indian family office ecosystem is at an inflection point where wealth preservation alone is no longer enough. Families now seek efficiency, transparency, and global access, all of which require a more structured approach."

**FAMILY OFFICES: THE NEW WEALTH COMMAND CENTRE** Modern family offices operate more like private financial institutions. They manage much more than investments—handling succession planning, philanthropic giving, tax structuring, and grooming the next generation of leaders. They consolidate sprawling wealth into a single, well-oiled machine, introducing discipline, governance, and oversight. Family offices typically form at major financial milestones: the sale of a



business, a significant inheritance, or a major liquidity event. While there's no official threshold, many in the wealth management space consider US\$100 million in investable assets a practical baseline. Until then, multi-family office platforms offer an accessible, resource-efficient alternative. A recent EY-Julius Baer study identifies key motivations behind these setups: protecting assets, managing growing complexity, separating personal finances from business wealth, and addressing intergenerational needs with clarity. Notably, the model is catching on

with both legacy families and first-generation entrepreneurs. For the latter—often younger and tech-savvy—family offices offer the flexibility to build personalised investment mandates, maintain privacy, and institutionalise legacy-building from day one.

### WHY INDIA'S SUPER-RICH LOVE FAMILY OFFICES

India is undergoing an intergenerational wealth transfer of historic scale—over \$1.3 trillion is expected to pass hands in the next decade. Alongside this, a surge in startup exits, IPOs, and private equity windfalls is creating new liquidity, fuelling demand for bespoke wealth management. GIFT City is also amplifying momentum. With relaxed regulations and cross-border ease, it has become an attractive jurisdiction for setting up efficient, global-facing family offices. Outflows under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) reached \$31.7 billion in 2023–24, up from \$18.8 billion in 2019–20.

## 8 Years of GST: Why petroleum and alcohol are still outside its scope—and what lies ahead

**New Delhi.** The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced in India on 1 July 2017, marked a significant tax reform aimed at creating a unified indirect tax system. As the nation celebrates the eight-year milestone of this ambitious yet challenging reform, several issues continue to dominate debates among industry stakeholders, the public, and policymakers. One of the most prominent concerns is the exclusion of key revenue-generating items such as petroleum products and alcoholic liquor for human consumption from the ambit of GST. This exclusion has led to a fragmented indirect taxation system, raising concerns among policy experts, businesses, and state governments. A simple analysis of the reasons behind keeping these products outside the GST framework reveals several constitutional, economic, and legal dimensions.



### A. Constitutional and legal provisions

Article 366(12A) of the Constitution, as amended by the GST Act, excludes alcohol for human consumption from the definition of GST.

For petroleum products, Entry 54 of the State List allows states to continue levying VAT on five petroleum products: crude oil, motor spirit (petrol), high-speed diesel, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) until a date decided by the GST Council.

### B. Revenue concerns of states

States derive a significant portion of their revenue from VAT on alcohol and petroleum. For many states, these contribute over 25-30% of their tax revenue. Inclusion in GST would require sharing this revenue with the Centre, thus reducing the financial autonomy of states.

### C. Political and fiscal autonomy

Alcohol taxation is a politically sensitive issue with strong cultural and social implications.

States fear losing control over taxation policy, pricing, and the ability to influence consumption patterns through excise duty and VAT.

## SBI turns 70: Why bank's blue keyhole has stood the test of time

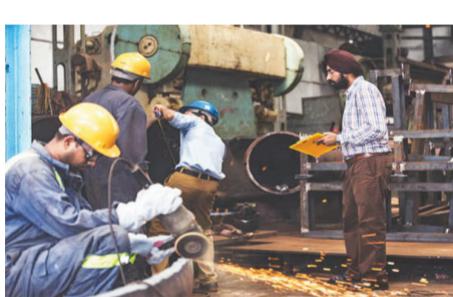


(RBI) was established in 1935. After independence, under the first 5-year plan's push for rural development, the government nationalised the Imperial Bank. On July 1, 1955, the State Bank of India was born under the State Bank of India Act. Initially managed by the RBI, the central bank's stake was later transferred to the Government of India in 2008. In 1959, SBI brought eight state-associated banks under its fold to widen its outreach across India's rural and semi-urban regions. Over the years, SBI absorbed several other banks including the Bank of Bihar, National Bank of Lahore, Bank of Cochin, and later its own associate banks like State Bank of Saurashtra and State Bank of Indore. In 2017, it consolidated its structure by merging the remaining five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank, becoming a unified and much stronger public sector entity.

### THE BIRTH OF SBI

The story begins in 1806, with the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta, later renamed the Bank of Bengal. This was followed by the Bank of Bombay (1840) and Bank of Madras (1843), the three Presidency banks that laid the foundation for formal banking in British India. In 1921, these were merged to form the Imperial Bank of India, which functioned as both a commercial bank and a quasi-central bank until the Reserve Bank of India

## Industrial output growth at 9-month low of 1.2% in May



fell by 0.1% against a growth of 6.6% a year ago. Power production declined by 5.8% in May 2025 as compared to 13.7% growth in the year-ago period.

During the April-May period of FY26, industrial production surged by 1.8% compared to 5.7% a year ago. The early onset of the monsoon doused activity in mining and the demand for electricity, with both these sub-sectors of the IIP reporting a contraction in

May 2025, amidst an anaemic growth of manufacturing," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA. The underlying trends were uneven, with three of the use-based categories displaying a contraction, amid a continued high 14.1% expansion in capital goods, boosted by a low base, Nayar added.

She added that the tepid industrial volume growth in the first two months of the quarter does not augur well for industrial GVA (gross value added) growth in Q1FY26. As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 14.1% in May 2025 from 2.6% in the year-ago period. Consumer durables (or white goods production) fell by 0.7% during the reporting month against a growth of 12.6% in May 2024.

## New York tops billionaire list. Which Indian city made it to the top 10

richest person in Singapore with \$65.5 billion. Other cities in the list like San Francisco, Shanghai, and Los Angeles also added new billionaires this year, mainly from the tech and entertainment industries.



Here are the top 10 cities in the world with the most billionaires in 2025:

**New York City – 123 billionaires (\$759 billion)**

**Moscow – 90 billionaires (\$409 billion)**

**Hong Kong – 72 billionaires (\$309 billion)**

**London – 71 billionaires (\$355 billion)**

**Beijing – 68 billionaires (\$273 billion)**

**Mumbai – 67 billionaires (\$349 billion)**

**Singapore – 60 billionaires (\$259 billion)**

**San Francisco – 58 billionaires (\$217 billion)**

**Shanghai – 58 billionaires (\$198 billion)**

**Los Angeles – 56 billionaires (\$243 billion)**

**WHAT MAKES MUMBAI ATTRACTIVE FOR THE WEALTHY**

Mumbai's strong financial infrastructure, availability of capital, and presence of large family-owned businesses continue to make it the preferred city for the wealthy in India. It is home to the Bombay Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange, and the headquarters of many of India's top companies. Business families like the Ambanis, Birlas, Godrejs, and Piramals have operated out of Mumbai for decades. The city is also seeing the rise of new billionaires from tech, energy, and manufacturing sectors.

For 'Little Joys, Goofy Stories',

# Rashmika Mandanna

## Joins Snapchat

Rashmika Mandanna has been ruling both the box office and social media lately. The actress who keeps her fans hooked via engaging social media posts has now made her debut on Snapchat. To keep in touch with her admirers, she posted a video on Instagram stories, sharing the super exciting news with them. Rashmika also shared her Snapchat ID with fans.

In the video, Rashmika Mandanna is heard saying, "Hi guys! Well, you know that I've always wanted a space where I can be a little more raw, a little more real, and now I'm here on Snapchat. Time to share all the behind-the-scenes, little joys, the goofy stuff, and everything in between, even before my social media team does. If you're watching this, thank you so much."

She added, "You have been with me through literally everything so far, and I can't wait to take you along on even more. See you all soon, my loves. Love and lots of love." Along with the clip, Rashmika wrote, "Guess who's finally on Snapchat??? Yup, meeee!! See you on the snap side."

Rashmika Mandanna has been keeping busy since the beginning of the year, with back-to-back releases making it to theatres. She kicked off the streak with Chhaya, starring Vicky Kaushal in the lead role. One of the highest-grossing films of the year, the period drama received a positive response. Next, she was seen alongside Salman Khan in Sikandar. Although not a blockbuster, the action drama raked in a decent amount. As for her last big screen appearance, she joined hands with Dhanush in Kubera, directed by Sekhar Kammula.

The movie, produced by Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations, also stars Nagarjuna, Jim Sarbh and Dalip Tahil. It was released in theatres worldwide on June 20.

Recently, she announced her new Pan-India film. Titled Mysaa, the movie's first poster shows a blood-smeared Rashmika with a sword. Her fierce avatar went viral within no time, making her a subject of discussion on the Internet. Additionally, Rashmika has Thama with Ayushmann Khurrana, scheduled to release later this year.



# Sara Ali Khan

## Aditya Roy Kapur Enjoy Metro Ride, Click Selfies With Fans

Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur are gearing up for the release of their upcoming film 'Metro...In Dino,' directed by Anurag Basu. They have been promoting the film in full swing, and as part of the promotional campaign, were spotted taking a metro ride in Mumbai. Several pictures and videos of the actors riding happily in a metro have gone viral on social media. A video shared by paparazzo Sneh Zala shows Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan seated next to each other in the metro. Aditya was seen clicking a selfie with Sara, and they were all smiles! Soon after, they were approached by a fan for a picture, and the actors happily obliged. Sara looked stunning in a chic navy-blue co-ord set featuring a sleeveless crop top and matching trousers. Aditya, on the other hand, looked dapper in a navy and white striped collared shirt paired with blue pants. Check out the video below!

Meanwhile, before this, they were busy promoting Metro...In Dino in Kolkata. After relishing authentic

Bengali cuisine at former cricketer Sourav Ganguly's house, the duo stopped for some photos together. In the pictures, Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur were seen sitting atop Kolkata's signature yellow taxi ahead of Metro... In Dino release. In the photo, Sara held Aditya close to her, resting her head on his shoulders. Their fans, at once, sprung to action and adored this new on-screen couple in town.

Last week, the star cast of Anurag Basu's film graced the album

I a u n c h o f

Earlier, Aditya shared that while he has sung privately for his friends, this marks his official singing debut in a film. The decision to sing happened naturally due to the musical format of the film, and it turned out well, offering fans a fresh experience of seeing him sing on screen.

Directed by Anurag Basu, 'Metro...In Dino' features an ensemble cast including Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta, Konkona Sensharma, Anupam Kher, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ali Fazal, and Saswata Chatterjee. The film will release in cinemas on July 4, 2025.



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

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On Fatima Sana Shaikh's Beach Vacation Pics, Ira Khan's Comment A Winner



Fatima Sana Shaikh is giving us all the vacation vibes we need right now! The Metro... In Dino actress jetted off to Sri Lanka for a much-needed break from her busy schedule, and her beach photos are absolutely stunning. Can you imagine golden sand, crashing waves, and Fatima rocking a gorgeous blue bikini, soaking up the sun like a total queen? This is exactly what her latest Instagram post is all about. Fatima shared a series of sun-kissed snaps on social media, and fans can't stop raving about her radiant energy. Whether she's chilling in the pool or having her favourite food, her posts scream carefree summer vibes. Sharing these photos on Instagram, she wrote, "as CHOTTI chotti khushiyen Aditi Sagar (a popular Indian singer) ke saath."

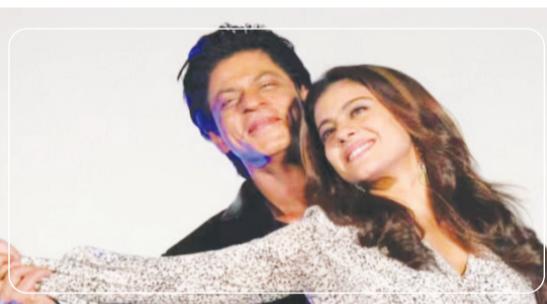
It's no wonder her friends and followers are flooding the comments with heart emojis and praise. Ira Khan, Aamir Khan's daughter, also sent love with her adorable reaction. Meanwhile, one of the fan comments read, "Amazing Fatima (sin) seems like you had a great time in Sri Lanka, hope to see Bijlee also." Another fan added, "Love you more than anything else."

Furthermore, Fatima Sana Shaikh, who is awaiting the July release of Metro... In Dino and Aap Jaisa Koi, recently found herself at the centre of dating rumours with co-star Vijay Varma. But at the trailer launch of Aap Jaisa Koi on Wednesday, she shut down the speculation.

When questioned if she found someone ideal for her, she responded, "Acche ladke hai hi nai yaar... Koi bhi nahi hai (meri life mein) Filmon mein acche hote hai." She also confirmed her single status.

The Dangal actress also opened up about the premise of the film, which is equality in love. She expressed, "The idea of equality of love is where two people respect each other, and they will listen to each other and won't deny it. I think that is an equal relationship now, and compromises need to be made by both." Fatima Sana Shaikh is also eagerly awaiting the release of her upcoming film Metro In Dino. The highly anticipated multi-starrer is set to hit theatres on July 4th.

## Kajol Uses Just One Word For Shah Rukh Khan And It Says Everything



Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol are one of Bollywood's most beloved on-screen duos. From Baazigar to Dilwale, the pair's chemistry has captivated audiences for decades. Their enduring friendship off-screen also speaks volumes about the genuine camaraderie they share in the film industry.

During a chat with Mashable India, the Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge actress was seen reflecting on her co-star. During the fun interview titled The Bombay Journey, fans witnessed Kajol being candid about her friendship with Shah Rukh Khan. During the rapid-fire round, when the interviewer asked Kajol to describe SRK in one word, the actress said, "Shah Rukh is an expression."

Complimenting her co-star on his work ethic and dedication, Kajol further said, "Whenever we meet, I think that he is doing some amazing work. I love the fact that Shah Rukh is one of the people who reinvents himself so amazingly time and time again." The actress added that Shah Rukh Khan is one of the hardest-working people that she has ever seen in her life.

Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol first shared the screen in Baazigar, a film where SRK gained widespread acclaim for his portrayal of a morally grey character. Over the years, their iconic on-screen chemistry in films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, My Name Is Khan, and Dilwale has made them one of Bollywood's most beloved duos. In a previous interview with, the pair were asked if they would have dated each other had they been single at the time.

Kajol responded candidly, saying, "I honestly don't know because I think I was already seeing Ajay at that point in time when we were six months into Baazigar." Shah Rukh Khan replied to the question with his usual wit as he noted, "I was also seeing Ajay at that time."

Shah Rukh Khan was last seen in Rajkumar Hirani's Dunki, which turned out to be a commercial success. He is now gearing up for his next project, King, an action thriller directed by Siddharth Anand. The film reportedly features his daughter Suhana Khan and actor Abhishek Bachchan in significant roles.

Kajol, meanwhile, was last seen in Vishal Furia's horror thriller Maa, which released on June 27, 2025.

## NEWS BOX

**India's Bumrah puzzle: Pundits add to selection drama before Birmingham Test**

**New Delhi.** India head into the second Test against England in Birmingham with a major selection dilemma. The young side, led by Shubman Gill, exceeded expectations with the bat, but the bowling group failed to contain a fiery England line-up. Despite scoring over 800 runs across two innings, India lost the first Test by five wickets.

Changes seem inevitable, but the big question remains: can India afford to rest Jasprit Bumrah for the second Test, especially after the lacklustre performances of the rest of the bowling attack in Leeds? Ahead of the series, India made a contentious call by publicly announcing that Bumrah would only play three of the five Tests, in line with workload management plans.

When India's batting unit delivered in the series opener, they would have hoped to capitalise and take a 1-0 lead. Resting Bumrah after a strong start might have made sense then, but the situation has changed drastically. Now, India risk not having their premier bowler available at a time they need an immediate counterpunch. Head coach Gautam Gambhir



insisted after the Leeds defeat that India wouldn't alter their plans of limiting Bumrah to three Tests. Addressing the media on Monday in Birmingham, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate maintained the suspense, saying a decision on Bumrah's inclusion would be taken closer to the second Test, which begins on Wednesday, 2 July. However, he did confirm that Bumrah is feeling fit and ready if called upon, especially after an eight-day break.

**HOPE BUMRAH PLAYS: RAVI SHASTRI** Former head coach Ravi Shastri stressed the importance of a quick response and expressed hope that Bumrah would take the field at Edgbaston

"Now, whether Bumrah plays or doesn't play, one doesn't know. But let's hope he does because this is a very important Test match and all is not lost," Shastri told the ICC.

### Akash Deep offers Shami-like threat, should replace Bumrah if needed: Irfan Pathan

**New Delhi.** Former India cricketer Irfan Pathan has suggested that if Jasprit Bumrah is rested for the second Test against England at Birmingham, the team management should consider bringing in Akash Deep as his replacement. According to Pathan, the Bengal-based pacer poses a threat similar to that of Mohammed Shami. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Irfan outlined why Akash Deep deserves consideration for the



upcoming Test. Despite a strong batting performance in the first match, featuring twin centuries from Rishabh Pant and first-innings tons from Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, India fell short, losing by five wickets. The Indian bowling unit came under heavy criticism, with all bowlers barring Jasprit Bumrah struggling to find consistent lengths and restrict England's scoring. Heading into the second Test, it remains to be seen whether Bumrah will be cleared to play, as the team management remains cautious about managing his workload following his injury post the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. If Bumrah is unavailable, Irfan believes Akash Deep would be a worthy replacement.

"If Bumrah is not there, then who should come into the side in his place? Akash Deep, from what's been seen in the nets, seems to be getting into his rhythm. I feel that he is the Shami mould type of bowler," Irfan commented. He added that Akash Deep's bowling style, focused more on seam and swing, could be more effective in English conditions compared to the hit-the-deck approach of bowlers like Mohammed Siraj or Prasidh Krishna. His straight seam deliveries, in particular, could generate late movement, making it tough for England's aggressive batting line-up. His straight seam deliveries can trouble the England batters, especially when it comes to late movement. If you are going aggressive, this could be a problem. We will come to Arshdeep, but I think if Bumrah is not playing, then it should be Akash Deep who should come in his place," he added.

# Bored of winning, para-javelin star Sumit Antil tests limits in able-bodied meets

→ **Sumit Antil said he is keen on competing in more able-bodied meets**

→ **The para-javelin star competed in a top-tier able-bodied meet in June**

→ **Sumit became the first Indian to defend his Paralympics javelin gold last year**

**New Delhi.** "I'll tell you frankly, I am a bit bored. I am not getting the push from para-javelin anymore," a candid Sumit Antil admitted. A two-time Paralympic champion and the current world record holder in the men's F64 discipline, Sumit has consistently stayed far ahead of the curve compared to his competitors. Not only does he hold back-to-back Paralympic golds, but he has also

dominated the para-javelin circuit globally, winning comfortably in both Asian and world competitions. For Sumit, however, this creates a unique dilemma: where does he go from here? How does he continue to stay motivated — to wake up every morning, endure a rigorous training routine, and compete in events he is almost certain to win? Sources close to Sumit Antil told IndiaToday.in that, due to the lack of competition, he no longer feels challenged — a situation that has led to a plateau in his performances since 2023.

Since breaking the world record with a throw of 73.29m at the 2023 Asian Para Games, Sumit has not improved on that mark in nearly two years. And that becomes a problem for an athlete who has openly spoken about breaching the 80-metre barrier — a milestone never before achieved in the para-javelin discipline. It's not that he's stopped winning. At his most recent event in Nottwil, Sumit won gold with a throw of



72.35m. But those victories no longer fuel his fire. As a result, Sumit has taken matters into his own hands. Casting aside hesitation and the limitations often imposed on para-athletes, he has gone out of his way to participate in an able-bodied competition. Sumit competed in the AtletiCAGeneve meet — a bronze-tier event on the World Athletics calendar. The aim was to test himself against able-bodied competitors who regularly throw farther than he does. It was unfamiliar territory, but Sumit

embraced the challenge, both physically and mentally. "I found a line that I need to cross. There are some things that one athlete can only learn from watching another athlete. I realised in Geneva that I was lacking in technique and that was the whole reason behind participating in Geneva. I went there to learn, and I understood the deficiencies that I have and only that can help me better myself in the para-world championships," Sumit said in an interview facilitated by Sun Pharma, adding he was also invited to compete in Saturday's Neeraj Chopra Classic. In his mind, Sumit is very clear about the path he wants to pursue. His ambition goes beyond winning medals — he's focused on breaking the elusive 80-metre mark.

"Competing with them was an inspiring thing for me as well, as my dream is not gold, but to throw 80m plus, which is considered as an impossible feat for any para-athlete in javelin," he shared, offering a glimpse into his mindset.

### Rishabh Pant, Digvish Rathi among 10 IPL players to feature in Delhi Premier League auction

**New Delhi.** India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is among 10 Indian Premier League stars set to be auctioned in the Delhi Premier League. Pant will have competition from rising IPL stars Priyansh Arya and Digvish Rathi among others in the auction, set to be held on July 6 and 7 in New Delhi.

The men's auction is scheduled for 6th July, followed by the women's auction on 7th July, as the DPL continues its commitment to gender-inclusive representation in sport. The Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) on Tuesday, July 1, also announced the addition of two new men's franchises to the DPL, as the tournament gears up for its much-anticipated second season. The expansion increases the number of men's teams in the league from six to eight, marking another significant milestone in the league's rapid rise as a premier domestic T20 tournament. The Outer Delhi franchise was secured for Rs 10.6



crore by a consortium led by Savita Paints Private Limited. The New Delhi franchise was acquired for Rs 9.2 crore by a consortium of Bheema Tolling and Traffic Solutions Private Limited and Crayon Advertising Limited.

The two new teams will join the six existing franchises — Central Delhi Kings, East Delhi Riders, North Delhi Strikers, Purani Dilli 6, South Delhi Superstarz, and West Delhi Lions — for the 2025 edition of the tournament.

Apart from Rishabh, Digvish and Priyansh, Ishant Sharma, Ayush Badoni, Harshit Rana, Himmat Singh, Suyash Sharma, Mayank Yadav, and Anuj Rawat are also set to be auctioned on July 6. Speaking on the return of the DPL, DDCA President Mr. Rohan Jaitly said, "The Delhi Premier League is more than just a tournament — it is a celebration of the Capital's deep-rooted cricketing culture. The kind of talent we saw in Season 1 was truly promising, and with this expansion, we are giving even more players a stage to shine. Talents like Priyansh Arya, Digvish Rathi, and more emerged through DPL and showcased their brilliance during IPL 2025, proving the league's value as a true breeding ground for future stars."

## Carlos Alcaraz felt Centre Court nerves after 1st round scare: Was struggling a bit

→ **Carlos Alcaraz highlighted that the weight of the occasion got to him during the first-round clash against Fabio Fognini which may have been a bit too close for comfort for the two-time champion.**

**New Delhi.** Carlos Alcaraz admitted to feeling nervous during his first-round match against Fabio Fognini on Monday, 30 June. The opening match, played on the prestigious Centre Court, saw the two-time Wimbledon champion pushed to a fifth set before the Spaniard found his rhythm and secured the win. Having won the coveted All England Club title in the last two editions, many had expected Alcaraz to ease past the 38-year-old Italian. However, Fognini put up a strong fight and pushed the champion hard, though he ultimately came up short. Alcaraz revealed that, despite being an experienced player, he still felt nervous, almost as if he was stepping onto the court for the first time. He clarified that it wasn't

due to a lack of preparation, but rather the weight of the occasion. "It felt like it was the first time. Wimbledon is different. It doesn't matter, the winning streak I have right now, that I've been playing great on grass, that I have been preparing well the week before,"



Alcaraz told reporters after the match. "I could feel today that I was nervous in the beginning. Being the first match on Centre Court, it's a huge privilege for me, even though I played the first match. I try to deal with the nerves in the best way possible. I was struggling a little bit ... But it was great. It's a big honour to start the tournament there

## Club World Cup: Al-Hilal stun Manchester City, UCL finalists Inter Milan crash out

**New Delhi.** It was a shocking day for European football as both Manchester City and Inter Milan crashed out in the round of 16 stages of the FIFA Club World Cup on Tuesday, July 1. Pep Guardiola's side were taken down by Simone Inzaghi's Al-Hilal thanks to a stoppage-time winner by Kalidou Koulibaly. Fluminense, the Brazilian giants, took down Inter with a convincing 2-0 win. Al-Hilal produced a magical performance in the second half, where a brace by Marcos Leonardo alongside goals from Malcom and Kalidou Koulibaly ensured that they kept the Premier League giants at bay, who had the lead at the end of the first 45 minutes. Bernardo Silva gave City the opening goal in the ninth minute, and they went on to control the game for the first half. But the second half saw Leonardo get the equaliser in the 46th minute while Malcom gave the Saudi Arabian side the

lead. Guardiola looked to reinforce his side's defence with substitutions, bringing in the likes of Rodri, Nathan Ake and Manuel Akanji. The fresh legs ensured that City got



the equaliser as Erling Haaland found the back of the net to keep the Premier League in the contest. Both sides went on to make all five of their substitutions, but the match went on to extra time. Neither side looked to back down as Koulibaly's header gave them

the lead again via a brilliant corner kick by Ruben Neves.

The lead was short-lived as Rayan Cherki picked out Phil Foden, making the run into the box, which the Englishman went on to finish in style to give City the equaliser once again. The two sides were neck and neck until the end of the first half of extra time.

Leonardo once again found the back of the net thanks to a timely finish to ensure the Saudi-based side sealed a historic win. FLUMINENSE TAKE DOWN UCL FINALISTS

Inter looked far from their best as Fluminense put up a brilliant performance to continue the impressive run of performances by Brazilian sides in the competition. They extended their lead thanks to a fine finish by Hercules to ensure they went on to take the win.

## ENG vs IND: Why Yashasvi Jaiswal was relieved of slip duties ahead of Edgbaston Test

→ **England vs India: During India's intense fielding drills on Monday in Birmingham, young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was a notable absentee in the slip cordon and in the gully region. The opener dropped as many as four catches in the first Test that India lost by five wickets.**

**New Delhi.** Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was conspicuously absent from the slip cordon as the team trained on Monday, two days ahead of the second Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in Birmingham. Jaiswal, who put down as many as four catches in the first Test in Leeds, was removed from the hotspot while fielding coach T. Dilip oversaw a slip-catching routine during an intense session at Edgbaston on a scorching afternoon. Karun Nair, Shubman Gill, and KL Rahul took part in the slip-catching drills. Sai Sudharsan and Nitish Kumar Reddy also joined in, but there was no sign of Jaiswal. Instead, the left-hander was seen working with assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, honing his reflexes at short leg and leg slip positions — crouching low and getting into close-in catching positions. India's fielding unit has come under scrutiny after dropping six chances in Leeds. Their poor catching effort allowed England to erase India's first-innings advantage and trail by just six runs.



Jaiswal was the main culprit, grassing four opportunities — three off Jasprit Bumrah's bowling. Speaking to the press on Monday in Birmingham, assistant coach Ten Doeschate confirmed the coaching staff's decision to relieve Jaiswal of slip duties to protect his confidence. "We always want depth in the catching department. In England, you're always going to have four catchers at some stage in the game. Yashasvi has been a very good catcher for us," said Ten

Doeschate. "Maybe just give Yashasvi a break from catching in the gully for a little while. His hands are quite sore. We want to get his confidence back up." In Leeds, the ball seemed magnetised to Jaiswal. Stationed at gully and occasionally fourth slip, he shelled three catches — all proving costly as England went on to post 465 in reply to India's 471. In England's second innings, Jaiswal dropped a regulation chance at deep fine leg, reprieving Ben Duckett on 97. The left-hander capitalised, scoring a match-winning 149.

**TWO SPINNERS IN BIRMINGHAM?** Ten Doeschate hinted that India may be preparing for a spin-heavy attack in Birmingham, which would require reliable close-in catchers. "There's also an argument for short leg being a very important position, particularly if we are going to play two spinners."