

# Mass Resignations, Massive Protests As Congress Announces Madhya Pradesh District Chiefs

► Six MLAs, eight former MLAs and three former ministers have been given district-level responsibilities, which has angered workers who feel grassroots leaders were overlooked.

**Bhopal. (Agency)**  
The Madhya Pradesh Congress is facing turmoil following the release of its long-awaited list of 71 district presidents on Saturday. What was meant to be an organisational reshuffle has sparked protests, resignations, and a storm of dissent across several districts, from the capital Bhopal to Indore, Ujjain and Burhanpur. The most high-profile controversy has erupted in Raghogarh, where supporters of former minister Jaivardhan Singh, son of ex-chief minister Digvijay Singh, staged late-night protests. Mr Singh, who has been appointed Guna district president, is being seen as politically sidelined. His supporters burnt the effigy of state Congress chief Jitu Patwari and raised slogans, alleging that Mr Singh's stature has been reduced. In Bhopal, the reappointment of Praveen Saxena as district president has triggered resentment. Former district president

Monu Saxena, who was also a contender, openly criticised the decision on social media, accusing the leadership of ignoring senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's call for fresh organisation-building. In Indore, new city president Chintu Chouksey and district president Vipin Wankhede are facing opposition. Former women's wing chief Sakshi Shukla Daga has voiced her anger on social media. Dissatisfaction has also emerged in Ujjain (rural), where Mahesh Parmar's appointment is being opposed, and in Satna, where workers are unhappy with Siddharth Kushwaha. The dissent has already translated into resignations. Hemant Patil, district spokesperson and president of the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Cell, stepped down in

protest. In Burhanpur, supporters of senior leader Arun Yadav reportedly held a closed-door meeting after being denied representation. According to the list, 21 presidents have been repeated. Out of 71,



37 are from reserved categories. The distribution includes 35 general, 12 OBC, 10 ST, eight SC, four women, and three from minority communities.

Importantly, six MLAs, eight former MLAs and three former ministers have been given district-level responsibilities, which has further angered workers who feel grassroots leaders were overlooked. While the appointments were finalised under the supervision of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, insiders say former chief minister Kamal Nath retains a strong hold. At least 10 of his loyalists have found a place in the new list. With prominent names like Omkar Singh Markam, Jaivardhan Singh, Nilay Daga and Priyavrat Singh included, the reshuffle has intensified factional fault lines rather than healing them. For now, the Madhya Pradesh Congress finds itself battling fresh internal unrest just as it sought to project unity.

## Convenience of devotees is the government's priority: Ravinder Indra

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi: 17 August 2025  
Delhi Government's Minister for Social Welfare, Ravinder Indraj Singh, said that ensuring the convenience of devotees is the government's priority. The historic organization of the Kanwar Yatra and the grand celebration of Shri Krishna Janmashtami have been successfully concluded, and in the coming days, grand arrangements will also be made for Ramlela performances and Dussehra celebrations. He also appreciated the local residents and youth who contributed as volunteers in managing the arrangements. On the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmotsav in the Bawana Assembly constituency, the Cabinet Minister offered prayers and shared the festive joy with the devotees. Ravinder Indraj participated in the Janmashtami programs organized at Shri Krishna Seva Braj Mandal in Ishwar Colony and at Shri Guru Kripa Vatika, along with local residents. He also took part in various other religious and cultural programs organized across the constituency, encouraging the devotees. The Social Welfare Minister stated that as per the directions of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, special arrangements must be ensured for security and traffic management during festivals. With the cooperation of the local administration, police, and municipal corporation, special focus will be given to cleanliness, drinking water, lighting, and traffic control around the venues. Adequate deployment of police personnel will be ensured for crowd management, while ambulances and medical teams will remain on standby for any emergency.

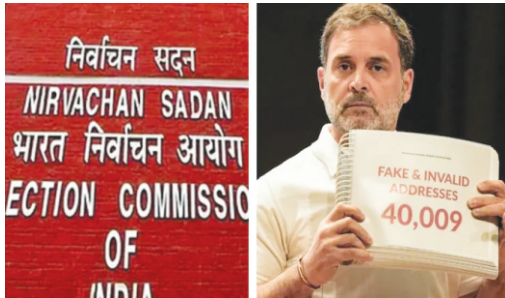
# ECI flags AI-generated video shared by Congress as misleading

After Congress shared an AI-generated video inviting people to its 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' beginning today, the poll body stepped in to fact-check the video, assuring nothing such had happened.

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Amid Congress's constant allegations of voter list manipulation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a fact-check regarding a recent video shared by the party on social media, stating that the content in question is "AI-generated and misleading." In a post on X, the ECI alleged the video of being a "clear attempt to mislead the people of Bihar." The poll body emphasised that the ongoing electoral roll preparation for each Assembly Constituency in Bihar is being conducted lawfully and transparently. The ECI further highlighted the broad-based participation involved in the electoral process, noting that:

Electoral rolls are being prepared by the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs); Over 90,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are actively involved; All electors in each Assembly Constituency are participating; More than 1.6 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by all 12 recognised political parties in Bihar — including the Indian National Congress — are also engaged in the process. The poll body is also likely to hold a press conference on August 17 to address the claims of 'vote

chori' by Rahul Gandhi. ECI's post is in response to Congress's X post in which the party is inviting people to join its 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' beginning August 17 from Bihar's gaddi se hatana hai (Have to remove vote thieves from throne). An AI-generated video is attached with the post in which people are one by one alleging manipulations and discrepancies in the voter list. The ongoing rift between the poll body and Congress follow Rahul Gandhi's allegation of voter list manipulation by the BJP and ECI. Gandhi, in a detailed data-backed presentation, accused the poll body of colluding with the ruling BJP of manipulating the voter list during 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, which led the latter party to victory.



## Pooja Pal Meets Yogi Adityanath Days After Being Ousted From Samajwadi Party

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Expelled Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Pooja Pal on Saturday met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence in Lucknow. The meeting comes after Pal was expelled from the Samajwadi Party by Chief Akhilesh Yadav for praising CM Yogi Adityanath during the UP Assembly session. Samajwadi Party expelled her from the party, citing anti-party activities and indiscipline. "You have carried out anti-party activities, and even after being warned, you did not stop these activities, due to which the party has suffered a lot. The work done by you is anti-party and a serious act of indiscipline. Hence, you are expelled from Samajwadi Party with immediate effect," read the letter of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav addressed to Pooja Pal. Earlier, while speaking in the UP Assembly, Pooja Pal, whose husband Raju Pal was shot dead by Atiq Ahmed and his associate, thanked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the zero-tolerance policy against crime that improved law and order in the state. The SP MLA said that the UP CM gave her justice by bringing in policies like zero

tolerance that led to the killing of criminals like Atiq Ahmed. Speaking at the Assembly's 24-hour marathon discussion on 'Vision Document 2047,' Pooja Pal said, "Everyone knows who murdered my husband (Raju Pal). I want to thank the Chief Minister for bringing me justice and hearing me when nobody else did. The CM gave justice to many other women like me in Prayagraj by bringing in policies like zero tolerance that led to the killing of criminals like Atiq Ahmed. Today, the entire state looks at the CM with trust," she said. Praising CM Yogi, she said, "Mere pati ke hatyare Atiq Ahmed ko Mukhya Mantri ne mitti mein milaane ka kaam kiya" (The Chief Minister has buried my husband's murderer Atiq Ahmed.)



## Chhattisgarh Cabinet Expansion Likely Tomorrow, These Leaders May Be Included

The urgency for the cabinet expansion stems from Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai's scheduled visit to Japan and South Korea on Thursday.

**Raipur. (Agency)**  
Political activity has intensified in Chhattisgarh with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expected to expand his cabinet by Monday. On Saturday evening, Mr Sai met Governor Ramen Deka, a move being seen as a precursor to the swearing-in ceremony. According to sources, the BJP's top leadership has given a green signal for a 14-member cabinet. Two organizational leaders and one RSS-backed nominee are likely to be accommodated. At the same time, the existing ministers will retain their departments, quashing earlier speculation about reshuffling. The urgency stems from Mr Sai's scheduled visit to Japan and South Korea on Thursday. The oath ceremony of the new ministers is likely to be completed before his departure. Commenting on the development, Mr Sai said briefly, "Keep waiting, it can happen." Insiders suggest that the cabinet expansion may follow the Haryana model. Like Haryana, Chhattisgarh too has 90 assembly members. While only 13 ministers have traditionally been appointed since the state's formation, constitutional provisions allow up to 15 percent of the assembly strength to be in the council of ministers. This makes room for 14 ministers, including the Chief Minister. Currently, only 11 ministers are serving in the Sai cabinet after senior leader Brijmohan Agrawal's election as MP from Raipur. With three new appointments, the strength will reach the permissible limit of 14. The expansion is expected to balance caste equations, power centers, and regional representation. Prominent names being discussed include Amar Agrawal (Bilaspur), former three-time minister; Ajay Chandrakar (Raipur), former minister; Guru Khushwant Saheb (Arang MLA); Gajendra Yadav (Durg), associated with RSS; and Rajesh Agrawal (Ambikapur), who defeated former Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo and represents the Vaishya community.



## Angry locals in cloudburst-hit Chasoti confront Omar Abdullah, demand faster rescue

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Tensions ran high in the cloudburst-hit village of Chasoti on Saturday as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah faced an emotional outpouring from locals desperately seeking update on their missing loved ones. The chief minister, who travelled by road to the disaster-hit area, the last motorable point en route to the Machail Mata shrine, was confronted by angry locals demanding faster rescue operations and answers about their missing family members. Families claim that dozens, possibly hundreds, may still be buried under debris following Thursday's devastating

cloudburst and flash flood. While official figures estimate around 70 to 80 people are missing, eyewitnesses claim the true toll could be far higher. At least 60 deaths have been confirmed so far. The Chief Minister toured both sides of the flood-hit stream, connected only by a makeshift wooden bridge, and met with affected families. He later invited villagers to a tent to hear their grievances, but many were too distraught or frustrated to engage further. Authorities have launched a massive search and rescue effort involving the Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police, and CISF. "Our immediate priority is to



rescue those who may still be trapped. Where rescue is not possible, we are focused on retrieving bodies to return them to their families," Abdullah said. He ruled out exaggerated casualty figures circulating in the media and among locals, saying, "The number of missing is currently around 80.

That's a big number in itself, but claims of 500 to 1,000 are not accurate. "The flash flood, triggered by a sudden cloudburst around 12:25 pm on August 14, wiped out a makeshift market, community kitchen sites set up for pilgrims, a security outpost, and dozens of structures including homes, temples, water mills, and a bridge. The 8.5-kilometre pilgrimage route to the 9,500-foot-high Machail Mata shrine remains suspended for the third consecutive day. Relief measures have begun for displaced and affected families. Abdullah said that approximately Rs 36 lakh has already been disbursed by the district administration.

# PM Modi To Inaugurate 2 Highway Projects In Big Push To Declog Delhi

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
► According to officials, the new link will reduce travel time from Indira Gandhi International Airport to various points in southwest and northwest Delhi by 40 to 60 per cent.

In a major infrastructure push to ease traffic congestion and reduce travel time across Delhi and several other cities in the National Capital Region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will shortly inaugurate two major projects -- the Urban Extension Road-II and Dwarka Expressway. The two projects, with a combined cost of Rs 11,000 crore, reflect Prime Minister Modi's vision of "creating world-class infrastructure that enhances ease of living and ensures seamless mobility", the Prime Minister's Office has said ahead of the inauguration event at Rohini today. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari are also



present. The Urban Extension Road - II, a six-lane expressway over 75 km long, begins at NH 44, passes through Rohini, Mundka, Najafgarh, Dwarka and ends at Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway on NH-48 near Mahipalpur. It forms a semi-circle on Delhi's western side. The Prime Minister

today opened the Alipur-Dichaon Kalan stretch of Urban Extension Road-II with new links to Bahadurgarh and Sonipat. This stretch, the construction of which cost Rs 5,580 crore, will ease traffic on Delhi's Inner and Outer Ring Roads and choke points like Mukarba Chowk, Dhaula Kuan and NH-09. "The new spurs will give direct access to Bahadurgarh and Sonipat, improve industrial connectivity, cut city traffic, and speed up goods movement in the NCR," the PMO said. According to officials, the new link will reduce travel time from Indira Gandhi International Airport to various points in southwest and northwest Delhi by 40 to 60 per cent. The other project the Prime Minister opened today is a 10.1-km Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway.



## News box

## Municipal chief sets 1-month deadline to clear 3L tonne debris in Gurgaon Sector 29

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The MCG commissioner, along with officials, visited Sector 29 on Saturday and directed the contractor to clear construction and demolition (C&D) waste piled up in the area within one month.

According to officials, around 3 lakh metric tonnes of waste have accumulated at the site. "The commissioner directed the contractor to ensure that the Sector 29 dumping site is cleared of the legacy construction waste. Other areas, including Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, Southern Peripheral Road (SPR), and Auto Market, will also be cleared simultaneously," said an MCG official.

The order is part of a month-long campaign the civic body has launched to tackle C&D debris, garbage at vulnerable points, and stray cattle in the city. The corporation has made it clear that strict legal measures will be taken against negligence and obstruction. Civic teams have been instructed to ensure that no construction debris remains at any site and that it is promptly disposed of. The MCG has warned that strict action will be taken against violators, including vehicle seizure, fines, and FIRs.

## Auto driver hit by 2 passengers over a torn note in Gurgaon dies

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A 19-year-old auto rickshaw driver succumbed to his injuries six days after he was assaulted by two passengers with sticks near Ravi Nagar petrol pump in Sector 10, following a dispute over a torn currency note. Now, a murder section has been added to the case, and two accused have already been arrested.

An attempt to murder case was registered on Monday, and two accused, Ram Vishal Dubey (19) of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, and Lakshman (24) of Krishna Colony, Gurgaon, were arrested. A third accused is still at large.

"We have added the murder section of 103 (1) BNS in the FIR. Our teams are raiding to arrest the absconding suspects who will be nabbed soon," a police officer investigating the case said.

The case stems back to Sunday, when Vipin dropped off the two accused in Sector 9. They allegedly gave him a torn note, and when he asked for a replacement, an argument broke out, leading to a confrontation. Vipin's aunt told police he called her, saying he had a fare dispute. When the family arrived, they saw five to six men beating Vipin with sticks in public. As they tried to intervene, they were also attacked and threatened before the assailants fled. Vipin was taken to the local civil hospital in Sector 10, where the doctor referred him to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. However, he was admitted further to a private hospital in Gurgaon in critical condition.

A police officer stated that the altercation first broke out in Sector 9, after which the accused pursued the victim to Sector 10 and attacked him with sticks. "The complaint initially went to Sector 10 police station, but eventually, we received the complaint on Sunday night," he added.

## Sharda University student found dead in hostel: Suicide note cites academic stress; 2nd such incident in less than a month

**NOIDA. (Agency)**

A 24-year-old second-year student of Sharda University was found dead at his private hostel room in Greater Noida's Knowledge Park-3 on Friday night.

Shivam Dey studied computer science but had apparently not been attending classes. Originally from Purnia district in Bihar, Dey died by suicide in his room at HRM hostel. In a note, which he seems to have written more than a week ago, he requested the university to refund "unused fee" to his parents and the police not to detain anyone, saying the decision to end his life was his own.

"I can't take this stress, pressure anymore," he wrote in the note dated Aug 7. "I was not a good student or maybe never was for this education system."

Dey is the second student from the university to die by suicide in less than a month. On July 18, a second-year dental sciences undergraduate student, ended her life in her hostel inside the campus. She had specifically accused two faculty members of mental harassment, following which they were arrested and are still in judicial custody.

Dey's family told he had returned to campus on Aug 2 after a family pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi. His relatives said they saw no sign of distress. "When he was home, there were no indications that anything was wrong," his father said. "If he had stopped attending college, the hostel should have informed us. We only came to know when it was too late."

His cousin, Shubhankar Biswas, said the family received a call from the hostel informing them of the death. "If the university officials knew he was not attending classes, why didn't they alert us? They only seemed concerned about fees. Had we been informed, my brother could have been saved," he said.

According to Sharda University, Dey enrolled in the BTech computer science programme in 2022. He completed his first year but struggled in his second, failing to meet the minimum grade requirement of a 5.0 CGPA to progress to the third year. A university spokesperson said he was given multiple opportunities to improve his performance, including a summer term and special examinations in Aug 2024. When he still did not meet the required standard, he was offered the option to repeat the second year at a reduced fee. "Although the fee was deposited in the university account, Shivam did not re-register or attend any classes in the 2024-25 academic year. His mentor continued to remain in touch, encouraging him to participate in internships and other academic activities," the spokesperson said.

## Thrashed over Rs15k loan, Gurgaon man jumps out of a moving car to escape, dies

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 38-year-old pantry worker, who was being thrashed by two persons over a Rs 15,000 loan he needed to repay them, succumbed to injuries he suffered when he jumped out of a moving car in a desperate bid to escape.

Two men, Praveen Rana and Aryan, were arrested in connection with the case. Ajay Tiwari — a resident of Ashok Vihar Phase-3 Extension — had borrowed Rs 30,000 from Rana, a property dealer, on April 25. Despite repaying Rs 15,000, Rana persistently pressured Tiwari for the remaining amount, issuing threats that escalated the situation. According to cops, on the night of Aug 13, Rana and his friend Aryan abducted Tiwari from his workplace in a Maruti Swift, demanding the outstanding debt.

In a state of panic, Tiwari's wife

transferred Rs 1,000 to Rana, pleading for her husband's release. The situation, however, took a dire turn when she received a call from Tiwari's colleague, Manish, informing her that the pantry worker was critically injured and hospitalised.

Initially admitted to Manipal Hospital in the city, Tiwari's condition worsened later that night. He was transferred to Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, where he was placed on a ventilator.

Tiwari passed away on Friday, prompting the hospital authorities to alert police. Police investigation later revealed that after Rana and Aryan forcibly took Tiwari into their car, they assaulted him when he pleaded his inability to repay the

remaining money anytime soon. In an attempt to escape, Tiwari jumped out of the moving vehicle near Bajghera, suffering fatal head injuries. The two



accused left him at the scene. The car used in the crime was later recovered by police.

According to sources, Tiwari — terrified and cornered — repeatedly warned Rana and Aryan of his intention to jump. A video shot by one of the accused captured Tiwari's frantic warnings and screams before he leaped from the car near the Bajghera police station underpass. Although the accused did not physically push him, their actions led police to file an FIR for kidnapping, assault, and culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

ASI Sandeep Kumar, a spokesperson for the city police, said, "A dispute over the loan led the suspects to forcibly take Tiwari into their car and assault him to pressure him for repayment.

In an attempt to escape, Tiwari jumped out of the moving car, sustaining a head injury."

## Nuh hazard: Burning chemical waste pumps toxins into NCR airshed

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Night after night, thousands of tonnes of chemical waste are set afire in kilns fashioned within the folds of Aravali terrain on the Rajasthan-Haryana border in Nuh, sending a stream of toxins into the same Delhi-NCR airshed that four state govts, the Centre, Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal have been trying to clean up through a series of extensive and expensive measures that have yielded limited results. While GRAP (graded response action plan) and the NGT-imposed age cap for diesel and petrol vehicles both have costs for people, that collective effort is being undermined by large-scale burning of industrial waste. The waste comes in at night primarily from Rajasthan through transporters, a nexus that thrives because factory owners want to avoid the cost of legal disposal (Rs 10-20 per kg) and go to middlemen instead. Most of the kilns that burn this



industrial waste — comprising chemically treated industrial scrap, plastic and rubber — are in the villages of Khori Kalan and Khori Kurd in Nuh. At the kilns, and in open pits, chemical waste is mixed with wood and set alight.

At a spot in Khori Kalan, around 2,000 square metres of Aravali land has been singed by night burning of waste. There's no fire to be seen in the morning, but it registers its invisible presence in the air, through a pungent cocktail that irritates the respiratory tract as one approaches.

"This is an environmental emergency. We have been suffering for the last 15 years. Recently, the burning activity has

increased," said Ahmed, a resident of Khori Kalan. In a way, the industrial refuse in these parts is a byproduct of pollution policies adopted over the decades. As 'red' category heavily polluting industries were moved out of NCR cities, they shifted base to places like Bhiwadi, creating a new hotspot of severe industrial pollution. "There are influential people who are in this business. Every night, small fires across the villages are seen, which is deteriorating living conditions for us," said Ushmeed, another resident.

Transporters and kiln owners, sources said, earn Rs 2-5 per kg for handling hazardous waste, accumulating into a sizable black-market economy. "Factories need us because what we charge is much cheaper for them. Even if it's Rs 5 per kilo, it adds up by the end of the month. By the end of the night, it adds up. Everyone knows it's illegal, but the money keeps the cycle going," said a local transporter involved in the trade.

## Girl (12) injured as stone falls from 25th floor of Noida condo

**NOIDA. (Agency)**

A 12-year-old girl suffered serious head injuries after a big stone fell from an under-construction flat on the 25th floor of Amrapali Platinum in Sector 119.

The child had to be administered 10 stitches, but is now out of danger. An FIR was filed after the girl's family submitted a complaint against National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) Ltd, which is overseeing the project, as well as its contractor, Krishna Constructions.

The complaint accuses both firms, along with the society's apartment owners' association, of negligence for failing to install guardrails or cordon off the construction area. Sunil Kumar, the child's grandfather, said the incident occurred on Saturday morning when the girl, Advika

Patni, was returning home from tuition around 10.30am. The stone from the upper floors of Tower A struck her on the head. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors administered stitches.

Kumar, who lives on the 10th floor of the tower, alleged that despite the high-risk work being carried out on the 25th floor, no protective netting, barriers or warnings were in place. The rear gate to the building, used frequently by residents, above the construction site, was left open on the day, allowing residents, including small children, to pass through freely through it. "This was a preventable incident," he wrote in the FIR, adding that similar safety lapses had occurred earlier but were ignored. Pratik Patni, the victim's uncle, said all the repair work in their Amrapali

Platinum society is being handled by NBCC. Normally, all the residents are informed before such work begins, but on Saturday, there was no such communication. If the repairs were happening on the 25th floor, workers should have used nets, cordoned off the area, put up warning signs, and cleared the common area corridor below," he said. The complaint names NBCC's Chief General Manager Aditya Paliwal, Krishna Construction's owner Kapoor, project manager Sushant, manager Mansoor Ahmed, and site manager Devendra Kumar alias Dev Kumar. Amrapali Platinum apartment owners' association's president Aditya Vashisht, secretary Ajit Singh, and vice president Gaurav Singh.

## Gurgaon civic body invokes law for up to 5 years in jail for illegal waste dumping

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

At a time when the sight of garbage strewn on roadsides becomes ever so common, Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) has announced stringent measures against illegal dumping of waste. It has invoked Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to warn violators that they could be fined up to Rs 1 lakh and may land in jail for up to five years.

The crackdown, officials said, is to tackle violations mostly by bulk waste generators (BWGs), contractors, and vehicle operators who dispose of waste at non-designated sites.

The civic body issued a public notice, highlighting the rampant illegal dumping of municipal solid waste, construction debris, and other refuse in unauthorised areas. This, it said, has led to significant environmental damage, persistent public nuisance, and violations of statutory norms.

To combat the recurrent problem, the corporation will seize vehicles found dumping trash and blacklist them from participating in any

waste management operations within the city.

MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya emphasised the importance of compliance.

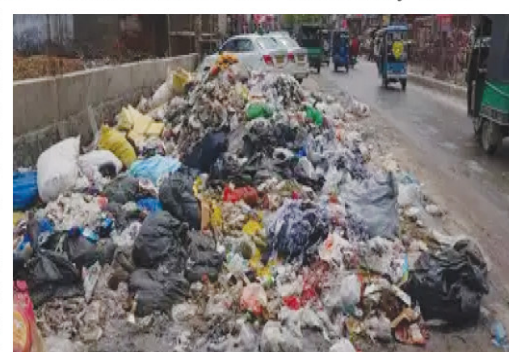
"All bulk waste generators, RWAs, institutions (hospitals, malls, schools, etc.), and business establishments are advised to ensure strict compliance with waste segregation norms and dispose them of only through authorised channels. Bulk waste generators are mandatorily required to process their waste at source or hand it over to an authorised waste collector," he added.

Despite these measures, residents argued that the corporation must address systemic issues, such as inadequate monitoring, poor waste segregation infrastructure, and lax enforcement. They stressed that the real challenge lay in ensuring consistent enforcement rather than allowing the order to become a "mere paper threat".

Sudakshina Laha, the RWA general secretary of Sushant Lok-2 and 3, voiced concerns about the

corporation's reliance on subcontracting.

"MCG has sub-contracted a majority of its services. However, a city cannot run on sub-contracting alone. The contractors want to run the show in their own ways, which may include hiring low-cost labourers, etc. The civic body does



not do any monitoring and governance.

If anybody is found dumping waste, penalising them may be a necessity, but are they doing enough to find a long-term solution to the problem? MCG must deploy their full-time staff for these services, instead of

being dependent on subcontracting," she added. Following the notice, MCG imposed a Rs 1 lakh fine on Army Decorators — an agency responsible for door-to-door garbage collection — for illegally dumping waste in a vacant plot in Sector 57. Residents caught the agency's vehicle in the act and promptly informed the corporation.

Commissioner Dahiya responded to the complaint by instructing officials that a fine be imposed on the company, reiterating that a negligence would not be tolerated.

## THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009  
Printed at Qaumii Patrika Printing  
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City  
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)  
Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, TPO, New Delhi  
Editor-in-Chief  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517  
Website : www.sikhstimes.in  
Email : sikhstimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465



# Another Thar rams bike in Delhi's Moti Nagar, liquor bottles found in car

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: A CCTV footage surfaced showing the SUV ramming the bike which Bhikshu Lal was riding on. Videos also showed the front of the SUV crushed after the collision. A 40-year-old man was killed after an SUV struck his motorcycle in Delhi's Moti Nagar area, police said on Saturday. Security personnel stand guard near the Thar Vehicle which is seen at the spot of the accident at Mother Teresa Crescent Marg at Talkatora Parking. Security personnel stand guard near the Thar Vehicle which is seen at the spot of the accident at Mother Teresa Crescent Marg at Talkatora Parking, in New Delhi. (Picture for Representation/Vipin Kumar-Hindustan Times)

police official said that the victim was hit by the car while he was standing on



his bike at the roadside. The authorities have said that the driver of the Thar fled after the incident and a case has been registered at Moti Nagar police station. Two liquor bottles were also recovered from the car's front seat, according to India Today. "The driver of the Thar fled

immediately after the incident. Legal action is being taken, and multiple teams

of the collision, while the bike was reduced to metal scrap. The authorities are

said that his bike was parked and the Thar hit the bike with force. They said they would take immediate action and catch the driver soon... My brother has five young children living back in the village," Kiran, sister of Bikshu Lal, told . Nomi Lal, the brother of Bikshu Lal, said they came to know about the incident on Saturday morning after their calls to know about his whereabouts went unanswered, according.

## 5 killed as fire breaks out at plastic articles manufacturing unit in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Firemen at the site where a fire broke out at a plastic articles manufacturing unit in Nagarthapet, in Bengaluru, Karnataka. A family of four and another man were charred to death after fire broke out at a plastic articles manufacturing unit in Nagarthapet, near K R Market here, police said. Police have identified the victims as Madan Singh (38) and Sangeetha (33) and their two children Rithesh (7) and Vihaan (5) and neighbour Suresh Kumar (26). Madan Singh was a native of Rajasthan and had been renting the building for nearly 10 years. He ran a small manufacturing unit that made plastic kitchen items as well as mats and steel kitchen utensils. He was residing on the top floor of the building. The police said an electric spark could have triggered the fire. A Fire Department official said they received the call at around 3.14 am. Eight vehicles were deployed and 55 firefighters and 21 officers were at the scene trying to control the fire, said the official. "It is a kind of godown with a lot of things stored inside, making it difficult to put out the fire," he added. The building is situated in a densely populated trading hub in the city. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and the rescue work is ongoing, officials said.

## Hit by speeding Thar, man dies, another hurt; driver in police net

New Delhi: A man was killed while another suffered injuries after a speeding Mahindra Thar hit them near the 11 Murti landmark on the Mother Teresa Road here early on Sunday. The police said the accident took place around 6.30 am when the SUV, which was coming from Dhaula Kuan and going towards India Gate, veered onto the footpath and hit the two men, dragging them for several metres before coming to a halt. "The driver has been identified as Ashish, a resident of Shakarpur in East Delhi. The car belongs to his friend Ankit from Ghaziabad," a police officer said. A liquor bottle was found inside the vehicle. It has been sent for forensic examination to determine if alcohol was a factor in the accident. Recounted the moments, an eyewitness said: "The SUV, which was being driven at a fast speed, skidded before coming to a halt with a loud crash." The victims were shifted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre where one of them was declared dead on arrival. The injured person is undergoing treatment. The police seized the vehicle and detained the driver. They are scanning CCTV footage to ascertain the sequence of events.

## Animal rights activists protesting against top court's order booked

New Delhi: Several animal rights activists who staged a protest near India Gate against the Supreme Court's order on stray dogs were booked by Delhi Police on Monday night. The court had earlier directed that all stray dogs in Delhi and the National Capital Region be rounded up within eight weeks and housed in dedicated shelters to be set up by civic bodies, making it clear that no captured animals would be released back on the streets. Following the ruling, several animal rights activists and dog rescuers gathered at India Gate to voice their opposition. Some were detained by police. According to police, a case has been registered at Tilak Marg Police Station under Section 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. A senior officer said the FIR was based on violations of law and order. "The protestors were repeatedly asked not to gather at India Gate in view of the security arrangements, but they continued their demonstration," the officer said. When police attempted to disperse the crowd, protestors allegedly resisted, got into physical altercations with officers and even pushed female constables. Despite repeated warnings, they refused to leave and were detained.

## Teen guns down gardener over closed gate, arrested

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: A 37-year-old gardener and caretaker was allegedly shot dead by a teenager following a heated argument over closing the gate of a property in South Delhi's Fatehpur Beri early on Monday morning, the police said. The gardener, identified as Santal, was shot in the chest. He died on the spot, they said. The police arrested the accused, Piyush Yadav (19), and recovered the weapon used in the crime from his residence. Piyush was working as a real estate agent in Chhatrapur, Phase 2, here, an official said. According to the police, the incident took place around 2 am near Shamshan Ghat in Dera village here. They received information that some women were crying loudly in the neighborhood, following which they reached the spot. Upon reaching, the police found a man with a gunshot injury near the cremation ground. A forensic and crime team reached the spot and collected evidence. The police recovered an empty cartridge from the crime scene. The body was sent to Safdarjung Hospital for post-mortem examination. Prima facie, it was revealed that the accused had an argument with the gardener over the closing of gate of the property. In a fit of rage, the accused allegedly shot Santal, the cop said.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Femina D/O Meragudin R/O D-49 1st Floor Gali No-7, Vijay Vihar Phase-2, Rohini Sector-7, Delhi-110085 Have changed my name to Femina for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Ritik S/O SAT-PAL/R/O PANA BODAN, Sanghi(83), Rohtak, Haryana - 124303, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RITIK HOODA.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Ikra alias Ekra D/O Mohd Aarif, R/O D-709, Jahangir Puri, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ekra.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Shyam S/O Munnu Lal, R/O House No-272, Munika Village Near Juliana Mohalla, Kranti Chowk, Munika, South West Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shyam Sharma

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BABITA W/O OMPRAKASH R/O H. NO. 32, SECTOR-19, DWARKA, VPO, AMBERHAI, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075, has changed her daughter name from MANSI to HIMANSHI and her date of birth from 01.01.2008 to 17.12.2007 in her all records, like Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Passport, Date of Birth Certificate and all other Govt. of India record and rectification/changes purposes.

# PWD Minister inspects Connaught Place Outer Circle after waterlogging

New Delhi: A day after heavy rains caused waterlogging in parts of Connaught Place, PWD Minister Parvesh Verma inspected the affected Outer Circle stretch here on Sunday and blamed alterations made to decades-old drainage system for the mess. Verma said the root cause lies in the 100-year-old barrel drainage system, whose capacity was reduced over time due to building construction in the area, restricting the natural water flow. The minister said he had also visited the site near the Kake Da Hotel stretch late on Saturday night when rain-water had accumulated over a 100m section. "To address this, we have installed two high-capacity pumps to ease the load and push water forward more efficiently," Verma said,

adding that a detailed point-by-point study would be conducted to find a permanent fix. He noted that water had entered some shops during the downpour. Earlier on Saturday, the New Delhi Traders' Association (NDTA), the primary traders' body of Connaught Place, had also flagged several low-lying stretches prone to waterlogging, including the Outer Circle near H Block (opposite the Panchkuian Road entry) and opposite L Block (from Minto Road towards Haldiram's) and the Middle Circle behind A Block and B Block, which, it said, are among the worst affected due to their low elevation. Further, the PWD

Minister highlighted that 34 other critical points across Delhi, including Zakhira, Minto Bridge, Moolchand and ITO, remained free from waterlogging this season due to "continuous monitoring, timely interventions and rapid on-site action." Verma said water accumulation on PWD roads has been "significantly lower" this year and vowed that Delhi would be "completely free from waterlogging" in the coming years. However, the AAP criticised the minister for what it called a "belated and meaningless" inspection. Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged Verma "woke up 24 hours after the city drowned" and accused him of ignoring families of seven victims killed in rain-related incidents, including a wall col-

lapse. "If he truly wanted to see waterlogging, he should have gone out with an umbrella during the rain," Bharadwaj said. The Congress also targeted the BJP government, with Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) president Devender Yadav visiting heavily waterlogged areas in Karol Bagh to "call the BJP's bluff." Yadav accused CM Rekha Gupta's administration of failing to deliver on promises made after earlier rains, claiming that a month-long sanitation drive had not prevented trash from clog-

ging roads during the latest downpour.

## Minor girl blackmailed with obscene photos, 3 held

New Delhi: The police have arrested a 24-year-old dance teacher, along with his brother and an accomplice, for allegedly extorting Rs 30 lakh from a minor girl student in the Sohna area by blackmailing her with obscene photographs. A car and valuables worth several lakh rupees were recovered from their possession. According to the police, the accused extorted the money by threatening to make the explicit images of the 14-year-old victim viral on social media. All three were produced in a city court on Monday and remanded to judicial custody. According to the police, the girl, passionate about dancing, regularly attended a training centre in her locality.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, MUNNI DEVI W/O BABUNAND PRASAD HOUSE NO-C-10/20, GALI NO-10, SHARMA ENCLAVE, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110086 declare that my name mentioned as Lalnuni Devi in my Aadhar card and Murni Devi in Bank (Central Co-operative Bank Limited Gopalganj) Both names are only one and same person.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Bharat Bhushan Sachdeva S/o Kestur Lal Sachdeva R/O H.No-A-1 And A-2 Kh No 199, Upper Ground Floor Village Rithala Landmark, Near Singh Motors, Rithala, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Bharat Bhushan and Kasturi Lal in my 10th Class Educational Documents and Service Book. The actual name of mine and my father are Bharat Bhushan Sachdeva and Kasturi Lal Sachdeva.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Ajay Kumar Dhameja S/o Baldev Dhamija R/o C-30, C Jain Park, Uttam Nagar, D.K.Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ajay Kumar Dhamija in my minor son Mannat Dhamija aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Ajay Kumar Dhameja.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, ANJANI KUMAR TIWARI S/O SHREENATH TIWARI R/O 261, GALI NO-9, NEAR SHIV MANDIR, DASHKINPURI, DR. AMBEDKAR NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as ANJANI and SHREE NATH in my Pan Card No. BHEPK2263H and Driving License No. DL-0320120316971. The actual name of mine and my father are ANJANI KUMAR TIWARI and SHREENATH TIWARI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Prem Shila Chauhan W/o Ajay Kumar Chauhan R/O 528, Nai Basti, Kishan Ganj, Malika Ganj, North Delhi, Delhi-110007 have changed the name of my minor daughter Anamika aged 7 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vanshika Chauhan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Yogesh Singla S/o Mahendra Pal Singla R/O 530/6, 3rd Floor, Govind Puri, Kalkaji Ji, Aali, Ali, South Delhi, Delhi-110019 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yogesh Kumar Singla.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Sarjati Devi W/o Uma Shankar R/O T. Huts-N-207/525, Jalar Valsa Bagh, Ashok Vihar Phase 2, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Marjati Devi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Suresh Chachan S/o Jagdish Prasad Chachan R/O C-63, Shubham Enclave, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi Delhi-110063 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Suresh Kumar Chachan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Sajjan Chachan S/o Jagdish Prasad Chachan R/O 723/6, 1st Floor, Sunder Vihar Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sajjan Kumar Chachan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, HARSHI RAJAR S/O GAGAN PAWAR R/O B-188 3rd Floor, Panchy Nagar, Laxmi Nagar (East Delhi), East Delhi, Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as HARSHI in my 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is HARSHI PAWAR, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My clients Yogesh Bala wife Sushil and Sushil son Hari Ram address A-32, Rajiv Nagar Extension Begumpur Delhi-86 have evicted their son Rohit Sharma son Sushil Sharma from all their movable and immovable properties due to his misbehavior and have severed all relations with him, my clients will not be responsible for the transactions and police/court cases related to them. Advocate Mahender Kumar.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, MOHAMMAD NEMAT S/O MOHAMMAD JAFIRUL R/O Plot No-196/1, E-Block, Inner Enclave Phase-2, Suleman Nagar North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as NEMAT, PARVEEN BEGUM and NADEEM in my minor son namely MOHAMMAD NADEEM aged 16 years in his school record. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor son are MOHAMMAD NEMAT, PARVEEN BEGAM and MOHAMMAD NADEEM respectively which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client Smt. Saraswati W/o Late Sh. Hari Singh resident of D-20-21, J.J. Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi 110027 has disown her son namely Praveen O/Kulhar and daughter-in-law namely Rajni W/o Praveen O/Kulhar from all her properties (Movable and immovable) from today onwards and severed all relations with them. They shall have no claim or title to any of the properties possessed by or belonging to my client. Now my Client above named would have no concern with her son and daughter in law and anybody deals with them, then it will be his/her/their own risks and responsibility.

**RAJAN MALHOTRA ADVOCATE**  
Chamber No. 1416, Lawtze in Chamber Block, Rohini Court Complex, Delhi-110085

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, SATVEER SINGH S/O ISHVAR SINGH R/O D-291, HARJIAN BASTI EAST GORAKHPUR, MANDOLI, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110093 have changed the name of my minor daughter CHOTEN aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as VANSHIKA.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, AHMED RAZA S/O MOHD EMTIYAZ, R/O H.No.E-24/1, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave-II, New Friends Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as in his school in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is MOHD EMTIYAZ, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SHOBIHA GUPTA W/O PD GUPTA R/O B-404 NEW FRIENDS COLONY NEW DELHI-110025 I have changed my name from SHOBIHA TO SHOBHA GUPTA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, ARNAV GUPTA S/O PD GUPTA R/O B-404 NEW FRIENDS COLONY NEW DELHI-110025 I have changed my name from ARNAV ANNA GUPTA TO ARNAV GUPTA for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Ram Prakash Ram S/O Roop Chand R/O S-85, Gali No.10, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Om Prakash for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Harda Narayan Mishra S/O: Tulsi Prasad, R/O HOUSE NO-566, ELDOCK-B, JAHANGIR PURI, Jahangir Puri, North West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HRI-DAY NARAYAN MISHRA.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Rupan Ram S/O Chaitu R/O Chak Tewkhar Rangdeeh Sarai Meer, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh-276305, have changed my name to Roop Chand for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Nishant S/O Shyam Sunder Narayan Singh R/O 1C, Block -J1B Khirki Extension South Delhi -110017 Have changed my name to Nishant Singh for all future purposes.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Saraswati W/O Mukesh Kumar Ahniwar R/O C-45, THUTS, Hanuman Mandir, Model Town-1, Model Town-1 North West Delhi, Delhi - 110009, declare that the name of my minor son and my husband have been wrongly written as Deepak and Mukesh in my minor son's name Deepak Ahniwar, aged 14 years in his school records, FOR THE SAME IN ANY MANNER PRESENT & FUTURE MOHIT BHARDWAJ (Adv.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Unit No. R6 K309, Floor 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tower Block-6 in Project M3M ROUTE65 situated at Sector-65 was booked by Ms. Gita Rathaur W/o Mr. Binod Kumar R/o 1-17, Ground Floor, Ivory Emaar Emerald Hills, Sector-65, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA.

Late Ms. Gita Rathaur passed away on 17-08-2024, leaving behind the following legal heir(s):

S. No.	Name	Aadhar No.	Relationship with deceased	Address
1-	Binod Kumar	642966128311	Husband	1-17, Ground Floor, Ivory Emaar Emerald Hills, Sector-65, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA
2-	Jyotsna Rathor	340435845350	Daughter	1001, Chelsea, Hiranandani Estate, Patlipada, G B Road, Thane West 400607
3-	Sweta Murti	855801112911	Daughter	C 1005 Marvel Cerise, Eon Free Zone, Kharadi Pune 411014
4-	Abhishek Rathor	690971181051	Son	1-17, Ground Floor, Ivory Emaar Emerald Hills, Sector-65, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA

Following the demise of the Late Ms. Gita Rathaur the above-mentioned legal heir(s) has/have requested Manglam Multiplex Private Limited for the transfer of the deceased's rights and interest in the said Unit in favour of Mr. Abhishek Rathor.

Any person(s) having any claim, objection or right in respect of the said Unit/Flat may submit their objections in writing along with supporting documents to Manglam Multiplex Private Limited at 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Urbana business park, Sector-67, Gurugram, Haryana, India and Mr. Abhishek Rathor, at the below-mentioned coordinates, within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice.

In the absence of any objections within the stipulated period, Mr. Abhishek Rathor proceed with the transfer of the said Unit no. R6 K309 in project M3M ROUTE65 in his favour, and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

For any queries, kindly contact:  
Customer name : Mr. Abhishek Rathor  
Address : 1-17, Ground Floor, Ivory Emaar Emerald Hills, Sector-65, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, INDIA  
Email Id : [abhi.rathor.2015@gmail.com](mailto:abhi.rathor.2015@gmail.com)  
Phone no. : 8587856628



NEWS BOX

Government forces Air Canada, flight attendants back to work and arbitration

World. (Agency)

Canada’s government forced Air Canada and its striking flight attendants back to work and into arbitration Saturday after a work stoppage stranded more than 100,000 travellers around the world during the peak summer travel season.Federal Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu said now is not the time to take risks with the economy, noting the unprecedented tariffs the US has imposed on Canada. The intervention means the 10,000 flight attendants will return to work soon.

The government’s action came less than 12 hours after workers walked off the job."The talks broke down. It is clear that the parties are not any closer to resolving some of the key issues that remain and they will need help with the arbitrator," Hajdu said.Hajdu said the full resumption of services could take days, noting it is up to the Canada Industrial Relations Board. Meanwhile, Wesley Lesosky, president of the Air Canada Component of the CUPE union, accused the government of violating the flight attendants' constitutional right to strike — and decried Hajdu for only waiting hours to intervene.

“The Liberal government is rewarding Air Canada’s refusal to negotiate fairly by giving them exactly what they wanted,” Lesosky said.

Air Canada did not immediately have additional comments when reached Saturday afternoon. But Air Canada Chief Operating Officer Mark Nasr previously said it could take up to a week to fully restart operations. It's likely that travellers will continue to see disruptions in the coming days.

EXISTING AGREEMENT WILL STAY IN PLACE THROUGH ARBITRATION

The shutdown of Canada’s largest airline early Saturday is impacting about 130,000 people a day, and some 25,000 Canadians may be stranded. Air Canada operates around 700 flights per day.According to numbers from aviation analytics provider Cirium, Air Canada had cancelled a total of 671 flights by Saturday afternoon -- following 199 on Friday. And another 96 flights scheduled for Sunday were already suspended.

Indonesia: 5.7-magnitude earthquake strikes Sulawesi, no serious damage

World.(Agency)

A magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck Sulawesi, Indonesia, on Sunday, the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) reported.The quake occurred at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), the GFZ added. No immediate reports of casualties or damage have been released. Authorities are monitoring the situation.

RECENT EARTHQUAKES IN INDONESIA

This latest tremor comes just days after a 6.3-magnitude earthquake shook Indonesia’s eastern Papua region on Tuesday, sending tremors through the area. The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at about 5:24 pm local time (0824 GMT), with its epicentre located roughly 193 kilometres northwest of the town of Abepura in Papua.The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre confirmed that there was no danger of a tsunami following the quake.

INDONESIA'S SEISMIC CHALLENGE

Indonesia has been rattled by a series of earthquakes in recent weeks. The archipelago is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire", a highly volatile zone where tectonic plates collide, triggering frequent seismic activity.Sitting at the convergence of the Eurasian, Pacific, and Indo-Australian plates, Indonesia experiences constant tectonic movement that unleashes earthquakes, often in areas such as Java, Sumatra, and Sulawesi. The region’s restless plates ensure that tremors remain a persistent threat, making ongoing vigilance and disaster preparedness essential.

Sudan's RSF shells famine-hit camp in Darfur, killing at least 17: Report

World. (Agency)

Sudanese paramilitary forces shelled the besieged North Darfur capital, El-Fasher, on Saturday, killing at least 17 civilians and injuring 25 others, reported news agency AFP.According to the report, these figures only account for those who reached the facility. Others were buried by their families, unable to access medical centres due to ongoing security challenges.Since May last year, El-Fasher has been under siege by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been engaged in a deadly conflict with Sudan’s army since April 2023.

The local resistance committee, one of numerous volunteer groups documenting atrocities during the war, reported that the Saturday attack involved heavy artillery shelling across multiple residential neighbourhoods."The bombardment began early Saturday and continued well into the afternoon," the committee said in a statement. "It is one of the deadliest recent attacks on the city, resulting in numerous casualties and severe damage to property and infrastructure."

CIVILIANS HIT AT DISPLACEMENT CAMPS

A few kilometres north of El-Fasher, RSF paramilitaries shelled the famine-stricken Abu Shouk displacement camp, killing several civilians, including a community leader, and injuring at least 20 people, according to the camp’s Emergency Response Room, which coordinates frontline aid.The attacks come after the RSF’s loss of Sudan’s capital, Khartoum, to the army in March. Since then, El-Fasher and nearby displacement camps have faced multiple assaults. In April, a major RSF offensive on the nearby Zamzam camp displaced tens of thousands, many of whom sought refuge in El-Fasher.

# Trump to press Zelenskyy to cede key region to Russia at White House meet: Report

Trump's desire for Ukraine to give up its remaining territory in this key eastern region to end the war could remain elusive. Ahead of the Alaska meeting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy firmly dismissed such a possibility, saying it would only pave the way for future war.

**World.(Agency)**  
Following his meeting with Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Saturday, Donald Trump has reportedly told European Union leaders that he is prepared to accept the Russian President's demand that Ukraine cede the remaining part of its eastern Donbas region in a bid to end the war, not merely reach a ceasefire, The New York Times reported.Putin’s demand that Ukraine surrender Donbas to halt the four-year war was made clear days before the ceasefire deal. Donbas has seen Moscow trying to

push through Kyiv’s defences ahead of the Alaska summit in an attempt to capture its last unconquered territory, Donetsk. The other part of Donbas, Luhansk, is already under Russian control.  
However, Trump’s push for Ukraine to give up its remaining territory in the key eastern region to end the war may prove elusive. Shortly after his meeting with Putin, Trump called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who rejected the Russian President's proposal to freeze front-line positions in exchange for Ukraine surrendering full control of Donetsk, according to Reuters.Ahead of Trump's meeting with Putin, Zelenskyy had already dismissed such a possibility, saying it would only pave the way for future war.  
Trump now plans to renew his push and

present the proposal to Zelenskyy again when he visits the White House on Monday, the NYT reported.In return,



Russia is willing to give back tiny pockets of the territories it has occupied in Ukraine for Donetsk, which it has been unable to capture so far, international news agency Reuters reported.Meanwhile, Europe’s

worst fears of Trump playing into Putin’s hands appear to be coming true, with the Russian leader now dropping the ceasefire plan in pursuit of a rushed peace deal aimed at fulfilling his long-standing goal of securing control.For Ukraine, surrendering the mineral-rich Donbas region — home to major defensive lines — would be akin to handing Putin the key to the entire area east of the Dnipro River, which runs through the heart of the country. The Financial Times reported that Putin has agreed to halt Russia’s southern offensive by creating a “freeze” in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, most of which are already under Moscow’s control.“If Russia’s demands were met, Putin would not continue the offensive in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, so there would be a kind of freeze there,” AFP quoted a source as saying.

## Not running for president in 2028: RFK Jr dismisses Laura Loomer's claims

**World. (Agency)**  
Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Friday dismissed speculation that he is preparing a presidential campaign for 2028. The rumours had been fuelled by right-wing activist Laura Loomer.“Let me be clear: I am not running for president in 2028. My loyalty is to President Trump and the mission we’ve started,” Kennedy wrote in a post on X.

Kennedy launched a 2024 presidential bid as a Democrat before becoming an independent, later dropping out and endorsing Trump. He has since joined the administration, leading the “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA) movement. Kennedy has faced pressure after Laura Loomer told Politico she feared Stefanie Spear, a top aide to the HHS secretary, was trying to “utilize her

position to try to lay the groundwork for a 2028 RFK presidential run.”

**FOCUS ON HEALTH PRIORITIES**  
In his post, Kennedy said his priority remains fighting chronic disease, the central mission of the MAHA



movement.  
“The president has made himself the answer to my 20-year prayer that God would put me in a position to end the chronic disease epidemic — and that’s exactly what my team and I will do until the day he leaves office,”

Kennedy said.  
**KENNEDY DEFENDS TOP AIDE STEFANIE SPEAR**

Kennedy also defended his top aide, Stefanie Spear, who has come under fire from Loomer over alleged disloyalty to Trump. Loomer has previously pressured the removal of officials she accused of insufficient loyalty to the former president.

Spear, once an environmentally focused Democrat, worked with Kennedy at Children’s Health Defence and served as his press secretary during his 2024 campaign. She joined Trump’s coalition in 2024 and now works at HHS.Some MAGA loyalists have voiced concerns about her influence since Kennedy took office. But Tony Lyons, leader of the MAHA PAC that backed Kennedy, told The Hill that Kennedy “never intended to run for president in 2028.”

## Trump admin tightens scrutiny of 'good moral character' for US citizenship

**World. (Agency)**  
Donald Trump’s administration has unveiled a new directive that will tighten scrutiny of legal immigrants applying for American citizenship. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which administers the country’s legal immigration system, issued new guidance on Friday.The USCIS ordered officers to consider additional factors while reviewing applicants' "good moral character," a long-standing requirement for naturalisation.

Green card holders are eligible to apply for citizenship after three or five years, depending on their case. Alongside English and civics tests, they must demonstrate "good moral character," usually assessed by checking whether the applicant has committed serious crimes or engaged

in disqualifying conduct like drug offences or habitual drunkenness. The new policy requires officers to conduct a "holistic assessment" that goes beyond checking criminal records. According to the memo, the



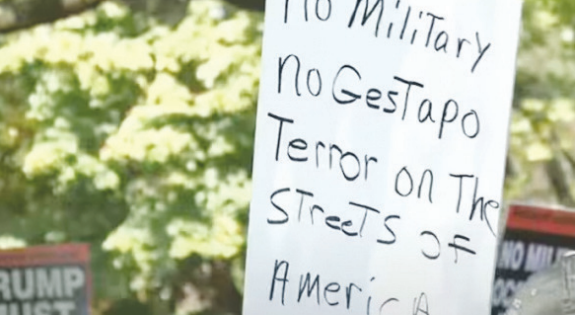
determination "must involve more than a cursory mechanical review focused on the absence of wrongdoing" and instead consider broader societal expectations and positive

contributions.  
**OFFICERS TOLD TO CONSIDER POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES**

The directive encourages officers to give "greater emphasis" to positive attributes on community service, caregiving responsibilities, educational attainment, stable employment, payment of taxes and long-term residence in the United States.

It also calls for closer attention to conduct that may not be illegal but could suggest a lack of civic responsibility.Examples listed by USCIS include "reckless or habitual traffic infractions, or harassment or aggressive solicitation." In such behaviour, the memo said, could be taken as "acts that are contrary to the average behaviour of citizens in the jurisdiction where aliens reside."

## Protesters march to White House against Trump's federal police takeover



**World.(Agency)**  
Hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Washington, DC, on Saturday to protest President Trump’s attempt to take control of the city’s police department and his deployment of National Guard units alongside federal agents.The rally began in DuPont Circle, where protesters chanted “Shame” and “Trump must go now!” while demanding an end to the “crime emergency” Trump declared in an executive order earlier this week. Marchers then moved toward the White House, continuing their chants as DC Metropolitan Police and National Park Service officers watched from a distance.

The protest came two days after Attorney General Pam Bondi tried to appoint Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Terry Cole as an “emergency police commissioner” with full operational control of DC police. The administration dropped the plan Friday after DC Attorney General Brian Schwab filed a federal lawsuit.

“The hostile takeover of our police force is not going to happen — a very important win for home rule today,” Schwab told reporters.Still, many demonstrators said Saturday’s lawsuit victory was only a partial step, with concerns mounting over Trump’s growing influence on DC policing and the presence of National Guard troops.“I think he doesn’t know what he’s talking about,” said DC resident John Smith. “I’m a little old white man and I walk around safely all the time.”

Sam Goldman, a spokesperson for Refuse Fascism, which helped organise the march, urged wider public resistance. “We have to turn the tide. We have to wake up all the decent people in this country, including in Washington, DC,” Goldman told NPR. “Millions and millions in our bones hate everything that Trump and MAGA represent, everything they’ve done and everything they’re doing.”

Goldman said her group is planning more demonstrations in Washington in the coming weeks. The White House is yet to comment on the same.Meanwhile, West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey announced Saturday that he will send 300 to 400 National Guard troops to Washington in support of Trump’s crackdown. Earlier in the week, Vermont Gov.

# States move to send hundreds of National Guard members to Washington

West Virginia, South Carolina and Ohio will send National Guard troops to Washington after Trump federalised local police. The move sparked protests, with critics calling it government overreach despite falling crime rates.

**Washington. (Agency)**  
Three states moved to deploy hundreds of members of their National Guard to the nation’s capital as part of the Trump administration’s effort to overhaul policing in Washington through a federal crackdown on crime and homelessness.

West Virginia said it was deploying 300 to 400 Guard troops, while South Carolina pledged 200 and Ohio says it will send 150 in the coming days.The moves announced Saturday came as protesters pushed back on federal law enforcement and National Guard troops fanning out in the heavily Democratic city following President Donald Trump's executive order federalising local police forces and activating about 800 District of Columbia National Guard members.By adding outside troops to join the existing Guard deployment and federal law enforcement officers, Trump is exercising even tighter control over the city. It’s a power play that the president has justified as an emergency response to crime and homelessness, even though city officials have noted that violent crime is lower than it was during Trump’s first term in office.

A protest against Trump’s intervention drew scores to Dupont Circle on Saturday before a march to the White House, about 1.5 miles away. Demonstrators assembled

behind a banner that said, “No fascist takeover of DC.” and some in the crowd held signs saying, “No military occupation.”

Trump was at his Virginia golf club after Friday’s summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

**PROTEST PUSHES BACK ON**



**FEDERAL OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON**

Morgan Taylor, one of the organisers who coordinated Saturday's protest, said they were hoping to spark enough backlash to

Trump’s actions that the administration would be forced to pull back on its crime and immigration agenda.“It’s hot, but I’m glad to be here. It’s good to see all these people out here,” she said. “I can’t believe that this is happening in this country at this time.”Fueling the protests were concerns about Trump overreach and that he had used crime as a pretext to impose his will on Washington.

John Finnigan, 55, was taking a bike ride when he ran into the protest in downtown Washington. The real estate construction manager who has lived in the capital for 27 years said Trump's moves were “ridiculous” because crime is down.“Hopefully, some of the mayors and some of the residents will get out in front of it and try and make it harder for it to happen in other cities,” Finnigan said.Jamie Dickstein, a 24-year-old teacher, said she was “very uncomfortable and worried” for the safety or her students given the “unmarked officers of all types” now roaming Washington and detaining people.



25-year-old kidnapped, robbed day before wedding in Karnataka



**BENGALURU. (Agency)**  
A 25-year-old man from Mandya who had come to the city to invite his friends and relatives for his wedding, which is on August 17, was kidnapped and robbed by four carborne miscreants around 2 pm.

The incident happened on the Shikaripalya Road near Jigani Industrial Area. The accused had escaped with his gold ornaments and cash, all worth around Rs 2.5 lakhs. The Hebbagodi police have registered a case.

The victim, Kumar (name changed), who is into farming, hails from Malavalli taluk in Mandya. While Kumar was on his way to Banashankari, where his sister lives, on a bike with his friend, the accused hit the bike with the car and got into a fight. The accused started beating both of them. Two of the four accused threatened Kumar and initially took him on their bike.

“The gang, after beating Kumar’s friend, left him alone. The accused, who first took Kumar on his bike around 2 pm, later pulled him inside their car and robbed him of his gold ornaments and Rs 40,000 in cash. They also took his phone number and made him transfer Rs 10,700 through UPI. On the way, the accused abandoned the victim’s bike. They have also attacked him with an iron rod. The accused dropped Kumar at a deserted place around 5.30 pm on the Harohalli Road,” said an officer based on the victim’s complaint.

The victim then called his friend, who rushed to the spot. The victim filed the complaint the next day after obtaining medical treatment.

“Three miscreants have been taken into custody. The bike that was abandoned was also found on Friday. Since the complainant’s wedding is on Sunday, we will call him after a few days for identification and other procedures. The accused were traced based on the phone number to which they made the victim transfer money,” said an officer.

Documents lost in fire at NCB office, court allows agency to rely on secondary evidence

**Mumbai .(Agency)**  
Stating that original documents of a case pending for over 10 years were destroyed in a fire at its office in 2013, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recently sought permission to rely on secondary evidence. The special court allowed the plea, stating that the fire cannot be attributed to be due to any fault of the agency.



A major fire had broken out in the NCB’s Ballard Estate office on July 3, 2013. The agency claimed that the Mumbai Fire Brigade had submitted a report stating that a defective electric circuit was the reason for the fire.

It said the fire was limited to the computer and server rooms but the left wing where the records were kept saw some damage due to the water used in the rescue and the smoke caused by the fire. Secondary evidence in the form of photocopies of

After mob kills 21-yr-old, admin, cops work overtime to ensure peace in Jamner

**Pune . (Agency)**  
Four days after a 21-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by a mob of 10 to 12 people, Jamner town in Jalgaon district remains tense but peaceful. The police have set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the murder and arrested eight youths so far. The district administration said sensing the mob’s anger, they worked overtime to ensure the situation did not spiral out of control.

On August 11, Suleman Rahim Khan Pathan was allegedly paraded and beaten to death by a mob after they found him seated in a cafe in Jamner with a 17-year-old girl from another faith. They allegedly thrashed him in and outside the cafe, took him to his village, Betawad Khurd, some 25 km from Jamner town, and beat him up again, leading to his death.

Suleman’s maternal uncle Kalim Shaikh said, “Suleman was beaten up for hours by the mob. His parents and sister were also beaten up. Without any provocation, the mob beat Suleman up. He had come to Jamner to fill out a form for police recruitment. He was sitting in the cafe with some friends. We don’t know why they beat him up.”

Sabir Khan, another relative, said, “Suleman was sitting in the cafe with friends. If the mob thought there was something objectionable happening, they could have taken them to the police station, which was next door. We urge Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to slap the Maharashtra Control of



Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the accused, as was done in the Beed case.” He was referring to the murder of Santosh Deshmukh, the sarpanch of Massajog village in Beed district last year.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Jalgaon District Collector Ayush Prasad said, “The incident was very unfortunate. First, the mob attacked him in the cafe in Jamner and then took him to Betawad village. He was again beaten up in front of his parents. He suffered injuries. The mob then left the village.” “Suleman’s parents then took him to their house, where he sipped some water and fell unconscious. His parents rushed him to a hospital but he was declared brought dead by doctors,” Prasad added. Following his

FIR against UP nursing home owner, aide as labourer alleges kidney ‘removed during surgery’

**Lucknow .(Agency)**  
THE POLICE have registered an FIR against the owner of a private nursing home and an employee after a 35-year-old man alleged that they “deceitfully removed one of his kidneys” under the guise of kidney stone surgery. A two-member panel has been set up to probe the matter, officials said on Saturday.

According to the police, an FIR was registered against the nursing-home owner, identified only as Imamuddin, and an employee, Tar Mohammad, who are both on the run. The complaint was filed after the victim, Allahauddin, claimed that his health worsened following an operation and an ultrasound later showed that “one kidney was missing.”

Superintendent of Police, Kushinagar, Santosh Kumar Mishra said the matter has been referred to the medical department for a thorough investigation. “We have informed the medical department about the matter, and they have initiated a separate inquiry,” he said. “All allegations, including the serious charge that one of the complainant’s kidneys was allegedly



damaged and removed, will be examined in detail.”

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Kushinagar, Brij Nandan, said that a two-member committee has been appointed to inquire into the case. He said the next course of action would depend on the committee’s report. He also confirmed that the nursing home is registered with the CMO office.

According to police, the victim had narrated his ordeal during a recent Jan Sunvai programme. Allahauddin told officers that he first sought treatment in Maharajganj in April, where doctors diagnosed a kidney stone and advised

surgery. He said he did not undergo the operation there because the estimated cost was too high. A few days later, he said, he met Tar Mohammad, who promised a much cheaper procedure. Tar took him to a private nursing home in Kotwa Bazaar and introduced him to its owner, Imamuddin. The victim was admitted and an operation was carried out at the facility, he alleged. Allahauddin said his condition deteriorated soon after the surgery. When he was shifted to another hospital, an ultrasound allegedly revealed that one kidney was missing.

Police said the duo shut down the nursing home and fled after the allegations surfaced. No arrest has been made yet.

The SP said he had directed a Circle Officer-rank officer to conduct a preliminary inquiry. Following that inquiry, the FIR was registered. The case has been registered on the basis of the complainant’s statement, and investigators will verify the medical and documentary evidence, the police added. The medical department’s two-member committee is expected to submit its findings, which will guide further action, officials said.

Why is Pune Metro cheaper than PMPML bus ride?

**Pune . (Agency)**  
The Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited’s (PMPML) fare hike, increasing the rates for buses in the city by 35 per cent from June this year, has led to an unusual situation. The fares of Pune Metro are now cheaper than those of buses for the same journey over longer routes.

The new fare chart for PMPML buses has 11 stages. Travel of upto five kilometers costs Rs 10, five to 10 kilometers costs Rs 20, 10 to 15 kilometers costs Rs 30, and so on. The final stage is for a travel of 70 to 80 kilometers which costs Rs 120. For the first 30 kilometers of travel, fares are increased at a stage of every 5 kilometers and for the next 50 kilometers, fares are increased at a stage of every 10 kilometers. For the Pune Metro, the minimum fare is Rs 10 for travel upto one or two stations and the maximum fare is Rs 35 when travelling the maximum possible distance (including line change). The metro fare increases in stages of Rs 5.

PMPML, Metro fare comparison  
The fare to travel end-to-end on the Purple line



of the Pune Metro (PCMC to Swargate), is Rs 30. A 10 per cent discount is offered on the Metro if the ticket is booked online, reducing the fare to Rs 27. To undertake the same journey from PCMC to Swargate (approximately 17.5 kms) on a PMPML bus costs Rs 40 according to the hiked rates.

Another exampleis, the bus fare from PCMC to Ramwadi Metro station on bus number 336 is

Rs 50. However, the same journey can be covered on the Metro for just Rs 31.50 through online booking.

For journeys covering lower distances, Metro fares are equivalent to or slightly higher than PMPML bus rates.

Buses still run the city  
PMPML buses ferry over 10 lakh people everyday, over five times the number of people that travel daily by the Metro.

Ranjit Gadgil, public transport expert and programme director at Parisar, said, “Bus fares being more expensive than Metro is a real shocker. People using the bus cannot simply shift to Metro, since first-mile, last-mile connectivity can be time consuming and/or expensive.

Just over 100 m from Mumbai Metro to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport’s T2, thanks to new foot overbridge

**Mumbai .(Agency)**  
A straight foot overbridge between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport’s Terminal 2 and Mumbai Metro’s Line 3 was thrown open on Saturday, offering straight connectivity. The bridge connects the CSMIA metro station on the underground Line 3 to the airport terminal.

The bridge, which is made up of steel, measures 88 m in length, 4.3 m in width and 3 m in height. According to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), it has been built 23 m above the under-construction Line 7A, necessitating careful planning and tight security precautions.

Officials said the project was carried out without interfering with the other infrastructure constructions taking place in the area.

An MMRDA official said, “The bridge provides direct, seamless connectivity between Metro Line 3 and the airport. The reduced walking distance will surely make the travel experience much better for the passengers.”

With this connectivity, the walking distance for air passengers travelling via Mumbai Metro has been reduced from 450 m to 118 m. The passengers will also no longer have to cross roadways carrying heavy luggage, minimising the reliance on other vehicles.

The official added that the construction of the project posed various engineering problems as it needed to be constructed at a significant height above an active metro work area. “The engineers had to make meticulous planning so that there would be accuracy and safety at every step,” the official added.

Authorities said the foot overbridge will play a crucial role in improving last-mile connectivity for air travellers, especially as Mumbai Metro’s Line 3 has begun operations. “The plan was to merge two large transport systems without impacting the current projects,” the official further said.

Why TN's mango season soured: Uninterested pulp units, faltered exports and the road ahead

**To avoid recurrence and to tap the fruit’s full economic potential, TN should tackle systemic issues plaguing mango farming as it can otherwise offer a viable livelihood for lakhs of farmers.**

**CHENNAI.(Agency)**  
The summer is past, but the sweat of uneasiness is still dripping from the eyebrows of mango farmers in Tamil Nadu, as the season was different this time around.

While the 'king of fruits' entered households in abundance, as it generally does, the mango cultivators, who otherwise remain off the media glare, also entered the drawing rooms, virtually. They caught the attention of the media and thereby those in power, at least briefly, during the peak season in June.

For about two weeks, the media, with its appetite for drama, covered episodes of farmers dumping mangoes in large

quantities on the roads in protest and out of desperation, as the pulp-making units, whom they primarily rely on for selling their produce, either did not buy the fruit citing poor demand from up the value chain or offered an abysmal price of Rs 1 to Rs 5 per kg.

While talking to TNIE in June, NT Bharat from Paradarami in Vellore pointing to a couple of thousand tonnes of mangoes harvested in the region with no buyer coming forward, said, "Officials said they will find a proper solution. We asked when? They do not understand the urgency. Our fruits are already rotting. If a person has a heart attack, we treat them immediately, right?"

K Murugan from Marandahalli in Dharmapuri district said dumping the produce on roadside was a better way to prevent further losses. "We would otherwise have to spend Rs 1 per kg for cleaning and transport, besides labour charges for collecting the fruits, at a time when the companies are not even offering us Rs 5 per kg," he said.

R. Venkatesan of Katpadi in Vellore, meanwhile, had a tractor full of mangoes waiting outside a pulp factory in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh for a few days, expecting that they would be procured. "The fruits are rotting as we speak. It's heartbreaking," he told in



the third week of June. As voices from TN's mango-growing districts intensified and pressure mounted from the opposition parties, the state

government met owners of pulp-making companies on June 16, "urging" them to procure the mangoes, but to no avail.



5 fruits pre-diabetic and diabetic people must avoid (and try these alternatives instead)

We have always been taught that all fruits are good for health. They provide fiber and essential vitamins. There’s truth to the claim, but it turns out that not all fruits are beneficial for pre-diabetic and diabetic people, as fruits with a high glycemic index can spike glucose levels and do more harm than good.

So, should fruits be banned for people with diabetes or pre-diabetes? Don’t write them all off just yet. Indianexpress.com spoke to Dr Yashawant Kumar – Founder and CEO, Benefic Nutrition, and brought to you a list of fruits to avoid, and alternatives to indulge in guilt-free:

**Mangoes**  
Mangoes are a rich source of natural sugar, typically glucose and fructose — one medium-sized mango contains around 40 to 45 grams of sugar. The fruit also has a moderate to high glycemic index of 51 to 60. This means mangoes can rapidly spike blood sugar levels. Also, since mangoes lack enough fiber, it becomes difficult for the body to balance the blood glucose level.

Better alternative – Berries, such as blueberries and strawberries, are recommended due to their low sugar (100g of strawberries contains around 4.9g sugar) and high fiber content. They are also a rich source of antioxidants and are very satiating.

**Ripe Bananas**  
As bananas ripen, their starch starts getting converted into sugar. One medium-sized ripe banana has a glycemic index of more than 60. This makes them even sweeter and more likely to increase blood sugar levels when consumed.

Since the fruit is also low in protein and fat, it makes it difficult for the body to control the glucose spikes, especially when eaten alone. Bananas also have a lot of carbohydrates, which makes them unsafe for diabetics, who want to keep their carb intake at check.

Better alternative – Guava, which is low in sugar (100g of guavas contain around 5g sugar) and glycemic index. The fruit is also a rich source of fiber and vitamin C, which makes it an even healthier choice.

**Chikoos (Sapota)**  
Chikoos are extremely high in sugar (100g of chikoo contain around 20g sugar), with a glycemic index of 65 to 70. This implies the fruit can rapidly spike glucose levels, especially if taken alone. The low fiber content in chikoos means that it would be really challenging for the body to balance the high glucose levels post meal.

Better alternative: Apples, especially when consumed with the skin intact can be a healthier alternative. It is low in sugar and GI and the fiber content can help the body manage the glucose levels really well.

**Grapes**  
A 100 gram serving of grapes has sugar content of 16 to 18 grams and a GI of 50 to 59. This implies even a small serving of the fruit can rapidly spike glucose levels. Also grapes have thin skin and are extremely low in fiber content – the reason why the body won’t be able to manage the glucose spikes post meal.

Better alternative: Pomegranate has a comparatively lower sugar content and is a low-GI fruit. It is also a rich source of polyphenols & antioxidants, which help reduce inflammation and enhance insulin sensitivity.

**Pineapple**  
Depending on ripeness, a medium size pineapple has high sugar content and GI that can range between 66 and 94. This means that pineapple can lead to a rapid sugar spike in the body post-meal. Although it has some fiber content, that is not sufficient for the body to pull down sugar absorption, especially when eaten alone or in a large quantity.

Better alternative: Papaya has a low sugar content and a low GI, which indicates a slower and more managed glucose response by the body. It is also rich in fiber, which makes it enhance digestion and insulin sensitivity. Packed with vitamin C and antioxidants, it can relieve oxidative stress in the body and support immune function.

Why Supreme Court’s order on Bihar SIR is not a ‘rebuke’ to Election Commission

The SC judges hearing the case, through their oral observations, do not seem convinced that the ECI is acting either unlawfully or in bad faith. Rather, they have tried to nudge the ECI along, pointing to its own commitment to transparency and fairness in the process

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes,” Mark Twain once famously said. The Supreme Court’s order in Association for Democratic Reforms vs Election Commission of India (2025), in the context of the “Special Intensive Revision” (SIR) exercise in Bihar, “rhymes” very much with its landmark judgment in Lal Babu Hussain vs Electoral Registration Officer (1995). On Thursday, the SC directed the ECI to make the draft electoral roll more accessible and searchable, giving excluded voters reasons for their exclusion so that they may challenge it. In Lal Babu Hussain, the Court put paid to the ECI’s attempt to declare certain voters “non-citizens” and directed them to follow a fresh, transparent and fair process with regard to voters it had genuine reasons to believe were not citizens. The parallels between these two cases, nearly 30 years apart, speak of a certain official distrust of India’s poorest citizens.

The Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, made to implement the Act, do not contain the words “Special Intensive Revision”. They only mention a “summary revision” (which happens regularly) or an “intensive revision” (which happens rarely), or a mix of the two, necessary in special circumstances. An SIR, at least as it is being carried out in Bihar, seems to have no basis in the law. The official justification for this exercise is the need to remove non-citizens from the electoral rolls. However, it has now shifted the burden of proof onto the citizen to “prove” their citizenship. It has discarded its own electoral roll prepared after people have declared that they are citizens, except for the 2003 electoral roll. The ECI has given a limited list of documents that it will accept as proof of citizenship. Crucially, Aadhaar cards and Electoral ID cards (issued, ironically, by the ECI itself) are not considered acceptable evidence.

Something similar happened in 1994 in Delhi and Mumbai. The ECI instructed Electoral Registration Officers to identify “non-citizens” and remove them from the electoral list, in coordination with the local

police. Notices were issued to nearly three lakh people demanding that they prove their citizenship — only with documentary proof — limiting its possibility to only four documents. Ration cards, perhaps the most widely held proof of identity, were not accepted by the ECI until it was pushed to do so by the Bombay High Court. Those affected in Delhi approached the SC directly. In its 1995 judgment, a three-judge bench of the SC set aside the instructions of the ECI and directed that no one should be required to prove their citizenship unless the ECI had credible material to show that they were not citizens. When such material was found, the ERO was required to conduct a full-scale inquiry, allowing the



person in question to provide all possible evidence to show that they were citizens of India. Then, as now, the ECI’s move triggered strong political backlash against the ruling party (Congress).

The SC’s latest order has also pushed the ECI to accept more documents as proof of identity and to also declare why certain voters have been left out of the draft electoral list. The ECI has claimed (without substantiating) that, by and large, voters have been removed from the draft electoral roll as they have either

died or migrated. The SC’s order will test the truth of the ECI’s claims, but the key point is that it took the SC to push the ECI to follow the most basic principles of natural justice.

Between the Lal Babu Hussain judgment and the latest order in the SIR case, the relationship between the ECI and the SC has been one of institutional bonhomie. The SC, in its judicial orders, has helped push forward some key ECI proposals for changes in the electoral process relating to the declaration of assets and criminal cases, the disqualification of convicted politicians, and the “None of the Above” option. The ECI’s indifferent stance on electoral bonds, which the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional, was one of the rare instances of relative disagreement between the two institutions.

The SC’s order in the SIR case is, therefore, no “rebuke” to the ECI; rather, it is far from it. The SC judges hearing the case, through their oral observations, do not seem convinced that the ECI is acting either unlawfully or in bad faith. Rather, they have tried to nudge the ECI along, pointing to its own commitment to transparency and fairness in the process. Coming along with the earlier order of the SC, which pushed the ECI to accept the Aadhaar card and the EPIC card as valid documents, has meant that the focus of SIR has shifted, subtly, from questions of citizenship to questions of correctness of the rolls.

The very first electoral rolls in India were prepared in such a way that even the homeless and the nameless (mostly women who were referred to only as someone’s mother or wife) found themselves on the voter rolls.

This was done at a time when the Constitution was not even final, and no one knew who was going to be a citizen in the new India. Had that exercise been done with the callousness and cruelty of the SIR, India would never have been the world’s largest electoral democracy.

You can ride the bus, but do you belong? The hidden cost of Delhi’s Pink Passes

Free bus travel was never a ‘perk’, it was a lifeline. For working women, it meant savings; for students, independence; for slum dwellers, a rare respite from the humiliation of proving they ‘deserve’ basic services

The Delhi government’s recent decision to replace pink tickets with Aadhaar-linked pink passes (Saheli Smart Card), restricting free bus travel to “residents of Delhi”, is a bureaucratic tweak that betrays the very idea of public mobility as a right. For migrant women, students, informal workers, and those without formal residency proofs, this move erects yet another barrier in a city that already gatekeeps its spaces along class, caste, and communal lines. As a research scholar who relied on these pink tickets to explore, loiter, and claim my place in Delhi’s public sphere, I know firsthand how this policy will shrink the city for thousands of women like me.

When Shilpa Phadke, Shilpa Ranade and Sameera Khan wrote Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets, they underscored how women’s access to public spaces isn’t just about transit; it’s about the right to linger, to wander without purpose, to belong without justification. For me, Delhi’s pink tickets made that possible. I had the privilege of randomly sitting in any 615 or 621 number bus that commutes between Poorvanchal Hostel and Minto Road or Mori Gate. I would stop at various places that these buses took me, and gradually I learned about other



bus routes and would change based on where I had to go next. The whole city became accessible just by sitting on any DTC bus, knowing I don’t have to worry about fare or anyone asking me if I’m a resident of Delhi. The pink ticket handed to me without any qualifications was the ticket that made me feel that I belonged. These DTC buses turned simultaneously into public spaces to engage with the city and a home away from home where I felt “belonged”. From the quiet, tree-lined roads of Lodhi

Colony to the chaos and Mughal splendour of purani Dilli, I learned the city not as a tourist but as someone who inhabited it. The bus was where friendships deepened during long rides, where spontaneous detours became adventures, and where the fear of expensive commutes didn’t constrain my mobility. They are my safe way to navigate the city. Now, with the new rule, that freedom is conditional — available only to those who can prove they “belong”. The term “resident” is a slippery one. Are students living in hostels residents? What about the domestic worker from another state who lives with her employer? Or take the case of the Muslim woman. Many scholars have shown the discrimination that exists in the rental house market, so is she now doubly excluded because she lacks a Delhi Aadhaar? The government’s logic mirrors the insidious “son of the soil” politics that ties rights to paperwork, ignoring how migrants — students, labourers, artists — sustain this city’s economy and culture. The gradual erosion of public transit services and the constriction of accessible urban spaces stand in stark contrast to the unchecked proliferation of privatised, gated enclaves within Delhi’s urban fabric.

Putin—Trump summit: Much ado about what exactly?

The only one who has emerged victorious from this ill-conceived summit is the Russian President, who greatly benefited without making any concessions in the war in Ukraine

Any competent analyst or scholar of international relations knows that prior to a summit meeting, enormous amounts of preparation are necessary. An agenda is agreed upon, and the aides to the respective leaders burn the midnight oil to reach agreements in advance and iron out key differences. Only a few odds and ends are usually left to be tackled at the meeting itself. When the event convenes, the leaders confer to establish a new relationship or bolster an existing one and then turn to various public ceremonies as well as press conferences.

The hastily convened summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his American counterpart Donald Trump raises profound questions about how much preparation for this conclave had been made in advance, especially on the American side. Before the meeting, Trump had proclaimed at least 53 times that he would end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours of assuming office. That, as is well known, failed to transpire. It is possible to endlessly speculate why Trump chose to pursue this meeting with Putin at such short notice. Some analysts have argued that he decided to meet with Putin primarily to see if he might boost his chances of getting the much-sought-after Nobel Prize. Thus far, for all his putative negotiating skills, he has not made any real headway in tamping down any conflict of consequence, such as the brutal ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. Even pulling off a temporary ceasefire in Ukraine could have been spun into a tale of his ability to terminate a sanguinary war. His motivations for meeting Putin aside, little or nothing was accomplished in Anchorage, Alaska. All that was agreed upon was that the two sides would continue their discussions. However, the lack of preparation on the American side and Trump’s eagerness to meet Putin



resulted in an outcome that granted the Russian President multiple easy PR victories. At the outset, Putin was able to step on American soil after a decade. Not only was he able to do so, but it was because of nothing short of a presidential invitation.

In the process, a national leader, who has been under indictment since 2023 at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, suddenly acquired an aura of legitimacy in the global order. After all, no less than the President of the United States rolled out a red carpet to greet him on American soil.

The contrast in terms of protocol with Trump’s meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House in February of this year could not have been more striking. At that meeting, Trump’s Vice-President J D Vance had publicly berated him, no doubt at Trump’s behest. Even Zelenskyy’s choice of attire at the meeting had come under criticism.

At this meeting in Anchorage, Putin not only received the red-carpet treatment but was also granted other rare privileges. Without any aides (or even interpreters) accompanying them, Trump invited Putin to join him briefly in the heavily armoured presidential limousine

(popularly referred to as “The Beast”), a gesture that is even rarely accorded to the leaders of allied nations. This sight left many American observers downright aghast.

And what did Trump get in return from Putin for all this pomp and fanfare? It appears that he mostly failed to move the needle even the slightest bit in terms of bringing an end to the vicious conflict in Eastern Europe. Far from stopping Russia, Trump could not even induce Putin to commit to a ceasefire.

As the summit drew to a close, at a joint press conference, neither leader answered any questions. Later, Trump claimed that significant progress had been made in terms of ending the war. However, he did not proffer any details about what, if anything, had been accomplished. Putin, on the other hand, with some evident glee, announced that he had invited Trump to another meeting in Moscow and that the US President had accepted his invitation.

In the meantime, the Ukraine war continues unabated. It is not known whether Trump will brief America’s European allies, let alone Zelenskyy, about what transpired in his discussions with Putin. What, however, is more than apparent is that this much hyped but hastily convened meeting has little or nothing to show for it. For all of Trump’s much-vaunted negotiating skills, his lack of attention to detail, his unwillingness to pay heed to professional (and regional) knowledge and expertise, and his fondness for fanfare at the cost of substance have yielded yet another hollow outcome for American foreign policy. The only one who has emerged victorious from this ill-conceived summit is Vladimir Putin. Most importantly, he has greatly benefited from this meeting without making any concessions in the war in Ukraine.



## NFR Celebrates Nations' 79th Independence Day as it Showcases Growth in Connectivity, Safety and Sustainability

**The SikhTimes**

Maligaon, 16th August: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), celebrated the 79th Independence Day of the Nation with due pomp and grandeur throughout its jurisdiction on 15th August, 2025. The main programme was held at the NFRSA complex in Maligaon where Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of NFR, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of a large gathering, including members of the railway fraternity. The ceremony featured an impressive Guard of Honour by RPF contingents, the Territorial Army, Civil Defence, Bharat Scouts & Guides and school children. NFR/Construction Organisation also celebrated the day, where Shri Arun Kumar Chaudhary, General Manager/NFR (Construction) hoisted the National Flag at the GM/NFR (Construction) office. The five divisions of NFR i.e. Tinsukia, Lumding, Rangiya, Alipurduar and Katihar also commemorated the occasion, with their respective Divisional Railway Managers hoisting the National Tricolour at each division. While addressing the large masses, the General Manager proudly shared NFR's remarkable achievements during the year, aligning with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat-24\*7 for 2047'. He lauded the heroic efforts of railway staff in restoring operations after the devastating landslides in Jatinga Lumpur and Dihakho-Mupa sections in June-July 2025. Highlighting NFR's thrust on safety, Shri Shrivastava informed that Electronic Interlocking has been commissioned at 11 stations, 11 level crossing gates interlocked and 22.29 RKM of Automatic Block Signalling completed. Fire Detection Systems have been installed at 17 more stations and 1,450 LHB coach-

es, while drone technology was deployed for the first time to monitor landslide restoration in



Lumding-Badarpur hill section. He further noted that no elephant casualties occurred this year, owing to alert running staff and AI-based Intrusion Detection Systems. The General Manager also spoke of major progress in operations, revenue and infrastructure. Four new train services were introduced in 2024-25, till now, alongwith 461 special train trips offering 5.5 lakh additional berths. Passenger earnings grew by

11.85% and freight earnings by 7.87%, aided by the commissioning of new freight terminals at Nischintapur, Dhamalgaon, Mirza, Bishramganj and Balurghat. NFR completed 1,043 RKM of electrification, commissioned new lines between Bairabi-Sairang and Araria-Galgolia, and witnessed the historic inauguration of Haibargaon station under the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme by the Hon'ble PM. On the healthcare front, newly renovated Female Surgical and Orthopaedic Wards, four upgraded cabins, a PG Doctor's Hostel and Dormitory, and an advanced Lasotronix Laser Diode System were inaugurated at Central Hospital, Maligaon. A new Kidney Dialysis Machine under PPP model was also introduced to provide advanced care for renal patients. To mark the occasion, the GM inaugurated new passenger and staff facilities and praised the efforts of RPF, which rescued 738 runaway children, 89 victims of trafficking and apprehended 92 illegal immigrants & 78 touts during the year. Members of the NFRWWO also celebrated the day by distributing essentials among admitted patients at Central Hospital, Maligaon. The GM also thanked and appreciated various works that NFRWWO contributed towards welfare activities, education & environmental conservation within the zone. The celebration concluded with a special programme at Eco Park, Amingaon, where the RPF organised tree plantation, cultural events and awareness campaigns for environmental conservation and community engagement, reaffirming its role as both protectors of railway property and guardians of social values.

## At the centre of Punjab farmer's VRS plan, a fast growing grass he calls green gold

**Bamboo plantation gains ground as low-maintenance, high-profit crop; thrives in any soil, survives drought and excess water**

**Chandigarh . (Agency)**

An unplanned experiment, owing to push by a forest department officer, has — in a span of just about three years — turned into a multi-state bamboo farming enterprise spanning Assam, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. At the centre of this enterprise is Rajveer Singh Brar (56), a progressive farmer from Rampura village in Punjab's Fazilka.

In 2022, Brar received 200–300 bamboo saplings from the forest department for his farm in Chandigarh. They were left unplanted and died. "When the forest department officer visited again, he was disappointed, and we felt ashamed. He brought more saplings under the government's afforestation policy and got them planted on our farm. Those plants grew well," recalls Brar.

Encouraged, Brar experimented by planting bamboo along the boundary of his kinnow orchards in the Abohar–Fazilka area. The orchards often suffered from hot winds that scorched the fresh leaves of kinnow plants. "We could have gone for eucalyptus or poplar, but those need replanting every 5–6 years and are vulnerable to wind damage. Locally procured bamboo didn't survive well either," say Brar, adding that his father then asked him to study bamboo farming seriously. This led to visits to agricultural

universities and extensive travel — from Maharashtra's Konkan belt, including the village Nee Paani ("No Water"), where bamboo cultivation thrives, to Kodai, which has extensive bamboo plantations, followed by Madhya Pradesh, and later the Northeastern states, including Nagaland and Assam, to understand the nuances of bamboo farming.

His family acquired a piece of land in Assam's Silchar to set up a nursery. "Bamboo thrives in the Northeast. Growing our plants there helped ensure survival in Punjab and other northern states," Brar says.

Brar experiment in bamboo farming began with a 6-acre block in Abohar. Bamboo saplings were planted along an acre of kinnow orchard. He then helped several farmers to grow these in Suratgarh, Jaipur, Bikaner, and Dausa in Rajasthan, parts of Haryana and Punjab. "It can grow on both dry and waterlogged land, depending on the variety," he says.

"There are different propagation methods — tissue culture, seeds, and rhizomes — for preparing sapling. Our nursery in Silchar uses seeds to produce saplings. Initially, there was no profit or loss, but now we've built a viable business model. We provide complete assistance — from supplying saplings to guiding cultivation and post-harvest processes," Brar adds.

## General council meeting will be held as planned, says Ramadoss



**VILLUPURAM . (Agency)**

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder Dr S Ramadoss on Saturday confirmed that the party's special general council meeting will be held as scheduled on Sunday at a private marriage hall near Puducherry.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Thailapuram, he said, "There is no change in the meeting. Some miscreants are spreading rumours on social media that the meeting has been cancelled. I strongly state that the meeting will take place under my leadership. Members should not believe such rumours."

Regarding his wife Saraswathi's 77th birthday celebrations on Friday, he said, "Anbumani came with his family and conveyed wishes. I welcomed him, and apart from that, we did not discuss anything. Claims about reconciliation are false."

The event marked the first time Ramadoss and Anbumani were seen together in two months. Ramadoss said important resolutions would be passed at the meeting and urged all members to attend. "At least 4,000 members are expected to participate," he added.

He also expressed condolences on the demise of Nagaland Governor La Ganesan, describing him as a close friend. Further, he alleged that his supporters were being threatened. "My personal assistant Swaminathan and his family have received death threats. A complaint has been lodged with the DGP, request protection for his family," he said.

## NHAI swings into action, takes steps to repair service roads amid backlash

**KOCHI . (Agency)**

Faced with growing backlash over poor maintenance of service roads, especially on stretches along the Thrissur-Ernakulam highway where underpass construction activities are in progress, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on Saturday initiated temporary measures to fill up the potholes at Muringoor.

The action comes after the traffic movement along the highway section went haywire, and the state authorities directed the central agency to adopt corrective measures on a war footing. "The workers of NHAI concessionaire Guruvayur Infrastructure Pvt Ltd filled up the potholes at Muringoor Junction this afternoon. This after the Thrissur Superintendent of Police directed the agency to take measures on a war footing to ease the acute traffic congestion," a police official of Koratty police station said.

Earlier on Friday night, a timber-laden lorry overturned, falling into a deep pothole on the service road near Muringoor underpass construction site. A heavy traffic congestion, extending up to 15 hours, was experienced after the lorry overturned, making its removal a difficult and time-consuming task for rescue teams. The timber logs scattered across the road further obstructed traffic, necessitating a meticulous clearing operation. hat tickets are printed with precautions.

## Another cloudburst in Himachal's Mandi, traffic disrupted on Chandigarh-Manali highway

**Shimla .** A massive cloudburst was reported at the Takoli area in the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh Sunday morning. It occurred over Shalana Nala in the Takoli area of Mandi, resulting in water and debris flooding the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane highway at Takoli and disrupting traffic on the Chandigarh-Manali National Highway.

The cloudburst took place in the early morning hours, causing destruction of infrastructure along with private and government properties. No casualties have been reported in the fresh cloudburst so far. Residents, tourists, and workers have been strictly advised to maintain a safe distance from the riverbanks during this period.

The district administration of Mandi has decided to release additional water from the Pandoh Dam into the Beas River, depending on the inflow. Apart from these, the boundary walls of some government offices

and a residential colony of an infrastructure firm were also damaged. A senior officer said the alternative route via Kataula-Kamand between Mandi and Kullu was also affected, and the debris on this route will be cleared by afternoon. The officer said the route will be open for light vehicles.

Mandi has emerged as the epicentre of the natural disaster in the shape of cloudbursts, landslides, and flash floods in the 2025 monsoon. Mandi witnessed the first disaster on the night of June 30 when a series of cloudbursts hit the areas of Bagsiad, Bagchanogi, Jhanjheli, Thunag, Dharampur, Karsog, and Gohar that fall



affected residents, site inspections, and scientific data, ruled that not less than 12 cloudbursts occurred that night. The water levels in five seasonal rivulets had risen unexpectedly, and the width of local nullahs expanded from a few feet to between 30 and 45 meters, affecting human settlements located at a significant distance from the streambeds.

Meanwhile, a cloudburst struck a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, leaving at least four people dead and six injured, as per reports.

## Tirumala Laddu sales soar: Four lakh units sold daily with enhanced quality

**TIRUMALA . (Agency)**

The iconic Tirumala Laddu, a sacred offering to Lord Venkateswara and a symbol of divine grace at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), has achieved a historic milestone. For the entire month of July 2025, the production and sale of laddus surpassed an unprecedented 4 lakh per day, a feat attributed to rigorous quality control measures, enhanced staffing and improved incentives under the current TTD administration.

The Tirumala Laddu, cherished by devotees as a blessed prasadam, is more than just a sweet—it embodies centuries of tradition and devotion. Official records reveal that TTD produced 1,25,10,300 laddus and sold 1,24,40,082 in July, generating a revenue of Rs 62.2 crore. This remarkable achievement marks a significant leap from the past, when such sales were typically seen only during major festivals like Brahmotsavam. The TTD, under the leadership of Trust Board Chairman

BR Naidu and Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao, has implemented key reforms to enhance production efficiency and quality. Three months ago, the Trust Board approved the addition of 84 workers, bringing the total workforce involved in laddu production to approximately 1,150. This includes 700 Potu workers (Brahmin cooks), 209 exclusive sales staff, office personnel, ingredient truck loaders, unloaders, tray cleaners, and technical staff managing gas plants and ghee supply lines.

The administration also alleviated financial burdens on workers by removing GST from their wages and increasing wages, fostering greater dedication.

Assistant Executive Officer (AEO) Munirathnam, under the supervision of Additional EO Venkaiah Choudhary, oversees critical quality checks, including the sugar syrup density, texture, and ingredient proportions, such as cashew, raisins, cardamom, and sugar candy.

## Kerala CPM hit by fresh row as businessman alleges party secretary's son leaked confidential letter

**A new controversy erupted when Chennai-based businessman Muhammad Sharshad alleged that the son of CPM state secretary MV Govindan leaked a confidential letter.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, (Agency)**

With just months to go for the crucial assembly election, fresh trouble is brewing in the Kerala CPM as serious allegations surface against senior leaders.

A new controversy erupted when Chennai-based businessman Muhammad Sharshad alleged that the son of CPM state secretary MV Govindan leaked a confidential letter. Sharshad has submitted a complaint to CPM general secretary MA Baby in this regard. According to Sharshad, he had earlier written to the CPM politburo detailing the financial deals of some CPM leaders, along with supporting documents. However, those very documents later appeared in court when Rajesh Krishna, a UK-based businessman,

submitted them in connection with a defamation case.

Sharshad, in his complaint to the politburo, alleged that certain party leaders received

which Krishna filed a defamation suit in the Delhi High Court.

According to Sharshad, Krishna received access to the confidential letter and documents



unaccounted money from Krishna. He claimed that Krishna accessed these documents when the letter was leaked, following

through Govindan's son, Shyam. So far, the party leadership has not officially responded to the allegations.

## CM Siddaramaiah should resign: BJP; Opposition politicising Dharmasthala issue: Congress

**BENGALURU . (Agency)**

Even as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) continues its probe into alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala, the Opposition BJP and Ruling Congress leaders are engaged in a political slugfest.

While the BJP has urged the State Government to take steps to stop the alleged smear campaign in the name of SIT probing the case, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hit back by accusing the saffron party of trying to politicise the issue.

Leader of Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should apologise to the people of Karnataka and resign. He said that since the SIT has not found anything during the probe, the government has realised its mistake, and Shivakumar is now saying there was a conspiracy against Dharmasthala.

Narayanaswamy said that the people who were involved in the smear campaign in Sabarimala are working against Dharmasthala, and the Congress is working

like a Communist Party. He urged the State Government to arrest the anonymous complainant, who claimed that he had buried bodies. The BJP leader alleged that the SIT is working as per the directives of the anonymous complainant.

On Sunday, Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, MLA SR Vishwanath, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and party office bearers from the coastal Karnataka region will visit Dharmasthala. BJP workers headed by MLA SR Vishwanath who started a massive rally from Bengaluru to Dharmasthala reached the holy town on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip of the Opposition in Council N Ravi Kumar urged Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara to place before both Houses of the Legislature the interim report of the SIT probe and remove the misgivings that have already set in the minds of the people. The government should set a deadline for the

SIT to complete the probe, he said. "The people are seething with anger and resentment. In case, god forbid, if there is a confrontation between the Dharmasthala



devotees and those so-called social reformers, then the consequences will be unimaginable. The government will be solely responsible if such a dangerous situation arises," Ravi Kumar said.

**DKS hits back**

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar alleged that the BJP is only interested in exploiting the issue for its political gains.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, he said that the BJP did not say a word when the complaint was lodged, but now they are trying to play politics over it. "They think that Hinduism is their private property and they need Dharmasthala only for political gains," he said.

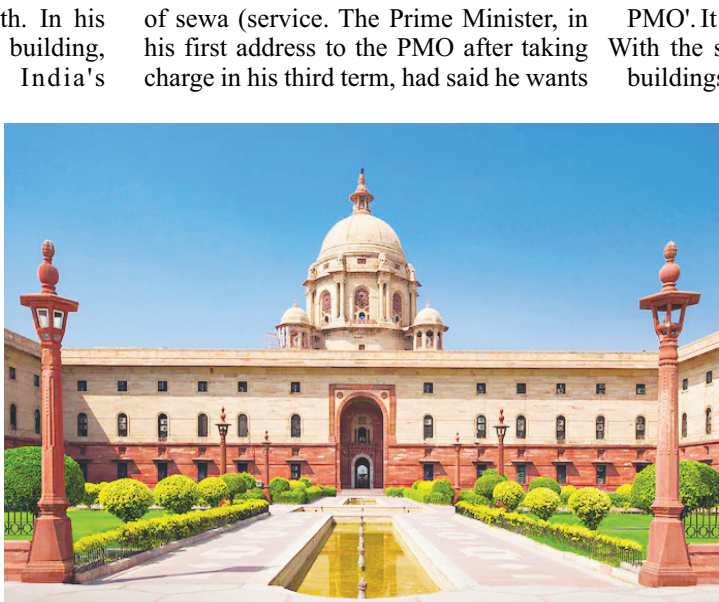
He said they are interested in protecting the honour of Dharmasthala and don't want politics. The culprits must be punished, he said. "The demand is not wrong. But why is the BJP talking like this after welcoming the formation of the SIT? " the Deputy Chief Minister said, responding to a question on demand for narco analysis on the complainant. Shivakumar further said they will not interfere in the investigation, and Congress leaders raised their voice in favour of Dharmasthala much earlier than the BJP leaders.



# 78 Years After 1947, PMO To Leave South Block For New Central Vista Address

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), currently located in the South Block, is set to shift to Executive Enclave, a few hundred metres away, next month, sources in the government said. The Executive Enclave has been readied to house the PMO and other top government offices under the Central Vista project. Besides the PMO, the Executive Enclave has the Cabinet Secretariat, National Security Council Secretariat and a conferencing facility. The new PMO is also closer to the Prime Minister's residence.  
The need for the construction of new office buildings was primarily due to space constraints. The old buildings did not have modern facilities. It was felt that the Indian government needed new buildings in sync with its image as an emerging economic power. Earlier, the ministries of Home Affairs and Personnel were shifted to Kartavya Bhavan-3, which the Prime

Minister inaugurated this month. In his address after inaugurating the building, the Prime Minister said India's administrative machinery had been operating from buildings constructed during the British colonial era. He spoke about the poor working conditions in these old buildings, which lack adequate space, lighting, and ventilation. He also said it is difficult to imagine how an important ministry like the Ministry of Home Affairs functioned for nearly 100 years from a single building with insufficient infrastructure.  
The new PMO, officials say, could get a new name in keeping with the trend of the Centre naming all Central Vista projects. According to reports, the new PMO could be named to reflect the spirit



the PMO to become a place for public service. "The PMO should be 'people's

PMO'. It cannot be Modi's PMO," he said. With the shifting of major offices to new buildings, the North Block and South Block, the nerve centre of the Indian government for nearly eight decades, will be turned into a public museum called 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat Sangrahalaya'. According to the government, an agreement has been signed between National Museum and France Museums Development for co-operation in the development of the museum. "This project (is) aimed at showcasing India's cultural heritage - a celebration of timeless & eternal India to explore our proud past, illuminate the present & imagine the bright future," the government has said.

## Thar driver arrested after fatal Delhi hit-and-run, was drunk driving: Cops



**Agency New Delhi.**  
Two days after a man was crushed to death by a Thar in Delhi, the driver has been arrested, police told India Today TV on Sunday. The accused, Amarinder, was returning from a party when he rammed into the 40-year-old man, who had parked his motorcycle behind a truck, killing him on the spot. The entire incident was captured on CCTV. A video that surfaced after the incident showed two liquor bottles on the SUV's front seat. The driver, who initially fled the scene, had been on the run since Friday night before being arrested today.  
The victim, Bechu Lal, was on his way to a hospital when the accident occurred. He had parked his motorcycle behind a truck when the Thar ploughed into it.  
After the collision, the Thar mounted the footpath, crashed into an electric pole and a roadside stone seat before coming to a halt. The driver fled immediately. Earlier this month, a pedestrian was killed, and another was injured after being run over by a Thar near the Gyarah Murti landmark in the Chanakypuri area. Following the incident, liquor bottles, hard drugs, including LSD and cocaine, were recovered from the vehicle.

## Delhi police chief sets priorities for department: Self-reliance, tech and public trust

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Delhi Police Commissioner SBK Singh on Saturday hoisted the Tricolour at police headquarters on the 79th Independence Day and outlined a roadmap for the police force in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech. He emphasised three priorities for Delhi Police to pursue in mission mode — achieving self-reliance (Atmanirbharta), leveraging technology, and fostering healthy competition.  
In the context of Atmanirbharta, the CP has directed Delhi Police units to work on this aspect and come up with a proposal within 15 days' time. The aim is to make Delhi Police self-reliant on many fronts to stop our dependence on other units for things like commandos, bomb disposal squads, and wireless sets, among others.  
"Although the Delhi Police has always been making the best use of technology, and we are way ahead on this front, there is still a need to go further. Whether it is a matter of surveillance systems, preventing cybercrime, anti-drone technology, or the ability to fight terrorists, the use of technology is required in every field," Singh said.  
Singh further directed all the police units handling technology-related matters to form committees to conduct necessary studies, and submit proposals within a month to enhance the use of technology in official functions. He stressed, "We need to build a sense of healthy competition and shun the feeling of jealousy. We need to embrace this principle at individual and as well as at the organisational level," he said.  
Despite working so hard, even beyond the working hours, somewhere we have not been able to win the trust of the public in the form that we should have done.  
Every policeman needs to come out of a feudalistic mindset and shift attitude from 'Shasak Bhav' to 'Sewa Bhav' to earn the trust of the public. This will enable the public to approach police without any hesitation in case of need," he stated.

## Woman Crying Doesn't 'Per Se' Prove Dowry Harassment: Delhi High Court

**Justice Neena Bansal Krishna made observation while dismissing petition against discharge of a husband and his family from charges of dowry harassment**

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Delhi High Court has held that mere fact that a woman was crying, cannot per se make out any case of dowry harassment. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna made the observation while dismissing a petition against the discharge of a husband and his family from charges of cruelty and dowry harassment.  
According to the prosecution, the woman, married in December 2010, faced harassment and dowry demands from her husband and in-laws. Her family claimed that they spent nearly Rs 4 lakh on the wedding, alleging that later demands for a motorcycle, cash, and a gold bracelet were made by the husband and in-laws. The woman, a mother of two daughters, died on 31 March 2014. "Statement of



the sister of the deceased under Section 161 Cr.P.C. was recorded wherein she also stated that on the occasion of Holi, she had called her sister and found her crying.  
However, merely because the deceased was crying, cannot per se make out any case of dowry harassment," the high court said.  
The trial court had discharged the

accused noting that the death took place due to pneumonia, a natural cause. The high court also emphasised that the post-mortem report attributed the cause of death to pneumonia, not cruelty.  
"In the present case, to bring in the clause of cruelty leading to the death of the woman, it may be noted that the deceased had died not because of any act of cruelty but for natural reasons... Therefore, Clause (a) to the Explanation annexed to Section 498A IPC is not attracted," the Court said.  
It also observed that the father of the woman neither mentioned specific incidents nor did he provide proof of giving money to the accused. "Such bald assertions, in the given situation, cannot be held to be even making out a prima facie case of harassment," the judge added.

## All 1,700 private schools in city under new fee law: Ashish Sood

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Delhi government has brought all 1,700 private schools in the city under a new fee regulation law, with provisions for parental participation and veto power on fee hikes, Education Minister Ashish Sood said during an event with parents.  
Speaking at a "Parents' Town Hall" in Janakpuri, Sood said the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025, passed in the Monsoon Session, seeks to end arbitrary fee hikes and ensure transparency in the fee fixation process.  
About 200 parents attended the interaction, where the minister explained key provisions of the law, including penalties for non-compliance. Schools that raise fees

without government approval will face fines ranging from `1 lakh to `10 lakh, with double penalties if excess charges are not refunded, he said, according to an official statement.



The bill also grants the Director of Education powers similar to those of a sub-divisional magistrate to ensure uniform action against violations, it

stated. Committees comprising parents, teachers, school management, and government representatives will be involved in deciding school fees, it added.  
Sood said the new law closes a loophole in the 1973 rules, under which only 300 schools were covered by fee regulation. "Now, all private schools in Delhi will come under the ambit of fee regulation," he said. The minister criticised previous governments for failing to establish a transparent system to regulate private school fees. "Those who claimed to have brought an education revolution did not make real improvements in government schools," he said, adding that many parents opted for private schools because of the poor state of public education facilities.

# LSE Graduate Among 3 Arrested Over Cyber Extortion Bid From Thailand

**The three men allegedly tried to extort money from a businessman in cryptocurrency through a WhatsApp call from Thailand.**

**Agency New Delhi.**  
A post-graduate from the London School of Economics and two others have been arrested in a cyber extortion case in Delhi. The three men allegedly tried to extort money from a businessman through a WhatsApp call from Thailand. They demanded that he transfer the money through cryptocurrency and threatened to kill his children if he refused. The accused were identified as Sumit, 42, Prince, 35, and Nitish, 31, all residents of Delhi. Nitish has a master's degree from the London School of Economics (LSE), while Sumit is a BCom graduate. Prince had studied till the ninth standard.  
The police's cyber investigation team had started tracking the accused after the businessman lodged a complaint at the DBG Road police station. In his complaint, he alleged that he had

received an international call on WhatsApp, and that the caller introduced himself as a notorious gangster. The caller, he alleged, sent a crypto QR code and asked him to deposit the money. If he didn't listen to him, the caller threatened to shoot his children dead, he said. The police immediately lodged an extortion case and began their investigation along with the cyber police.  
The technical team investigated the WhatsApp call and QR codes with advanced cyber tools, and the source of the transaction was traced to Thailand.  
The crypto money trail was also tracked. Meanwhile, a second team kept an eye on the accused's hideouts in Delhi. As

soon as they returned to India from Thailand, they were arrested by the police.



During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were in heavy debt and came up with the extortion plan as an easy way to

pay off their loans. Sumit, who knew the victim, chose the target and used the name of a gangster to scare him. To avoid getting caught, the three accused went to Thailand.  
They bought international SIM cards from there and made the WhatsApp calls for extortion. The mobile phone used to create the QR code, as well as the phone from which the call was made, have been recovered. "This case shows that debt and greed can lead a person to the wrong path. No matter how clever the accused pretends to be, Delhi Police's cyber team is capable of reaching every criminal through technology," said Nidhan Valson, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central District.

## Body of seven-year-old boy who fell into drain in Welcome area pulled out



**Agency New Delhi.**  
The body of a seven-year-old boy, who had fallen into an open drain while trying to catch a kite in northeast Delhi's Welcome area, was recovered on Saturday, police said.  
"The incident took place on Friday evening near Lakdi Market Puliya, where the boy, whose identity has not been disclosed, was playing. He slipped and fell into the drain while trying to catch a kite," a police officer said.  
The search-and-rescue operation began soon after the incident on Friday. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) was alerted, and a rescue operation was launched. However, it had to be suspended due to darkness and was resumed early Saturday morning, when the boy's body was recovered, the official added.  
"We received a call on Friday evening regarding a child falling into a drain. A team immediately reached the spot and found that the boy had slipped into the water while chasing a kite," a police officer said. "On Saturday morning, the rescue operation was resumed and the body of the child was recovered. The body was sent to GTB Hospital for post-mortem examination. Legal action has been initiated by the police and further investigation is on," the officer added.

## Gangster Salman Tyagi Found Dead In Delhi Jail, Suicide Suspected: Cops

**Agency New Delhi.**  
A notorious gangster with several criminal cases registered against him, including those for murder and extortion, was found dead in his cell at Mandoli Jail here on Saturday, officials said. They said police suspect that he died by suicide.  
The inmate, identified as Salman Tyagi, was found hanging during a routine inspection in Jail Number 15. Prison authorities said he had used a bedsheet to make a noose. He was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said. Police and jail officials have launched an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his death. "A probe has been initiated. We are examining how the incident occurred and what could have led him to take this step. A detailed report will be submitted," a senior officer said.  
Tyagi was widely known in Delhi's underworld. Convicted under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, he had a long record of offences, including cases of extortion and organised violence. He began his criminal career with the infamous Neeraj Bawana gang but later attempted to build his own network, investigators said.  
Sources said that in recent years, Tyagi sought to align himself with the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate. Even while lodged in jail, he allegedly continued to issue instructions to his associates.  
Last year, he reportedly ordered an attack on two businessmen in Delhi to extort Rs 50 lakh from them. Police believe the move was intended to show his influence and gain Bishnoi's trust.



NEWS BOX

India dream intact, Yash Dhull says staying in the present is his top priority



New Delhi. (Agency)

For Yash Dhull, the dream of donning the India jersey remains alive, but the young Delhi batter insists his focus is firmly fixed on the here and now. The former India U-19 World Cup-winning captain has learned, through both setbacks and successes, that looking too far ahead can prove costly. That mindset was evident in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) on Saturday, where the 22-year-old showcased his talent with a breathtaking 51-ball 105. His knock, studded with 14 fours and four sixes, powered Central Delhi Kings to 197/7 in a rain-hit clash, setting up a 15-run win over North Delhi Strikers.

"I am thinking about how I can grab the opportunity that I have if you think too much about the future, you can't play well in the present," Dhull told PTI Videos.

"I am living in the present and doing my practice side by side Yes, batting a bit against the red ball the lessons at the National Cricket Academy (now BCCI Centre of Excellence) on how to switch from white ball to red ball cricket are helping me a lot right now," he added.

A heart surgery for a "minor" congenital issue in July last year forced Dhull to pause, reassess and eventually come back stronger on the cricket field. "That incident helped me a lot because I got to know what all I can do No one was standing with me at that time. I knew I was alone, and I had no choice but to make a comeback. I just kept myself mentally strong," Dhull said.

"(But) I had confidence in myself. I knew I would play again one day and I knew how to make it and how I will make it," he recalled.

If his inner strength carried him through the toughest period, his coaches helped shape his resurgence. "They are the ones who taught me everything. I am blessed to have such good coaches. I have Rajesh Nagar sir and Pradeep Kochhar sir who have taught me. They must be very happy to see my matches. I am very happy to play under them," he said. Dhull's early promise was evident in his debut Ranji Trophy season in 2021-22 when he finished as Delhi's leading run-getter with 479 runs in six innings at a staggering average of 119.75. That run included hundreds in both innings on debut and an unbeaten double century against Chhattisgarh.

No Babar, Rizwan as Pakistan name 17-man squad for Asia Cup and UAE tri-series

New Delhi. (Agency)

Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were the most notable omissions as Pakistan named their 17-member squad for the upcoming T20I tri-series in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the 2025 Asia Cup. Both batters remain out of T20I contention, having last featured during the tour of South Africa in December.

Salman Ali Agha will continue to lead the side, while Shaheen Shah Afridi retains his place after making his T20I return during the West Indies tour, following a brief absence in the Bangladesh series.

The Asia Cup is set to begin on September 9, with Pakistan opening their campaign against Oman on September 12 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Drawn in Group A, Pakistan will face arch-rivals India, alongside Oman and hosts UAE.

Before the Asia Cup, Pakistan will participate in a T20I tri-series also featuring Afghanistan and hosts UAE. The series kicks off on August 29 at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

**Pakistan squad for tri-series and Asia Cup**

Salman Ali Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Harris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Sufyan Moqim.

**Pakistan bounce back in West Indies**

Pakistan will head to the Asia Cup on a high after winning the T20I series in the West Indies 2-1, bouncing back strongly from a 2-1 series defeat in Bangladesh in late July 2025. They began the Caribbean series with a 14-run win in the opener, posting 178 for six and defending it successfully.

The West Indies responded with a thrilling 2-wicket victory in the second match, sealed by Jason Holder's explosive all-round performance, including a last-ball boundary. In the decider, Pakistan sealed the series with a 13-run win after defending 189 for four.

The victory was built on a commanding 138-run opening stand between Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan, followed by tight bowling at the death. Mohammad Nawaz was named Player of the Series for his consistent performances.

FIFA's Players' Voice Panel to aid Bournemouth's Semenyo after racist abuse

Bournemouth forward Antoine

Semenyo has received backing from FIFA's Players' Voice Panel after being subjected to racist abuse during Friday's Premier League opener against Liverpool at Anfield.

New Delhi. (Agency)

FIFA has pledged to support Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo through its Players' Voice Panel after the Ghana international was subjected to racist abuse during Friday's Premier League opener against Liverpool at Anfield. Referee Anthony Taylor stopped play in the first half after Semenyo was targeted by a man in the crowd. Taylor spoke to both managers and captains before the match resumed.

Merseyside Police confirmed a 47-year-old man from Liverpool had been ejected from the ground, arrested on suspicion of a racially aggravated public order offence, and taken into custody for questioning.

Semenyo later expressed his gratitude for the solidarity he received on and off the pitch. "Last night at Anfield will stay with me forever - not because of one person's words, but because of how the entire football family stood together," he wrote on Instagram. "To my Bournemouth teammates who supported me in that moment, to the Liverpool players and fans who showed their true character, to the Premier League officials who handled it professionally - thank you. Football showed its best side when it mattered most.

"Scoring those two goals felt like speaking the only language that truly matters on the pitch. This is why I play - for moments like these, for my teammates, for everyone who believes in what this beautiful game can be. "The overwhelming messages of support from across the football world remind me

why I love this sport. We keep moving forward, together."

Despite the abuse, Semenyo struck twice in the second half to haul Bournemouth level after Liverpool had gone 2-0 up, before the hosts secured a 4-2 victory with two late goals.



Bournemouth head coach Andoni Iraola admitted: "It's a big shame that these things keep happening." Club captain Adam Smith added, "Totally unacceptable; I'm kind of in shock it happened in this day and age. I don't know how Ant has carried on playing and come up with these goals."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino was quick to condemn the incident. "Football has no place for racism or any form of discrimination - Antoine's courage and performance on the pitch, despite such adversity, is a powerful example of strength and dignity for players worldwide," Infantino said.

"The Players' Voice Panel, established as part of the five pillars against racism adopted by FIFA Congress in 2024, will be in touch with Antoine and is monitoring these situations closely. We are committed to ensuring that players are respected and protected, and that competition organisers and law enforcement authorities take appropriate action."

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters also reinforced the league's stance. "Anyone guilty of racist abuse would be banned from stadiums and could face prosecution," he warned on Saturday. Semenyo later revealed he had been racially abused online after the match, underscoring how football continues to battle discrimination despite unified condemnation across the game.

UFC 319: Khamzat Chimaev dominates Dricus du Plessis to win Middleweight title



New Delhi. (Agency)

Khamzat Chimaev climbed to the top of the UFC Middleweight division as he dethroned Dricus du Plessis with a total dominant performance at UFC 319 on Saturday, August 17. Chimaev won the fight via unanimous decision, with all the judges scoring in favour of the Chechen-born star.

The dominance of Chimaev could be seen with the stats during the fight as he dominated Du Plessis completely. The 31-year-old landed a total of 529 strikes as compared to the 45 of Du Plessis and executed 12 out of 17 takedowns he attempted. Chimaev also had a significant strike percentage of 78 percent.

Borz set the tone for the fight early in the opening minute, putting in a takedown to bring the fight to the mat. He held the South African in a crucifix position before raining down punches on Du Plessis. However, the South African survived. Round two started much like the first one as Chimaev took the fight to the mat and got into a strong spot to put in knee strikes and produced choke attempts as Du Plessis was left struggling to find rhythm in the fight. The third and fourth rounds saw the South African get worn down by Chimaev.

Du Plessis had a glimmer of hope in the fifth round as he got into a strong position, but it was a little too late as both men went the distance. The judges scored the fight 50-44 in the favour of Chimaev, crowning him as the new middleweight king.

'I never game plan'

Chimaev said that he never has a game plan during a fight and claimed he was working like he would do in the gym. The new UFC middleweight champion also paid tribute to Du Plessis, saying he was a real lion.

"I never game-plan. I just came in, work like I do in the gym. That guy is strong, I couldn't finish, respect that guy, he's the only champion who was saying my name. This guy has real heart, a real lion, a real African lion," Chimaev said, as quoted by Reuters.

Baby AB title is a big burden to carry: Glenn Maxwell dissects Dewald Brevis's rise

New Delhi. (Agency)

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has weighed in on Dewald Brevis's rise, saying the young South African has had to carry the weight of expectation that comes with being called "Baby AB."

Brevis, just 22, has long been compared to AB de Villiers, a nickname that followed him from his Under-19 days. As quoted by Yahoo News, Maxwell admitted the tag was more of a burden than a blessing, given how quickly the youngster was thrown into the international spotlight.

"It's a pretty heavy burden he had to have early in his career," Maxwell said. "He probably got fast-tracked a little bit into the South African side. He's gone away, worked on his game, and he's come back playing beautifully. His bat swing is really pure—he's hard to stop when he gets going."

Brevis's recent form has been nothing short of spectacular. In the second T20I against Australia, he hammered a breathtaking and unbeaten 125 off 56 balls, laced with 12 fours and eight sixes. The knock, which came at a strike rate of 223, powered South



Africa to 218/7 and helped seal a 53-run win. It was also the fastest T20I century ever by a South African, surpassing a record previously held by Virat Kohli

against the same opposition in 2022. That knock catapulted Brevis up the ICC T20I charts, climbing 80 places to reach 21st position with a career-best 614 rating points.

Brevis's journey hasn't been smooth. After making an eye-catching start with Mumbai Indians, a slump in form saw him struggle for consistency and eventually part ways with the franchise. But IPL 2025 gave him a fresh start with Chennai Super Kings. Signed as an injury replacement for Rs 2.2 crore, Brevis scored 225 runs in six matches at a strike rate of 180, including two half-centuries that reminded fans of his fearless style. Now with two Tests and 10 T20Is under his belt, Brevis is in contention for South Africa's ODI squad against Australia. No longer weighed down by the "Baby AB" tag, he looks ready to carve out his own identity in world cricket.

Cincinnati Open: Terence Atmane gifts Jannik Sinner Pokemon card on 24th birthday

New Delhi. (Agency)

French qualifier Terence Atmane brought a heartfelt touch to the 2025 Cincinnati Open semi-finals, surprising world No. 1 Jannik Sinner with a thoughtful birthday gesture ahead of their clash. Just before taking the court on Sinner's 24th birthday, Atmane—an avid Pokemon card collector—gifted him a Pikachu card from his personal stash. The unexpected moment sparked smiles and a warm embrace in the tunnel before they stepped onto Centre Court.

But once the match began, Sinner, who won the Wimbledon last month, quickly shifted the tone. The top seed delivered a clinical performance, dispatching Atmane 7-6 (4), 6-2 in just under 90 minutes. Sinner, who has held the top ATP ranking for the last 14 months, was near-flawless on serve, winning 91 percent of his first-serve points and never facing a break point.



"It's his birthday today so I had to give him a little something. I was thinking last night about what I should give to him. I was like, 'I think I still have some Pokemon cards that I brought from France. Why not give him just a Pokemon card?' I'm a Pokemon card collector. I think this is the perfect gift. If that was my birthday, I would be so happy

that someone gave me a Pokemon card," Atmane said after the match.

Speaking on Tennis Channel about the Pokemon card gift, Sinner said, "I was talking to him a little bit in the locker room. He has one of the biggest collections of Pokemon cards, and I'm very lucky that I got one of his ones. It was just a nice moment before a match, we didn't know each other at all. So, it was a nice moment ... The card was a kind of Pikachu. It said 30 damage to itself, so I don't know if that is good or not!" Though the result ended Atmane's dream run, the 136th-ranked Frenchman left Cincinnati with his head held high.

His surprise victories over top-10 players Taylor Fritz and Holger Rune marked the biggest wins of his career—and earned him a major rankings boost into the Top 70. In the final, Sinner will next be up against Carlos Alcaraz, who defeated an ailing Alexander Zverev 64, 6-3 in the semis.



## Amazon India upbeat on festive season after strong Prime Day sales

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amazon India is "excited" about the festive season, its optimism bolstered by strong Prime Day sales last month and rising demand from smaller cities, the e-commerce giant's India Head Samir Kumar has said, adding the company has stepped up supply-side readiness to meet expected festive demand.

Festive season shopping remains one of the biggest annual opportunities for brands, driven by cultural calendar, gifting traditions, lucrative discounts dished out, and consumer appetite for new and seasonal products.According to 2025 edition of the JioStar Festive Sentiment Survey, 92 per cent of Indian consumers plan to continue or increase their festive spending this year, signalling robust consumer confidence and a golden opportunity for brands.

"I can tell you that as Amazon, we are preparing well for the event including fulfilment capabilities. We are enabling sellers to send their products into our fulfilment centres and we are getting ready for that. So I'm really excited about the entire festive season," Kumar told PTI.

Referring to the Prime Day sales metrics, Kumar said the "good uptake" was recorded, with especially strong contributions from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

"There was a good uptake and... Tier 2 and 3 cities performed really well.

"So the portion of business that we got from there was really high. As we go past that, we had our freedom sale and now it's coming up to festive season. It's already started and we look forward to the next few months. So the supply side is in place," he said.Amazon last month said that Prime Day this time had more members shopping than any previous Prime Day event in India. According to the e-commerce firm, about 70 per cent of new Prime sign-ups before the event came from tier 2 and tier 3 cities and towns. The number of small and medium businesses receiving a sale during Prime Day 2025 reached an all-time high across all editions, the company had said, adding that over 68 per cent of SMBs participating in the event were from tier 2-3 cities and beyond.

## Milk Order Scam: 71-Year-Old Mumbai Woman Loses Rs 18.5 Lakh To Online Fraud



New Delhi.(Agency)

In today's digital age, shopping online for everything from groceries to daily essentials has become a part of everyday life. But for a 71-year-old woman from Mumbai's Wadala area, a simple attempt to order just 1 litre of milk online took a shocking turn. What seemed like a routine purchase ended in disaster, as she ended up losing Rs 18.5 lakh from her bank accounts to a scam.

### How the Fraud Unfolded

It all started on August 4, when the woman received a call from a man named Deepak, who claimed to be an executive from a milk supply company. He told her she could place her order through a link he sent. Trusting him, she clicked on the link and entered her details and that's when the scam began.

Deepak kept her on the phone for nearly an hour, guiding her step-by-step as she filled out the form. Frustrated, she eventually hung up. But he called back the next day, managing to gather even more of her personal information.

Within days, the damage was done. When she visited her bank, she was shocked to find that Rs 1.7 lakh had already been withdrawn. Soon after, she discovered that money had also vanished from her two other accounts adding up to a total loss of Rs 18.5 lakh.

### Case Registered as Police Begin Investigation

Police later confirmed that the woman's phone had been hacked after she clicked on the fake link. A case has been registered, and an investigation is currently in progress to track down the scammer and recover the stolen money.

## Sebi reports spike in settlement pleas; 703 filed, 284 cleared in Fy25

New Delhi. (Agency)

Markets regulator Sebi has seen a significant increase in settlement pleas as it received as many as 703 applications to settle violations of securities norms in 2024-25, indicating a trend towards resolving disputes without going through lengthy litigation processes.In the financial year 2023-24, the regulator had received 434 settlement pleas.

Of these 703 settlement applications in FY25, the regulator disposed of 284 by passing appropriate settlement orders during the year, while another 272 applications were returned, rejected, or withdrawn, according to Sebi's 2024-25 annual report.The settlement mechanism allows entities to resolve cases with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), without going through lengthy litigation, by paying a settlement fee and complying with certain conditions.

For the 284 applications that were settled, Sebi collected 798.87 crore towards settlement charges, in addition to 64.84 crore as disgorgement charges.The settlement orders were issued for alleged violations of various regulations, including insider trading, fraudulent trading practices, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), mutual funds, and Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), among others.

# Should you let AI analyse your online spending habits?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Using artificial intelligence (AI) to help manage personal spending is no longer a futuristic concept, it's already here, and many people are quietly using it in the background of their daily finances. But should you rely on AI entirely to make financial decisions? Or is it best used as a smart assistant?in spoke to Sameer Mathur, MD and Founder, Roinet Solution, and Manish Mohta, Founder, Learning Spiral, to find out whether AI should lead your financial decisions or simply act as an intelligent assistant standing beside you.

### WHAT DOES AI ACTUALLY DO?

AI-based spending tools go through all your online transactions and look for patterns. Instead of just telling you how much you spent last month, they spot when and where you tend to spend more.

These tools can scan huge volumes of transactions in seconds and spot trends

that humans often overlook. As Mathur explains, "AI can process large volumes of transactions instantly, identifying spending patterns and areas where costs can be reduced. It can also personalise financial insights based on an individual's lifestyle, helping users achieve their savings or investment goals faster."

In simpler terms, AI translates dry numbers into meaningful insights. It sees late-night food orders, festival season splurges and weekend retail therapy, and connects those dots for you.Mohta puts it even more simply, "Think of AI as the financial equivalent of that brutally honest friend who remembers every time you 'accidentally' ordered food at 2 am. It uncovers patterns you'll otherwise be blind to – recency bias, splurge spending, seasonal trends, and habitual patterns."

### CAN YOU TRUST THE NUMBERS?

Most AI tools today are remarkably accurate when it comes to analysing



transactions, assuming the data is complete and properly labelled. As Mathur points out, accuracy levels can reach "above 90% in many cases", although occasional misclassifications are still possible. Mohta agrees, adding that "with clear inputs these tools can be eerily precise, catching even that Rs 49

subscription you forgot existed."

However, both experts make one thing clear: AI is not perfect. Cash purchases, split bills, or wrongly labelled transactions can confuse the system. A quick human check once in a while is still necessary.

### WHAT ABOUT DATA PRIVACY?

Financial data is highly sensitive, and that's where users need to be careful. Reputable AI tools operate under strict privacy standards and regulatory frameworks such as RBI or General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Mathur warns that users should only pick services that "have clear privacy policies and use bank-grade encryption".Manish goes one step further: "If their terms look like a jigsaw puzzle you don't want to figure out, then move on." Look for transparency, end-to-end encryption, and the option to delete your data at any time.

## Market Outlook: Global Events, GST Reforms, FII Trends To Drive Dalal Street This week

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Indian stock market will take cues from a mix of global and domestic triggers when it reopens for trading this week after the Independence Day holiday. Experts say factors such as the outcome of the Donald Trump-Vladimir Putin meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on GST reforms, movements in US markets, and the ongoing buying and selling trends of foreign and domestic investors will play a major role in deciding the direction of Dalal Street.Last week, the Nifty and Sensex finally broke a six-week losing streak, closing with gains of around 1 per cent. However, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued heavy selling, offloading shares worth nearly Rs 10,000 crore

in the cash market.

Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) cushioned the fall with strong purchases of about Rs 19,000 crore. Sector-wise, pharma and auto stocks led the recovery while FMCG shares



lagged behind. One of the biggest triggers for the coming week is the understanding reached between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the Ukraine conflict.

Their meeting in Alaska on Friday did not produce a ceasefire but both leaders signaled progress, which could boost market sentiment globally. Back home, Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day announcement of GST 2.0 reforms is being seen as a positive sign for investors.The PM said the government would roll out major rate cuts by Diwali, especially on everyday-use goods, to make the tax regime more business- and consumer-friendly. Analysts believe this could improve market confidence.Global cues from Wall Street will also have an impact. US markets ended mixed last week, with the Dow closing in the green while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq slipped on weak industrial output data despite stronger retail sales numbers.

## Explainer: Tax-free Limit Of Rs 12 Lakh Excludes Special Income

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 that income up to Rs 12.75 lakh, with a standard deduction of Rs 75,000, will be tax-free under the new tax regime. However, taxpayers should be aware that short-term capital gains and long-term capital gains tax cannot be included in the total income eligible for a full waiver.The Finance Act, 2025, clarified that the rebate under Section 87A is not available for income taxed at special rates. A taxpayer cannot apply the Section 87A rebate against tax liability from income taxed at special rates, such as short-term capital gains under Section 111A or long-term capital gains under Section 112A.

But analysts have noted that this removal of the Section 87A tax rebate



benefit was done through an amendment introduced in Budget 2025, which should only be effective from FY 2025-26 (AY 2026-27) onwards. Currently, Section 87A rebate on special rate incomes is not being granted for FY 2024-25 (AY 2025-26), they noted.

For the unversed, for AY 2025-26, taxpayers with an annual total income of up to Rs 7 lakh qualify for the Section 87A rebate under the new tax regime, while those with an income

of up to Rs 5 lakh qualify under the old tax regime. In this context, a taxpayer's total income is calculated by excluding exempt income and applying allowable deductions, including the standard deduction for salary or pension income.

Applying the Section 87A tax rebate to incomes up to the limits mentioned above should result in a net tax liability of zero. The current Income Tax Return utility, however, does not permit the Section 87A rebate on tax calculated for such special rate income for FY 2024-25.So individuals with a total income under Rs 7 lakh may still incur a tax liability if their earnings primarily come from special-rate capital gains. Analysts waited for the Income Tax Department to provide further clarification on whether.

## FMCG segment seeing 'consumer shift' towards newer, regional brands: Honasa CEO Varun Alagh

### According to Alagh, regional brands are providing stiff

### competition to large, established

### players through aggressive pricing

### strategies and better margins for

### distributors

New Delhi. (Agency)

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is witnessing a notable consumer shift towards newer and regional brands, as buyers increasingly seek value and favour localised offerings, said Honasa Consumer Chairman, CEO, and Co-founder Varun Alagh.According to Alagh, regional brands are providing stiff competition to large, established players through aggressive pricing strategies and better margins for distributors, factors that are impacting the growth trajectory of traditional FMCG giants.

"Overall, there is a consumer shift happening towards newer and regional brands, as large FMCG companies are not growing as strongly," Alagh told PTI.He added that these emerging brands are younger, agile, and more aligned with consumer needs, particularly through vernacular and locally tailored strategies.Following the June quarter results, several large FMCG firms including Britannia, Dabur, Marico, and Hindustan Unilever (HUL) acknowledged the growing competitive pressure from smaller regional players, especially within certain key product categories.

On the overall industry performance in the June quarter, Alagh described it as "subdued," with limited volume gains. However, Honasa Consumer, which owns brands like Mamaearth and The Derma Co., bucked the trend.

"In our case, volume growth is ahead of value growth. It's actually in double digits. So, all of our growth is driven by more consumers buying our



products—a much healthier sign," he said.

Looking ahead, Alagh remains optimistic about Honasa's performance for the remainder of the financial year."We believe that the next three quarters will be better than the first quarter, and we should remain in the double-digit zone for volume growth," he added.Industry leaders from other major FMCG players have echoed concerns over increased competition from regional players.

Britannia Industries Vice Chairman and MD Varun Berry, during the company's earnings call, acknowledged these challenges and said the firm has a "war

chest" ready to "fight many battles in smaller territories." The company is reportedly conducting targeted analyses of these local competitors.

HUL also flagged similar competitive pressure, particularly in its detergent bar segment, which is "well spread out with multiple players—global, local and regional," said CFO Ritesh Tiwari.

Dabur too faced disruption in its iconic 'Lal Tail' baby oil business in regions like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where a local entrant eroded market share. "We will correct that situation... it's a very localised problem, which has been identified," said Dabur CEO Mohit Mahotra.

Marico reported challenges in its coconut oil brand Parachute and its value-added hair oils segment due to what it described as "unreasonable competition." However, MD & CEO Saugata Gupta remains optimistic: "As consumer pricing normalises, we expect Parachute to recover meaningfully in volume growth."

## India's Electronics Production Reaches \$133 Billion In A Decade, Exports Surge



New Delhi.(Agency)

In a major fillip to the 'Make in India' initiative, India's electronics production has surged from \$31 billion to \$133 billion in a decade beginning 2014-15, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said. The electronics exports have also seen a surge of over 47 per cent in Q1 of 2025-26 over the same quarter in 2024-25, the minister informed via an X post."Our government has created several enablers for making India Aatmanirbhar in manufacturing. As a result, we have moved from having 2 mobile manufacturing units in 2014 to over 300 today," he added. One of the greatest journeys has been the transformation from a mobile importer to becoming the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer.

"The electronics sector has also generated large-scale employment opportunities with solar modules, networking devices, charger adapters, and electronic parts, also playing a key role in strengthening our exports," said Goyal.According to latest data compiled by the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA), electronics exports reached \$12.4 billion in Q1 FY26, up from \$8.43 billion in the same period last year. With this momentum, the industry body projects that electronics exports are expected to touch \$46–50 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

The standout performer was the mobile phone segment, which grew by 55 per cent, from \$4.9 billion in Q1 FY25 to estimated \$7.6 billion in Q1 FY26. Non-mobile electronics exports also posted solid growth, rising from \$3.53 billion to estimated \$4.8 billion, an increase of 36 per cent. These include key product segments such as solar modules, switching and routing apparatus, charger adapters and parts, and components.The electronics manufacturing sector has undergone a historic transformation over the past decade. This growth was enabled by well-calibrated policy interventions such as the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, and strong state-industry collaboration.





Only

# Disha Patani

### Can Slay A Street Style Airport Look This Good

Actress Disha Patani was spotted at the airport on Saturday. Her relaxed yet trendy attire soon grabbed eyeballs. The actress, who is famous for her stylish fashion sense, ventured out in a black close-fitting top accompanied by baggy distressed jeans. With her easy styling, she once again demonstrated why she is still a fashion pick among fans. The video posted on Instagram shows the actress commanding attention as she finished her ensemble with oversized sunglasses and a chic handbag, keeping things simple with accessories while letting the outfit take center stage. Her effortless waves and sure-footed stride added to the appeal, leaving fans in awe.

**Statement Fashion**

The black full-sleeved shirt provided a dash of sophistication, while the distressed denim brought a relaxed, streetwear-inspired element. The blend of sophistication and streetwear perfected her airport style.

In other words, Disha's look was at once stylish and laid-back, combining glamour with comfort in a way that only she can make work. Fans took to social media to immediately post compliments, praising her skill at making even plain looks look great.

**Fans Respond To The Appearance**

Her spotting caused immediate reactions on social media, with fans appreciating her fashion sense. Fire emojis, claps and hearts overwhelmed the comments as the affectionate fans still bestow upon the actress. Fans were captivated by her toned physique and effortless style. For her fans, Disha Patani has once again created a new standard for airport style inspiration.



**Future Work**

On the work front, Disha Patani will be part of Welcome To The Jungle, the third part of the successful franchise. She will star alongside Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, Suniel Shetty and Jacqueline Fernandez, and it is one of her most anticipated projects.

Besides this, Disha will make a cameo appearance in Vishal Bhardwaj's next action thriller. The movie, starring Shahid Kapoor, Triptii Dimri and Nana Patekar, adds one more big-ticket project to her kitty. With her movies and her style, Disha Patani stays on top of the big screen as well as the fashion scene.

### Janhvi Kapoor Goes 'Wow Papa' As Boney Kapoor Flaunts New Haircut; Orry Calls Him 'Dashing'



Actress Janhvi Kapoor couldn't stop admiring her father, Boney Kapoor, as he posed in a 22-year-old altered jeans, an 18-year-old shirt, and a fresh haircut. The producer was seen wearing a blue checkered shirt, paired with blue denim and matching loafers. He also flaunted extremely short hair as part of his new look. As Boney dropped some photos of his latest avatar on social media, daughter Janhvi reacted by writing "Wow papa" in the comment section, along with four red heart emojis.

On Wednesday, Boney marked his late wife Sridevi's 62nd birth anniversary by taking a trip down memory lane. He shared a cherished memory from 1990, when the legendary actress mistook one of his compliments for teasing.

Boney took to his official Instagram handle, where he dropped an old picture from Sridevi's 27th birthday. He disclosed that at her birthday party in Chennai, he wished Sridevi a "happy 26th birthday" on purpose, which she misunderstood and thought he was teasing her. Explaining the incident, Boney wrote: "In 1990 her birthday party in chennai when I wished her happy 26th birthday while it was her 27th birthday to make her feel that she had gone younger & it was a compliment, that with every passing day she is getting younger but she taught (thought) I was teasing her." Boney frequently treats the netizens with old photographs of Sridevi and shares anecdotes about their fond memories.

For those who do not know, Boney and Sridevi fell for one another on the sets of the 1987 film "Mr. India". After dating for some time, the couple tied the knot back in 1996. They were blessed with two daughters – Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor. However, Sridevi passed away suddenly in 2018 in Dubai after an accidental drowning at the age of 54.

### Mukesh Khanna Warns Against Ranveer Singh As Shaktimaan: 'He Is Not Mature Enough...'



Mukesh Khanna, who became a household name in the 1990s as Shaktimaan, continues to guard the legacy of India's first iconic superhero with fierce protectiveness. While Sony Pictures announced in 2022 that the cult TV show would be revived as a film trilogy, casting has become the biggest point of contention. Reports suggest the studio wants Ranveer Singh to headline the project, but Khanna has made it abundantly clear that he does not see him as the right fit for the role.

In a recent interaction with Filmygyan, Khanna responded to a fan urging him to accept Ranveer Singh as Shaktimaan. His reply was blunt, "You can't change my mind. You like Ranveer Singh, and I like him too. We've sat and talked for three hours, and he's a very energetic actor. But I have openly said to his face: you can play Tamraj Kilvish. His face has a mischievous positivity. If you make him Shaktimaan, people may enjoy it because he makes you dance, but the role needs someone mature enough."

Khanna emphasized that casting Shaktimaan goes beyond acting ability—it requires an actor's real-life image to align with the purity of the superhero. He said, "Mujhe Shaktimaan ke liye actor nahi chahiye, face bhi chahiye. Kahin na kahin real-life mein agar aapki image galat hai, toh woh beech mein aati hai. Kayi log mujhe Ranveer Singh ke liye bolte hai ki 'Arrey sahab, yeh nashedi ko Shaktimaan mat banana, humare bachpan ki yaadien khatam ho jaayengi.'"

The original Shaktimaan aired on Doordarshan from 1997 to 2005 and ran for 450 episodes. Apart from Khanna in the dual role of Shaktimaan and his bumbling alter ego, Gangadhar, the show starred Kitu Gidwani, Vaishnavi, Surendra Pal, and Tom Alter. Its popularity cemented it as a pioneer of the Indian superhero genre, with reruns and nostalgia still fueling its cult following.

**The Big Screen Battle**

When Sony Pictures announced Shaktimaan: The Movie, the teaser promised a trilogy and described it as the grand revival of India's very own superhero. However, disagreements over casting have sparked debate. Khanna insists Ranveer Singh isn't suited for the role, while director Basil Joseph, reportedly attached to helm the project, has doubled down on Singh's involvement.

Speaking to Subhash K. Jha for Bollywood Hungama, Joseph said, "No one else is doing Shaktimaan. It is Ranveer Singh and no one else. Whoever is spreading rumours of his replacement clearly has their own agenda."

# Adah Sharma

### On Negativity Around The Kerala Story National Award Win: 'Villains Never Think...'

Adah Sharma's The Kerala Story won a National Award in Best Director and Best Cinematography categories, but even after receiving one of the highest honours, the journey didn't get any easier, as many called the win undeserving. In an exclusive interview with News18 Showsha, Adah Sharma opened up about how she dealt with the negativity that came her way.

**Adah Sharma Slams Trolls For Spreading Negativity**

"Villains in stories never think the hero deserves to win," Adah shared, adding, "It's not like I'm calling everyone a villain — everyone is entitled to their opinions. The people I call villains are those who spread negativity unnecessarily. Just like how we never question people who like the film, we also can't take away the opinion of those who don't. But if you spread negativity without reason, then yes, I will stick to calling you a villain." Addressing the criticism of the film being labelled propaganda, the actress said, "Till the time it doesn't happen with you or your family member, you just don't want to believe that it's true."

**Adah Sharma On Not Getting Appreciation From The Industry**

When asked if she feels she has received enough appreciation from her colleagues in the industry, Adah admitted, "Industry-wise, I don't think that appreciation came. But my mom and dad are not from the industry, and appreciation also depends on how we define it. I can't go around asking people to tweet for me. If someone genuinely wants to do it, they will; if not, I can't force it. I personally got

messages from people in the industry, but I can't ask them to put it out publicly."

**Backlash On National Award Win**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has slammed the 71st National Film Awards for The Kerala Story's wins. In a statement, Chief Minister Vijayan said the film was "made with lies to defame Kerala and spread communalism." He added that by honouring such a film, the awards jury had "insulted the noble tradition of Indian cinema that stood for religious brotherhood and national integration."

The Chief Minister further alleged that the move



reflected the ideological agenda of the Sangh Parivar. "They are implementing the Sangh Parivar agenda of turning cinema into a weapon to implement the communal agenda," he said. Vijayan urged all democratic-minded citizens and Malayalis to speak out against what he described as a grave injustice.





• Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person.

• In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial.

# Tips for a Personal Interview

Personal Interview is the foremost tool to judge the abilities of a person. In the face-to-face contact between the interviewer & interviewee, it is possible to record more than only verbal responses; which are often superficial. When human beings communicate directly with each other, much more information is communicated. The nature of words used, facial expressions & body language- together contribute in judging a person. According to Meha Bhargava, an Image Management professional, you must keep the following in mind while going for an interview.

## Do the Research

Extensively research not just about the profile you are interviewed for, but the

company profile, their achievements, their story of success, their products & services, their target market etc.. All this will make you confident enough to answer every question diligently.

## Look sharp

Being smartly and elegantly dressed not only makes you feel good but also has a strong impact on the interviewer. Like the mantra 'The way you dress, defines the way you think, act and how other's react'

## Listen carefully

Giving full attention to not only what is said but also to what is not said will make

you know about what they have in store for you. Sometimes important things are left unsaid between the lines, make sure you catch up to every bit.

## Show enthusiasm with body language

A firm handshake, smile, eye contact and positive responses ensure that the interviewer feels confident in you and your abilities to be hired. What you feel reflects by your body language. Even if you are nervous, don't let it show. Sit in a correct, firm and comfortable posture avoid fidgeting with

your legs, or hands. This distracts the interviewer and gives an impression of a feeble personality.

## Answer only what is asked

Do listen carefully what you are being asked, if you don't understand confirm it again and while answering do not deviate from one thing to another. Straightforward

and to the point answers are only what they love to hear.

## Ask questions

Don't be blank at the end of the interview, ask questions, be it on your profile, about the company, pay working hours etc. No questions give an impression of disinterest in the company and the job. But make sure your questions are appropriate.

# Skill vs degree

## What works for you?

In India, we place too much emphasis on what is often just a piece of paper, instead of the knowledge or skills one should acquire to earn it. If a student is looking for higher education, a degree is the normal study route. There are numerous careers and fields of work that require advanced knowledge and skills training. However, all students may not and sometimes cannot take advanced courses and prefer to develop skills that do not necessarily require the rigour of a degree curriculum. In other words, every person with skills may not receive a degree. Similarly, there are many graduates who have theoretical knowledge but no practical



experience. A number of jobs and careers require various skills -for example, in the computer and IT sector. So, without worrying if it is a degree or not, many students can study a course that would help them find work. The government's skill development programme is

attempting to change students' attitude towards skills that can earn them jobs. However, there needs to be greater synergy between prospective employers and the skills training centre so that students are well-placed with salaries that can attract other youngsters. Also, often, employers ask for a degree irrespective of how adequately trained such a candidate may be. Therefore, students prefer to pursue a degree without a job in sight, rather than skill themselves through training that can better provide a job. The solution is to analyse what a student is made for -a degree or a skill-based programme -and which one would work best for him/her.

Usha Albuquerque, Career Counsellor, Delhi

## College prepares you

When students decide on a career path, it is essential for them to understand the importance of a degree and how it contributes to their future. A degree programme makes a student's 'generalised' approach more focused. At the college level, applicants pick a stream and then study a specific field such as engineering, medicine, commerce, science, humanities, law, architecture, etc. The student learns about things ranging from the finer points of a particular discipline to communication and people skills. Students must opt for a degree course since it trains them to understand - through guest lectures, industry visits, etc -how industry functions. They, thus, know what employers expect. They develop a world view of the field they would work in, explore it in-depth and be ready to face challenges in their professional lives.

# Why you need a 'disconnected' break

Taking your laptop along on your upcoming holiday? Do a rethink, for you might be committing a huge mistake, which might actually add more stress that you imagine. Experts warn how one should not cart along work and stay rooted to any social networking sites and microblogs, while on a getaway. The 'digital detox break' is being considered as the ideal 'me time'. The idea has taken root so much so that packages are being tailor-made to force stressed folk to wean away from all their gadgets. Here's how it benefits you:

"What we're doing here is providing evidence that how people relate to God matters for their commitment and satisfaction at work," Kent noted.

## You see the world differently

You might throw fleeting glances to what's going around you if you're stuck to your smartphone screen. But being away from it allows you to view the world minus distraction.

## It builds better interpersonal relations

How many people actually remember a good old-fashioned conversation? With no gadget around you can communicate face-to-face better.

## You become less aggressive

Being answerable to someone on the opposite end means that you are having to answer to a demand all the time, which causes a sense of hostility and repressed anger in you. Take away such feeling by simply unplugging.

