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Young Congress leaders talented, making Rahul Gandhi insecure: PM to NDA leaders

Sources added that no opposition leader attended the meeting, which was limited to the ruling alliance. PM Modi, they said, described the recently concluded Parliament session as a good one because important bills were passed.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told NDA leaders during a tea meeting that several young leaders in the opposition, particularly in the Congress, are very talented but do not get an opportunity to speak because of "family insecurity". According to sources, PM Modi further said that the presence of such youth leaders may be making Rahul Gandhi feel insecure and nervous. Sources

Satish Golcha appointed Delhi Police Commissioner a day after attack on CM

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, Aug 21: Senior IPS officer Satish Golcha was on Thursday appointed the Commissioner of Delhi Police a day after the attack on CM Rekha Gupta. The 1992-batch IPS officer replaces SBK Singh who took up additional charge as



Commissioner on July 31 after his predecessor Sanjay Arora's retirement. He has held important positions, including Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Special Commissioner (Intelligence) in Delhi Police and DGP of Arunachal Pradesh.

'Planned' disruptions cost Lok Sabha 83 hours of work: Speaker Om Birla

New Delhi, Aug 21: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday expressed deep concern over the repeated disruptions witnessed during the Monsoon session, saying the House could function for only 37 hours against the 120 hours scheduled. Before adjourning the House for an indefinite period (sine die), Birla in his valedictory remarks said the country expected meaningful debates from its representatives, but "planned disruptions" and "sloganeering" had prevented the House from functioning smoothly. "Honourable Members, as public representatives, the



entire country watches our conduct and functioning. The public has great expectations from us that we have serious and meaningful discussions... in accordance with the decorum of Parliament," Birla said, urging members to maintain restraint in language and behaviour. Notably, throughout the Monsoon session, the Opposition vociferously protested against the government over two key issues — initial days were marred with the demand for a discussion on Operation Sindoor and later over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) voter exercise in Bihar. Birla reminded MPs that while differences of opinion were natural in democracy, the collective responsibility should be to ensure the House runs with "dignity, decorum and decency". "We have to think about what message we are sending to the citizens through the country's highest democratic institution," he said. The Monsoon session, which began on July 21, saw the introduction of 14 Bills and passage of 12, including key legislations. Two special discussions were also held — on Operation Sindoor (July 28-29) and on the achievements of India's space programme (August 18).

added that no opposition leader attended the meeting, which was limited to the ruling alliance. PM Modi, they said, described the recently concluded Parliament session as a good one because important bills were passed.

He specifically praised the passage of the Online Games Bill, calling it legislation with far-reaching impact that deserved wider discussion. He singled out the Online Gaming Bill, calling it a reform with "far-reaching impact" that will directly affect the public.

Sources said the Prime Minister criticised the Opposition for staying away from debates on major legislation. "They

August 20 passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which introduces strict rules and penalties for online money gaming



companies, their promoters, and even individuals involved in violations.

gaming sector by banning money-based online games and setting harsh punishments for offenders.

The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking urgent intervention on the proposed Online Gaming Bill, warning that a blanket prohibition could inflict severe damage on the sector. According to sources, PM Modi also criticised the opposition for disrupting proceedings instead of engaging in debates on significant bills. The Lok Sabha descended into chaos on Wednesday after Opposition members tore up copies of three contentious bills, tabled by Union Home Minister

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi pledges organ donation, urges troops to follow

Agency New Delhi.

Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, along with his wife Mrs Sunita Dwivedi, President of the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA), pledged to donate their organs at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral) on August 20, 2025. The move has given a major push to the Armed Forces Organ Retrieval and Transplantation Authority (AORTA), which is spearheading awareness on organ donation within the defence community. Under the leadership of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, AORTA has established itself as a national leader in organ retrieval and transplant initiatives.

The Indian Army has already set a benchmark with over 26,000 personnel pledging their organs in a single campaign, making it the largest such drive in the country.

Speaking at the event, General Dwivedi described organ donation as a noble service to humanity and an extension of the Armed Forces' ethos of sacrifice and courage.

He urged service personnel and their families to lead by example and inspire society at large to embrace organ donation. The Army Chief also praised AORTA for its sustained efforts in spreading awareness and motivating personnel across the Armed Forces. In a gesture highlighting the role of healthcare workers, General Dwivedi presented on-the-spot Chief's Recommendation Cards to three frontline staff involved in organ transplant care, including a housekeeper who ensured sanitation and hygiene for patients.



Gift of Connectivity Projects of Worth around ₹5,200 Crore to the People of West Bengal

Inauguration of

**Sealdah – Esplanade Section (Green Line)
Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Section (Orange Line)
Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar Section (Yellow Line)**

&

Subway at Howrah Metro Station

Flagging Off of Metro Service

**Sealdah – Esplanade (Green Line)
Beleghata – Hemanta Mukhopadhyay (Orange Line)
Noapara – Jai Hind Bimanbandar (Yellow Line)**

Foundation Stone Laying for

Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway, NH-12

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

SALIENT FEATURES & BENEFITS

Metro Projects

Green Line (Sealdah–Esplanade)

Length: 3 km | Cost: ₹1180 crore approx

- Final link from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V
- Metro slashes travel time to Howrah & Sealdah — down from 60 mins to just 11mins
- Major relief for students, professionals in BBD Bagh, Esplanade & Salt Lake–New Town

Yellow Line (Noapara–Jai Hind Bimanbandar)

Length: 7 km | Cost: More than ₹1850 crore

- Kolkata Airport now directly linked to metro network
- Travel time to airport reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes
- Interchange at Dum Dum Cantonment enables easy city–suburb access

Orange Line (Beleghata–Hemanta Mukhopadhyay)

Length: 4 km | Cost: ₹875 crore

- Extends existing line from New Garia to Beleghata
- Beleghata to Kavi Subhash commute cut to just 23 minutes
- Benefits residents of Kolkata, North & South 24 Parganas

New Subway at Howrah Station

Cost: More than ₹50 crore

- Seamless interchange between metro and Eastern/South-Eastern Railways
- Saves time and improves travel convenience

World-Class Stations & Amenities

- New stations: VIP Bazaar, Ritwik Ghatak, Barun Sengupta, Beleghata, Dum Dum Cantonment, Jessore Road, Jai Hind Bimanbandar
- Facilities include lifts, escalators, drinking water, modern toilets & security systems

Six Lane Elevated Kona Expressway (NH-12, Length-7KM, Cost : More than 1200 Cr)

- Reduces traffic congestion and vehicle emissions, improving air quality.
- Boost tourism prospects by enhancing access to major tourist destinations like Diamond Harbour, Kakdwip, and Bakkhali.
- Connects NH-16, NH-19, NH-116, NH-2E, and NH-34, offering smoother regional travel.

In the August Presence of

Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose
Governor, West Bengal

Mamata Banerjee
Chief Minister, West Bengal

Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

Shantanu Thakur
Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Ravneet Singh
Union Minister of State for Railways & Food Processing Industries

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
Union Minister of State for Education & Development of North Eastern Region

Suvendu Adhikari
Leader of the Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly

Prof. Sougata Ray
Member of Parliament

Samik Bhattacharya
Member of Parliament



Date: 22 August, 2025



Place: Dum Dum, Kolkata, West Bengal



Time: 4:30 PM

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Pilot Phase to Begin at Five AYUSH Medical Colleges and Hospitals

Speaking on the development, Delhi Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh said: "Modern life has made stress one of the most common health challenges, often overlooked until it manifests into serious illness. Through AYUSH Stress Management OPDs, we are offering citizens a holistic, preventive, and accessible solution that integrates India's traditional systems of medicine with modern healthcare priorities. This initiative will not only reduce the burden on tertiary hospitals but also empower individuals to lead healthier, balanced, and stress-free lives." The AYUSH Stress Management initiative directly supports the objectives of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), Fit India Movement, and WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy, ensuring that Delhi becomes a model state for integrative healthcare and wellness.

Delhi Will Emerge Victorious in the Race for Cleanliness: Ravinder Indraj

Indraj further informed that, under the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, comprehensive cleanliness drives are being conducted across wards and colonies through public cooperation. These drives include the cleaning of drains, systematic collection of waste, and disposal through modern technological methods. He urged schools and colleges to establish Cleanliness Clubs to engage students in the campaign, while citizens' committees and neighborhood bodies should act as cleanliness sentinels. They have been encouraged to monitor local sanitation activities and upload updates to the Delhi Government's Cleanliness Portal—a measure that would enhance transparency and foster healthy competition. The program concluded with the distribution of certificates and appreciation letters to winners and contributors of the cleanliness run. Additionally, the message of cleanliness was further propagated through engaging street plays (nukkad natak), leaving a strong impression on the community.

News box

Unpaid for two years: Gurgaon civic body urges Faridabad corporation to settle Rs 75cr waste disposal bill

NOIDA. (Agency)

The Faridabad municipal corporation owes Rs 75 crore to MCG for expenses incurred on transporting waste to the Bandhwari landfill site. According to MCG officials, the dues have been pending for over two years, during which no further payments were made on MCF's behalf for waste transportation. The issue was discussed during a recent meeting of Gurgaon's city councillors, who pressed for immediate recovery of outstanding funds from MCF. Officials confirmed that since the non-payment, MCG has not borne any additional costs related to Faridabad's waste disposal. "We have not been paying the transportation cost of waste that Faridabad dumps at the Bandhwari landfill site for the last two years. They have not yet paid back Rs 75 crore to us," said an MCG official.

Kuldeep Yadav, Councillor of Ward Number 11, said, "Why should we bear the cost of Faridabad's waste management? In the previous house, like in the newly-elected one, all councillors were unanimous in the decision to stop paying for their waste management." MCF commissioner Dharendra Khadgata could not be reached for a comment on the matter. Moreover, on July 27, during a meeting chaired by ULB secretary and commissioner Vikas Gupta, a decision was made to ask the Faridabad civic body to stop sending their fresh waste to Bandhwari and make their own arrangements for its disposal.

According to MCG records, MCF currently transports between 400 and 1,000 metric tonnes (MT) of fresh waste to the landfill each day. The waste processing at Bandhwari, meanwhile, has stopped since the two agencies working at the site were barred from working by MCG due to their sluggish pace of work.

Discretion & not rules guided Greater Noida plot allotments: CAG audit

NOIDA. (Agency)

Between 2006 and 2018, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) allotted plots for industrial, institutional, IT and housing projects through interviews and presentations without clear criteria like net worth, turnover or liquidity, giving committees unchecked powers to select applicants, a CAG audit for the period has found. In a test check of 170 allotments, the audit found 51 plots—nearly 30%—were given to applicants who failed to submit essential documents, including registration certificates, financial statements, liquidity certificates, and records of past projects. Many of these allottees were not serious entrepreneurs and later profited by transferring land.

The audit also found that conditions laid down in scheme brochures to assess applicants' eligibility were often overlooked. In one case, three industrial plots were allotted between June 2015 and Dec 2016 despite applicants failing to submit mandatory liquidity certificates. The screening committee still declared the incomplete documents "satisfactory", and the CEO approved the allotments. By April 2021, none of the units had become operational.

You Can Also Check: Noida AQI | Weather in Noida | Bank Holidays in Noida | Public Holidays in Noida | Gold Rates Today in Noida | Silver Rates Today in Noida

In its response, the Authority argued that the committee had evaluated applications in line with brochure conditions and relied on other financial documents provided by the applicants.

NGT orders checks at Bandhwari landfill in a week after leachate spills into Aravalis in Haryana

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Angered over the unchecked flow of toxic leachate from Bandhwari landfill, National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the environment ministry's regional office in Chandigarh to conduct a joint inspection within a week. Taking note of the "serious risk" and lack of effective checks, the bench—headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel—asked CPCB and MoEF&CC to assess the current leachate flow and the landfill's management practices. Their findings are to be submitted within three weeks.

The matter will be taken up again on Sept 18. The order came on Aug 14 while NGT heard two connected cases on the landfill's mismanagement. Applicants told the tribunal that leachate, a highly contaminated liquid from rotting waste, was spilling from the dump onto village roads and even forest patches for over a year. They alleged the landfill operator



failed to install a garland drain system to contain the toxic discharge, posing health risks to residents and damaging the ecologically fragile Aravalis. Vaishali Rana, an environmentalist and one of the applicants in this case, said, "Leachate is being discharged in ponds surrounding the dump site. It's a clear case of forest land being gradually eaten up by a govt

agency itself. They are damaging the ecosystem of the area."

NGT was hearing two cases—Poonam Yadav v. Ecogreen Energy Pvt Ltd and Ors and Vivek Kamboj v. Union of India & Ors. A CPCB inspection report dated April 11 confirmed that leachate was directly entering ponds around the landfill. However, affidavits filed by

MCG claimed the site produces only about 200 kilolitres of leachate per day. Activists argued the figure is far lower than the actual volumes, which rise sharply during the monsoon.

The order said, "Having regard to such a stand of the applicant, we direct the member secretary, CPCB, and RO, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh to get the joint inspection of the landfill site Bandhwari done within a week and find out the status of the overflowing of leachate and the arrangements which have been made at the landfill site for the management of the leachate. The joint report will be submitted within three weeks. It has also been pointed out that Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has filed the report yesterday after 3.00pm. Since the report has been filed late, it has not come on record. The registry is directed to place it on record."

HSPCB admitted filing its report late, prompting the bench to order it be placed on record before the next hearing.

For way out of garbage mess, MCG taps into community knowledge in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

MCG on Tuesday held marathon meetings with RWAs and citizen groups, seeking solutions for the city's waste management problem—an initiative backed by chief principal secretary to the CM, Rajesh Khullar, who has been camping in Gurgaon for the past week to address some of its most pressing civic issues. Residents suggested all sorts of solutions.

On waste management, representatives of citizens' group Making Model Gurugram (MMG) proposed sustainable, decentralised solutions, such as setting up compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants and material recovery facilities at zonal levels.

United Gurugram RWA (UGR) highlighted the need for better upkeep of city parks. UGR suggested revising the park maintenance rates from the current Rs 4.5 per sq metre to Rs 12 per sq metre, which would also cover in-situ composting of horticulture waste. Founder of Making Model Gurugram Gauri Sarin said its detailed presentation was "meticulously developed" from feedback collected from over 175 resident welfare associations

(RWAs). "The presentation and ensuing dialogue underscored the urgent need for a transparent, phased approach that involves civil society, RWAs and resident groups meaningfully in decision-making. This thoughtful AEAE model—awareness, education, action, enforcement—process is expected to unfold over the next two years to make Gurgaon garbage-free, achieve almost 100% segregation, reduce the fresh waste to landfill by 85% and create CBG plants and recycling capability," Sarin said.

Co-convenor of UGR Chaitali Mandhotra said, "For the doorstep waste collection, we have suggested wet waste collection daily and dry waste collection twice a week with two separate contractors to ensure that waste is not mixed. For doorstep waste collection in villages, the existing model of daily waste collection can be done and waste collected should be further segregated at the MRF centres, for which we have suggested 10 such zones."

On the UGR's suggestion to enhance the park maintenance fee, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya responded that a written proposal should be

submitted for consideration. The commissioner said the civic body is working towards setting up a plant for better management of horticultural waste.

RWA and society representatives will transport the horticultural waste from their areas to this plant for its processing.

Dahiya shared information about the corporation's upcoming plans. He said the tender process for door-to-door waste collection is underway and will be implemented soon, enhancing the cleanliness system in the city. Similarly, the tender for clean roads and streets is also in process. He said the corporation has started working in "mission-mode" to improve the street lighting system, aiming to illuminate the entire city before Diwali. He emphasised the corporation's goal is to create a clean, beautiful, green and well-lit Gurgaon. During the discussion on solid waste management with the UGR team, the commissioner said RWAs or societies wishing to manage waste at their level should declare themselves as bulk waste generators (BWGs). The municipal corporation will not charge any waste fees from such

Shankar Chowk's rush hour load in Gurgaon: 1,000 pedestrians, 4k vehicles every 15 minutes

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Shankar Chowk—a vital junction connecting the city with Delhi—faces severe congestion during evening rush hours, with over 1,000 pedestrians crossing the roads in just 15 minutes and around 4,000 vehicles passing through the area. The traffic police's engineering department has conducted a survey and prepared a detailed report recommending solutions to alleviate congestion. The strategic importance of Shankar Chowk is heightened by its proximity to IGI Airport, making it a critical connectivity point. The report suggests several measures to manage the heavy flow of both pedestrians

and vehicles. One of the key recommendations is to close the U-turn towards Cyber City for those coming from IFFCO Chowk, directing them to use the underpass ahead. This U-turn should remain open only for those coming from Cyber Hub. Also, designated lanes for cab and auto pick-up and drop-off have been proposed to prevent disruptions in traffic flow. To further streamline traffic, the engineering department has suggested installing a 176m barricade to close U-turns for straight traffic. Vehicles from Jaipur are advised to use the underpass for U-turns. Another U-turn in front of Maulusari Road has been proposed for

traffic from Jaipur or IFFCO Chowk, recommended only for contingency purposes. A police officer said these proposed changes at Shankar Chowk could be adjusted as needed. "While some were in favour of allowing commuters coming from IFFCO Chowk to use the second U-turn, many suggested allowing that U-turn in case of need and sending the straight traffic in the underpass, following which the traffic will exit near Ambience Mall. In case there's a bottleneck at the exit of the underpass, the U-turn near Maulusari can also be opened as needed," the officer said.

Charges against RWA in Gurgaon trigger probe into illegal deals and financial irregularities

NOIDA. (Agency)

The district registrar has appointed an inquiry officer to investigate allegations of governance failures, unauthorised dealings and financial improprieties against the governing body of Esencia RWA in Sector 67.

The move comes following complaints filed by residents accusing the RWA of entering into an "illegal and mala fide agreement" with an adjacent housing society, allegedly allowing access through Esencia for laying water pipelines and electricity cables without approvals from govt authorities.

Complainants also alleged financial mismanagement, citing multiple undisclosed bank accounts, lack of audits and money collections from vendors without ratification by the general body. In an order issued on Tuesday, the district registrar appointed Col Vipin Chopra (Retd) as the inquiry officer and directed him to verify the facts and submit a report within 45 days. "The inquiry officer will ascertain the facts claimed in the complaint and conduct a detailed inquiry into the

RWA's functioning as per HRRS Act," the order stated. The Esencia RWA has been directed to cooperate with the inquiry. Residents earlier wrote to the deputy commissioner and the registrar demanding suspension of the governing body, holding of fresh elections, and a criminal probe into alleged financial fraud. They pointed out that the township is still under the builder Ansal API, which has become insolvent, and that the RWA has no legal authority to sign agreements impacting the estate's infrastructure. Moreover, on June 22, a general body meeting attended by the residents passed unanimous resolutions denouncing the RWA's agreement with the neighbouring group housing project and adopting a no-confidence motion against the governing body. "Our township is still under the ownership of the developer, which is now in insolvency. The RWA's role is limited to overseeing housekeeping, security, horticulture, and other essential services. It has no legal



right to enter into agreements with another group housing project," said Devender Singh Nehra, one of the complainants. "Some members of the governing body have been acting in an autocratic manner, signing unauthorised agreements and mishandling residents' money. We have demanded suspension of the current body and also for a criminal probe into financial irregularities," said Jayant Dhandra, another complainant. The RWA, however, has strongly refuted the allegations, terming them

"politically motivated." "We already cancelled the agreement after the general body meeting on July 29. The complainants, who are trying to malign the RWA, themselves are land grabbers. We have done nothing wrong. I am happy that an inquiry is being conducted and we will cooperate fully. Our roads are in poor condition and it is not possible to rebuild them with residents' contribution alone."

When authorities and even political leadership refused to intervene and admitted that they could do nothing, we tried to find a solution.

Gains possible if citizens and corporation team up, TOI campaign #WeMakeGurgaonTrashFree underlined

Gurgaon. (Agency)

It's ironical that a city that has plenty of private enterprise and housing societies that have adopted some of the most progressive measures in recycling and composting can't seem to figure out a way to manage municipal waste properly.

But dialogue, like the ones that happened on Wednesday between MCG and citizens' groups, are a step in the right direction. This is exactly what TOI—as part of its #WeMakeGurgaonTrashFree campaign—had suggested last year. A partnership between the corporation and citizens' groups that have developed expertise in managing waste that would enable an exchange of resources and knowledge to come up with the solution the city needs.

The principal chief secretary to the CM, Rajesh Khullar, who has been in the city to sort out this civic mess, has directed MCG to actively engage with residents and other stakeholders to scale up proven models. The corporation will find many examples of good practices when it looks deep. TOI's campaign had recognised best practices across several categories.

For environmental impact, Parsvnath Exotica, Paras Quartier and Park View Spa demonstrate how household-level segregation combined with community composting systems could drastically reduce landfill dependency. Their focus is on building habits that last, rather than quick fixes.

Pioneer Park, BPTP Park Freedom Life and Suncity Township excel in composting initiatives, building in-house facilities that converted wet waste into nutrient-rich compost for landscaping and gardening within these societies. "At Suncity, we have taken complete ownership of waste with a vision to become a model township for Gurgaon and inspire other RWAs to follow. In the last two years, we have processed over 2.5 lakh tonnes of wet waste through biogas technology."

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Gurukul warden detained for branding 2 children with hot iron rod in Rajasthan's Barmer

New Delhi: A teacher-cum-warden of a gurukul in Rajasthan's Barmer district allegedly branded two children, aged around 10 and 11, with a hot iron rod to "discipline" them for bed-wetting, officials said on Thursday. The alleged incident took place on August 17 at a gurukul in the Harpalia village of Sedwa area, run by Harpalashwar Mahadev Vikas Seva Samiti. According to officials, the gurukul, operational since 2022, houses children from poor and nomadic families, some of whom were orphans. Police said the matter surfaced after one of the children fled the gurukul at night and informed his family about the alleged torture. Villagers later gathered outside the institution, demanding strict action after a purported video showing the children's burn injuries and their accounts of alleged mistreatment went viral. Chauhan Deputy SP Jeevanlal Khatri confirmed that Narayan Giri, a resident of Bharatpur, who was a warden-cum-teacher at the gurukul, has been detained. "A viral video showed children alleging that they were branded with a hot rod. Following this, we took Narayan Giri into custody," Khatri said. Block Education Officer (BEO) Prakash Chand Vishnoi said a departmental probe has been initiated. "A committee has been formed to investigate the incident. We visited the gurukul, interacted with the children, their parents and staff. The report will be submitted soon," Vishnoi said. According to the preliminary probe, the accused allegedly branded the children as they wet their beds while asleep. "The children have also alleged physical assault and threats to silence them," an official familiar with the inquiry said. The viral video also showed villagers accusing the warden of assaulting them with sticks in the past. Authorities said the investigation will also examine whether proper monitoring of the gurukul was being carried out. Meanwhile, parents and locals demanded strict legal action and closure of the gurukul, if found guilty of negligence.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BABU VISHWAS W/O RAM PADA GHORA R/O H.No. 467, First Floor, MCD School Vaidi Gali, Samalkha Gurgaon Road, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAKHI BISWAS.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BHAVANA KALIYA W/O SOURABH KALIYA, R/O A-205, Avantika Sector-2, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHAVANA KALIYA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PARDEEP GUPTA S/O R.M. GUPTA R/O RZ-E-19 B, Dabri Extension, Palam Village, PO: Palam Village, Dist. South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRADEEP GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sunita W/O Santosh Kumar R/O WZ-477/3 Ground Floor, Basai Darapur, Ramesh Nagar, PO: Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Indu.

NAME CHANGE

JAITUNI W/O HASAN MOHD R/O VILLAGE MEOLI KHURD, TEHSIL NUH, DIST. NUH, HARYANA 122107, HAVE CHANGED OF MY NAME JETUNI TO JAITUNI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHRI HARENDRANATH Father of JC-698271H Rank-SUB MAJ Name-SHAHI RAMPRATAP HARENDRANATH Presently residing at B-68, GAJANAND PARK, B/H SRPF CAMP, KRISHNANAGAR, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-382345, have changed my name from SHRI HARENDRANATH to SHAHI HARENDRANATH VRAJANATH, for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 21/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sewak D/O 4581294X, Rank-HAV Name: Gadam Dilkush Sewak residing at vill. Gihwari, PO-Garra, District. Gondiya, Maharashtra -441601 have changed my name from Sewak to Sevaki Pandhar Gadam and my date of birth has been also wrongly written as 03.05.1964 in my son's service record but my actual date of birth is 01.01.1964 vide affidavit dated 19.08.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MUNEEAH AHMAD S/O MOHD RAFIQ R/O B-83 JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU CAMP, GOVIND PURI DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MD MUNISH FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHABNUM TABSSUM W/O AFROZ AHMED R/O B-83 JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU CAMP, GOVIND PURI DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHABNAM TABSSUM FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, MAHMOOD AHMED S/O MOHAMMAD ALI R/O H.NO-926 B-1 FIRST FLOOR, GALI NO-8 GOVIND PURI, DELHI-110019 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHMOOD AHMAD FOR ALL PURPOSE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Jitender Kumar S/O Chhakhan Lal R/O 684, Nehru Kutia Old Sabzi Mandi Malka Ganj, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, declared that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Pinki in my minor Son namely Deepak Kumar aged 14 years in his birth certificate No. MCDOLIR-2210-00459271, the actual name of my wife is Pinki Rani.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Jitender Kumar S/O Chhakhan Lal R/O 684, Nehru Kutia Old Sabzi Mandi Malka Ganj, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007, declared that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as Jitender and Pinky in my minor Son namely Keshav Kumar aged 13 years in his birth certificate No. MCDOLIR-2211-004913303, the actual name of mine and my wife are Jitender Kumar and Pinki Rani.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJINDER BHATIA S/O SITA RAM BHATIA residing at A-4236, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063, have changed my name to RAJENDER BHATIA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NISHITA D/O RAJENDER BHATIA residing at A-4236, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063, have changed my name to NISHITA BHATIA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SURINDER KUMAR S/O GHANSHYAM DASS residing at 2423, MOHALLA, SUBHASH NAGAR, FAIZ ROAD, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005, have changed my name to SURINDER KUMAR ARORA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHEHZAD S/O JIBAL ALI residing at 103 STREET NO-1, ARAM PARK, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, have changed my name to SHAHAD for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHAYYA D/O RAHUL DUTT R/O 55/331, CHANDRA VIHAR, DELHI CANTT-110010, have changed my name from BHAYYA to BHAYYA DUTT for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for the general information that I, PRABHNOOR SINGH SAHNI S/O INDRAJIT SINGH SAHNI R/O 126 SF, V-B BLOCK, GALI NO-4, VIRENDER NAGAR, DELHI 110058 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PRABHNOOR SINGH SAHNI in my educational documents and in my driving License Number DL-0420110174589. The actual name of mine is PRABHNOOR SINGH SAWHNEY, which may be amended accordingly. It is Certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, PANKAJ S/O RAMVEER, R/O H.NO-90, SANAGAM VIHAR, DELHI-110080, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ RAJORA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, KAMAL PREET BAJAJ W/O JAS-PAI SINGH BAJAJ, resident of B-68, GAJANAND PARK, KUKAJI, DELHI-110019, have changed my name to KAMAL PREET KAUR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ratnamala Mother of No.4581294X, Rank-HAV Name: Gadam Dilkush Sewak residing at vill. Gihwari, PO-Garra, District. Gondiya, Maharashtra -441601 have changed my name from Ratnamala to Ratnamla Sevak Gadam and my date of birth has been also wrongly written as 03.05.1964 in my son's service record but my actual date of birth is 01.01.1964 vide affidavit dated 19.08.2025 executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Waqel Ahmad S/O Naem Miyan R/O R-3 A-2/1D, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, Have Changed My Name To Mohd Yaki Ahmed Permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Tabrez S/O Shakeel Ahmad R/O A-375, Gali No.9, 2nd Floor, Near Amina Masjid, Wazirabad, Delhi-110084, Have Changed My Name To Tabrez Ahmad Permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Sakil Ahmad S/O Mohd Yaqub R/O A-375, Gali No.9, 2nd Floor, Near Amina Masjid, Wazirabad, Delhi-110084, Have Changed My Name To Shakeel Ahmad Permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Anand Gupta S/O Murlidhar Gupta R/O C-5/110, Second Floor, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Anand Kumar Gupta for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, ANEES AHMAD S/O KHALEEL AHMAD R/O G-14/A 4TH FLOOR ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-I, JAMIA NAGAR - OKHLA, DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIS AHMAD FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, AFROZ AHMAD S/O MOHAMMAD MUNISH R/O B-83 JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU CAMP, GOVIND PURI DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AFROZ AHMED FOR ALL PURPOSE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public at large that our client, Mr. Vinay Kumar Yadav S/O. Mohd. Fajru who has approached Aadhar Housing Finance Limited to borrow home loan in respect of Plot No. 115, Area Measuring 80 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 572 Mi., situated at Vishnu Enclave, Gali No. 4, Village Harsana, Pargana Dasna, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. At Present this property is in the name of Mr. Bheesham Kumar S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh and Mr. Veer Singh Yadav S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh. It is to mention that the property is directly issued following Khatauni: 1) Khatauni of Fasil Year 1422-1427 issued by concerned Patwari in the name of Mr. Bheesham Kumar S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh and Mr. Veer Singh Yadav S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh with others in respect of Kharsa No. 572Mi., 2) Khatauni of Fasil Year 1428-1433 issued by concerned Patwari in the name of Mr. Bheesham Kumar S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh and Mr. Veer Singh Yadav S/o. Mr. Gyasa Singh with others in respect of Kharsa No. 572Mi. in respect of the Above-Mentioned Property.

And the said property is going to be mortgaged in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Office at Pashup Vihar, New Delhi. All persons, if any, including bank, financial institutions, or any party/ies having any claim (Objection to Kharsa Number), demand, right, interest in respect of or against the said property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, assignment, mortgage, charge, possession, lien or otherwise, are hereby required to make the same known in writing within 7 days with the documentary evidence from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of the person/s, if any will be considered waived and settled.

Ms. Rani Shilpee (Advocate)

Office Add: H. No. T/181, UGF, Shukar Bazaar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

Lost & found

I, Dinesh Chand Gaur, S/O M C. Sharma, R/O Q-17, Q-18, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi -32 have lost my all original shares certificate/Bond of M/s 3S Fintech Private Limited. Finder pls contact above said address or at Mobile No.9810910488

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAJWATI D/O KARTER SINGH, W/O Late VISHAL R/O RZ-D-54, Mangla Puri, Village Palam Colony, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJ DEVI in my minor daughter namely VARSHA, aged 17 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is RAJWATI which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, Faustina Natasha Gomez alias Faustina Nathasha Gomez D/O Faustn Gomez, R/O House No.-331, Sector-A, Pocket-B And C, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Faustina Nathasha Gomez. Faustina Nathasha Gomez and Faustina Nathasha Gomez are one and the Same Person.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA S/O Hari Om Gupta, R/O C-01 Saubhag Vihar Badarpur Po, Badarpur South Delhi-110044 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as ARCHANA GUPTA in my minor daughter namely POSHITA GUPTA, aged 11 years in her school records and name of mine has been wrongly written as RAKESH GUPTA in her Aadhar Card No.610977313611 The actual name of mine and my wife are RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA and ARCHANA VARSHNEY, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I, GUDDI aged about 52 years wife Late Badie Singh Resident of House No. 1227, Gautampuri, Phase-1, Badarpur, Jatpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 have separated/debarred my disobeident son namely "AJAY" aged about 29 years and his wife namely "NEHA" aged about 24 years. They have been residing separately from my home, I have disowned/disinherited them from my moveable and immovable properties. If any person's deal with any consideration amount they have sole responsible.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 12/2025; Dated: 19-08-2025. E-tenders are invited for the following work:-

Description	Tender Quantity	Tender Due on
SN. 1, Tender No. 04255098A (04255112, 04255157)		
Underground armoured unscreened	561196330043=	
Railway signaling cable, PVC insulated copper conductor spec. No. IRS-S:63/2014 (Rev.4.0) or latest of size 12 core*1.5 sq.mm.	561196540025 =34.00 KM (15:30)	05-09-2025
	56509959 =169.00 KM	

NOTE:- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, **Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in)** prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tender.

Principal Chief Material Manager/Con/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
"Serving Customers with a smile"

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
No. 2025/TK-II/22/6/3 (ZITMS) New Delhi, dt.: 21.08.2025
Corrigendum No. 2

Sub : E-tender no. TM -2501 for procurement of Integrated Track Monitoring System from Zero Speed (ZITMS) and its operations and Maintenance
The closing date of the subject tender due on 21.08.2025 (Thursday on 15:00 hrs) has been extended to 25.09.2025 (Thursday on 15:00 hrs).

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender shall remain unchanged.

(Anurag Kumar)
Executive Director/Track (Mod.)
Railway Board
Tele No. 011-4784553
E-mail id: anurag.irs05@gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-AUCTION FOR OPERATION/DISPLAY AND MAINTENANCE OF VIDEO WALL AT CONCOURSE AREA OF GUWAHATI RAILWAY STATION

E-Auction for operation/display and maintenance of video wall at concourse area of Guwahati Railway station. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing fee. **Trips/Days:** 1096.

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	ADVT-LMG-GHY-OSD-322-25-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital)	E-Auction for operation/display and maintenance of video wall at concourse area of Guwahati Railway station.

Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. of **03-09-2025. Auction Close Date & Time:** 11.30 hrs. of **03-09-2025.** Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Commercial Manager, Guwahati
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NAME CHANGE

I, SAMAKH KUMAR is legally son of No. 13788234P Rank HAV Name ANIL KUMAR is presently residing at Vill-Soun Gawanj, PO-Bhital, Teh Nainital, Distt-Nainital (UK) have changed my name from SAMAKH KUMAR to SAMAKSH KUMAR Vide Affidavit No. DL39473494185377X dated 21/08/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NIKHIL JAIN S/O NARESH KUMAR JAIN, R/O WZ-52, Phase -1, Uttam Nagar, Near SBI ATM, Uttam Nagar, D.K Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi -110059 declare that name of my Father have been wrongly written as NARESH KUMARR JAIN in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is NARESH KUMAR JAIN, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD FAEM S/O ALLAUDDIN, resident of C-48/8 GALI NO 14/3 CHAUHAN BANGER NEW SEELAMPUR DELHI 110053, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD FAIM for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Mrs. Manita Arora, wife of Late Mr. Sanjay Arora, resident of C-2/166, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, has disowned her son Ankit Arora and his wife Arushi Malhotra from all her movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct, and has severed all kinds of relations with them. In the future, if the aforesaid persons indulge in any unlawful act, my client and her family shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Arjun Mehta Advocate
G-12 (H), BEST PLAZA, NETAJI SUBHASH PLACE, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034

IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY SERVICE BUILDING

E-Tender Notice No.: Sr. DEE/ LMG/19 of 2025-26 Dated: 18-08-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

Tender No. EL/LM/25-26/22. Name of work: At Pandu: Improvement of water supply service building, including provision of additional emergency Barge, improvement to existing barge and electrical pump & electro chlorinator etc. **Tender Value:** ₹88,50,413/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹1,77,000/-, **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 11:00 hrs. of 09-09-2025 **& opening at:** 11:30 hrs. of 09-09-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto **11:00 hrs. of 09-09-2025** in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE/G&Chg, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Serving Customers With A Smile)

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/13/2025-26, Dtd: 14-08-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : 61/25/5204A/OT/117/2025-26;

Closing/Opening Date: 29-08-2025.

Brief Description : Elastic Rail Clip MK-V with flat toe for 60 kg UIC/52 kg rail sections to Drg. No. RDSO T-5919 with specification conforming to IRS-T-31-2021 with latest amendment, if any, with all no.2 with latest alterations, if any(The term latest alterations wherever used will mean the alteration up to 5 days before the actual date of opening of tender.). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: RITES NON-TPI, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] [UJAVM Linking:] Item :2400073- FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK, Sub Item Id:-2400073002-FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK,Sub item Id:- 2400073002- FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK as per RDSO/2006/CG-12 Rev- Complying to EN45545 HL3.) i) Qty- 17700.00 Metre for Dibrugarh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 12000.00 Metre for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 500.00 Metre for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 75613839.

Sl.No.:2; Tender No. : 70/25/0895/OT/118/2025-26;

Closing/Opening Date: 01-09-2025.

Brief Description : PVC in Roll Size-2 mm x 1.62 m x 14 m including PVC electrode dia 2 mm = 50 m per roll, Shades & patterns - RDSO sample NAC FLG 02, Colour - Blue. Mat. Spec.- RDSO Spec. No.- RDSO/2006/CG-12, Rev. 2 or latest. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAVM Item ref.] (Item Id :- 2400073- FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK, Sub Item Id:-2400073002-FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK,Sub item Id:- 2400073002- FLEXIBLE POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) FLOORING FOR USE IN COACHING STOCK as per RDSO/2006/CG-12 Rev- Complying to EN45545 HL3.) i) Qty- 17700.00 Metre for Dibrugarh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 12000.00 Metre for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 500.00 Metre for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 75613839.

Sl.No.:3; Tender No. : 60/24/5027B/OT/119/2025-26;

Closing/Opening Date: 08-09-2025.

Brief Description : 1)Supply, installation & commissioning of Double Gantry crane 20 Ton capacity as per Schedule-1 of bid document part-II including DSL (type and length of DSL as specified in schedule-I), spares as per schedule-IV additional spares and items viz slings/lifting tackles as specified in schedule-I, maintenance tools as per schedule-V, any other accessory treated as concomitant accessory. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: 0] [UJAVM Linking:] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty- 1 Nos for SSE/WS/TDH, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No-909002830024. 2) Cost of Comprehensive AMC for five years after the warranty as per clause 17 of Section-V. (Will not be part of commercial evaluation) [Warranty Period: Months after the date of delivery, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After Year: 2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] Item Type: AMC. Qty- 1 Nos for SSE/WS/TDH, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 90900284. 3) Long Travel (LT) rail not laid down at the site. Firm to design & lay down Rail with complete foundation works. Supply of Rail, Rail Clamp, Supply and Fixing of RCC Rail Mounting (Size 350x450) with Required Excavation & PCC Base. SCOPE OF WORK FOR WORK OF SETTING UP THE BASE I.E. RCC RAIL MOUNTING WITH REQUIRED EXCAVATION as per details attached in the Tender. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] Item Type: Service (essential service). Qty-1 Nos for SSE/WS/TDH, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 90900283. 4) Cost of preventive maintenance during 1st & 2nd year of warranty Period. (Will not be part of commercial evaluation) [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] Item Type: Service (essential service). Qty- 1 Nos for SSE/WS/TDH, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No-90900285. 5) Break up of individual items as per schedule-I and additional spares and items viz sling/lifting tackles as specified in Schedule-I. (Will not be part of commercial evaluation) [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] [UJAVM Linking:] Item Type: Goods (Optional Spare). Qty- 1 Nos for SSE/WS/TDH, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 90900286.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM, Maligaon

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF ALL CONCERNED THAT MY CLIENT SH. GOVIND RAM S/O RAMCHAND AND SMT. OMBATI W/O GOVIND RAM BOTH R/O H.NO. L-445, GALI NO. 7, SHANI BAZAR, SANGAM VIHAR NEW DELHI-110062, HAVE DISOWNED HIS/THEIR SON NAMEDLY PUNEET KUMAR AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DEEPIKA RANI W/O PUNEET KUMAR AND GRAND DAUGHTER NAMEDLY DHIRTI TANWAR FROM ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED ALL RELATIONS WITH THEM, DUE TO THEIR ANTI-SOCIAL AND ANTI-FAMILY ACTIVITIES. OUR CLIENT SH. GOVIND RAM AND SMT. OMBATI ARE NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY ACT, DEED OR THING DONE BY HIS/HER SON PUNEET KUMAR, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW DEEPIKA RANI AND GRAND DAUGHTER DHIRTI TANWAR ANYBODY DEALING WITH THEM SHALL BE DOING SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAVITRI DEVI Mother of JC-698271H Rank-SUB MAJ Name-SHAHI RAMPRATAP HARENDRANATH Presently residing at B-68, GAJANAND PARK, B/H SRPF CAMP, KRISHNANAGAR, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-382345, have changed my name from SAVITRI DEVI to SHAHI SAVITRI HARENDRANATH for

NEWS BOX

Russian attacks on west Ukraine kill one, wound multiple

KYIV. (Agency)
Russian attacks on western Ukraine killed one person and wounded multiple others, officials in the country said Thursday as diplomatic efforts to end the three-year war grind on.Moscow and Kyiv have kept up their aerial attacks on each other as world leaders including US President Donald Trump push for a ceasefire."One person was killed and two were wounded as a result of the combined UAV and cruise missile strike in Lviv," said Maksym Kozytskyi, head of the regional military administration."Dozens of residential buildings were damaged," he added in a Telegram post.Russian fire also wounded 12 people in the city of Mukachevo, near the border with Hungary and Slovakia, the city council said."Five patients are being treated in the hospital, and one more was transferred to the regional hospital," the council wrote on Facebook.In Lutsk, Mayor Igor Polishchuk reported "an enemy attack that was conducted by UAVs and missiles".As of this moment there are no injuries or fatalities," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia's defence ministry said it destroyed "49 Ukrainian aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicles" across multiple regions.The ministry did not detail any casualties or damage.The latest cross-border fire follows Trump's flurry of diplomacy this month aimed at ending the war.The US president met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska, before bringing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders to Washington for separate talks.

Israel to mobilize 60,000 reservists ahead of an expanded Gaza City operation

JERUSALEM.(Agency)
Israel's military said Wednesday it will call up 60,000 reservists ahead of an expanded military operation in Gaza City. Many residents have chosen to stay despite the danger, fearing nowhere is safe in a territory facing shortages of food, water and other necessities. Calling up extra military reservists is part a plan Defense Minister Israel Katz approved to begin a new phase of operations in some of Gaza's most densely populated areas, the military said. The plan, which is expected to receive the chief of staff's final approval in the coming days, also includes extending the service of 20,000 additional reservists who are already on active duty.In a country of fewer than 10 million people, the call-up of reservists is the largest in months and carries economic and political weight. It comes days after hundreds of thousands of Israelis rallied for a ceasefire, as negotiators scramble to get Israel and Hamas to agree to end their 22 months of fighting, and as rights groups warn that an expanded assault could deepen the crisis in the Gaza Strip, where most of the roughly 2 million inhabitants have been displaced, many areas have been reduced to rubble, and the population faces the threat of famine. Gaza City operation could begin within days

An Israeli military official, speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with military regulations, said troops will operate in parts of Gaza City where they haven't been deployed yet and where Israel believes Hamas is still active. Israeli troops in the the city's Zeitoun neighborhood and in Jabaliya, a refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, are already preparing the groundwork for the expanded operation, which could begin within days.

Judge denies US Justice Department request to unseal Epstein grand jury transcripts

NEW YORK . (Agency)
A US federal judge who presided over the sex trafficking case against financier Jeffrey Epstein has joined two other judges in rejecting the government’s request to unseal grand jury transcripts related to the decades-long sexual abuse suffered by girls and young women who fell into his orbit. The ruling on Wednesday by Judge Richard Berman in Manhattan came after the judge presiding over the case against British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's former girlfriend, also turned down the government’s request.Barring reversal on appeal, Berman’s decision forecloses the possibility of grand jury testimony being released now that three judges have reached the same conclusion. A federal judge in Florida declined to release grand jury documents from an investigation there in 2005 and 2007. The rulings are a collective repudiation of the Justice Department’s effort to divert attention away from its stated refusal to release a massive trove of records in its possession and make clear that the still-sealed court documents contain none of the answers likely to satisfy the immense public interest in the case. President Donald Trump had called for the release of transcripts amid rumors and criticism about his long-ago involvement with Epstein.During last year's presidential campaign, Trump promised to release files related to Epstein, but he was met with criticism — including from many of his own supporters — when the small number of records released by his Justice Department lacked new revelations.A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment on Wednesday.Berman said a “significant and compelling reason” to reject the government's request was that the information contained in the Epstein grand jury transcripts “pales in comparison to the Epstein investigative information and materials in the hands of the Department of Justice.”He wrote that the government's 100,000 pages of Epstein files and materials “dwarf the 70 odd pages of Epstein grand jury materials.”

The State Department recently paused all visitor visas for people from Gaza, pending a review. This decision came shortly after Laura Loomer posted videos on social media showing Gazan children arriving in the U.S. for medical treatment and questioned how they obtained visas.

DHAKA.(Agency)
WASHINGTON: The State Department has fired a press officer who was responsible for drafting Trump administration talking points about policy toward Israel and Gaza after complaints from the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.Officials said Shahed Ghoreishi, a contractor working for the Bureau of Near East Affairs, was terminated over the weekend following two incidents last week in which his loyalty to Trump administration policies was called into question.Ghoreishi, who is Iranian American, also was targeted Wednesday

following his dismissal by right-wing personality Laura Loomer, who accused him of not being fully supportive of the administration’s policies in the Middle East.According to Ghoreishi and two current U.S. officials, Ghoreishi drew the ire of a senior official at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and then top aides to Secretary of State Marco Rubio for drafting a response to a query from The Associated Press last week.

The question related to discussions between Israel and South Sudan about the possible relocation of Palestinians from Gaza to South Sudan.The draft response included a line that said the U.S. does not support the forced relocation of Gazans, something that President Donald Trump and his special envoy Steve Witkoff have said repeatedly.However, according to Ghoreishi and the officials, that line was rejected by the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, leading to questions about policy back in Washington. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal personnel changes.Ghoreishi also said he questioned a statement from the embassy

that referred to the West Bank as “Judea and Samaria,” the Biblical name for the Palestinian territory that some right-wing Israeli officials prefer. Mike Huckabee, U.S. ambassador to Israel, also has



repeatedly backed referring to the West Bank by Judea and Samaria.The ouste shows the lengths that the Trump administration has gone to ensure what it sees as loyalty to the president and his goals, including a foreign policy approach that has offered overwhelming support for Israel in the war against Hamas. The administration this week also revoked security clearances for 37 current and

former national security officials, including many who had signed a 2019 letter critical of Trump that was recently highlighted by Loomer.“Despite a close working relationship with many of my dedicated and hardworking colleagues, I was targeted following two events last week when I attracted the ire of the 7th floor and senior officials in Embassy Jerusalem: stating we are against forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza as President Trump and special envoy Witkoff have both previously claimed and cutting a reference to Judea and Samaria,” Ghoreishi said, referring to the floor where top leaders have offices at the State Department.Both of these had been consistently approved at the senior level in the past, so it begs the question why I was suddenly targeted without a direct explanation and whether our Israel-Palestine policy is about to get even worse — including an unwillingness to take any stand against ethnic cleansing. The future looks bleak,” he said.State Department spokespeople declined to comment on his firing.

Brazilian police say ex-President Bolsonaro had planned to flee to Argentina seeking asylum

BRAZILIA . (Agency)
Brazil’s federal police said that messages found on the telephone of embattled former president Jair Bolsonaro showed that at one point he wanted to flee to Argentina and request political asylum, according to documents seen Wednesday by the Associated Press.Bolsonaro is currently awaiting a Supreme Court ruling about an alleged coup attempt and on Wednesday found out he might face another case as police formally accused him and one of his sons, Eduardo Bolsonaro, of obstruction of justice in connection with his pending trial.The AP had access to the police investigation, messaging app exchanges, voice messages and reviewed the documents, which were sent to Brazil’s Supreme Court.The 170-page police report said that Bolsonaro had drafted a request for political asylum from Argentine President Javier Milei’s government dated Feb. 10, 2024. Bolsonaro saved the document two days after

authorities searched his home and office as part of an investigation into an alleged coup plot.In a 33-page letter addressed to Milei, Bolsonaro claimed



he was being politically persecuted in Brazil.“I, Jair Messias Bolsonaro, request political asylum from Your Excellency in the Republic of Argentina, under an urgent regime, as I find myself in a situation of political persecution in Brazil and fear for my life,” the former Brazilian leader wrote. Argentina’s presidential spokesperson did not immediately respond to a

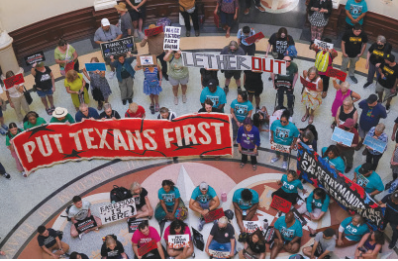
request for comment. Bolsonaro did not make comments about the investigation either.On February 12, Bolsonaro reportedly spent two nights at the Hungarian Embassy in Brasilia, fueling speculation among critics that he may have been attempting to avoid arrest.Brazilian federal police investigators also said in their report that Bolsonaro’s decision to ignore precautionary measures established for his house arrest and spread content to his allies “sought to directly hit Brazilian democratic institutions, notably the Supreme Court and even Brazil’s Congress.”With regards to Wednesday’s obstruction of justice accusations, Eduardo Bolsonaro, a lawmaker who has lived in the United States, said in a statement that he “never aimed at interfering in any ongoing proceedings in Brazil.” He added the conversations with his father that are part of the investigation are “absolutely normal” and its publication has a political bias.

Texas House approves redrawn maps sought by Trump ahead of 2026 elections

The Republican move has sparked a national tit-for-tat as Democrats in California prepared to redraw the state’s map to create five new seats.

AUSTIN . (Agency)
The Texas House on Wednesday approved redrawn congressional maps that would give Republicans a bigger edge in 2026, muscling through a partisan gerrymander that launched weeks of protests by Democrats and a widening national battle over redistricting.The approval came at the urging of President Donald Trump, who pushed for the extraordinary mid-decade revision of congressional maps to give his party a better chance at holding onto the U.S. House of

Representatives in the 2026 midterm elections. The maps, which would give Republicans five more winnable seats, need to be approved by the GOP-controlled state Senate and signed by



Republican Gov. Greg Abbott before they become official.But the Texas House vote had presented the best chance for Democrats to derail the redraw.Democratic legislators delayed the vote by two weeks by fleeing Texas earlier this month in protest, and they were assigned round-the-clock police monitoring upon their return to ensure

they attended Wednesday’s session. The approval of the Texas maps on an 88-52 party-line vote is likely to prompt California’s Democratic-controlled state Legislature this week to approve of a new House map creating five new Democratic-leaning districts. But the California map would require voter approval in November.Democrats have also vowed to challenge the new Texas map in court and complained that Republicans made the political power move before passing legislation responding to deadly floods that swept the state last month.Texas maps openly made to help GOPTexas Republicans openly said they were acting in their party’s interest. State Rep. Todd Hunter, who wrote the legislation formally creating the new map, noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed politicians to redraw districts for nakedly partisan purposes.

Israel approves major settlement project that could divide the West Bank

JERUSALEM . (Agency)
Israel approved a major settlement project on Wednesday in an area of the occupied West Bank that the international community has warned threatens the viability of a future Palestinian state. Israel has long had ambitions to build on the roughly 12-square-kilometre (five-square-mile) parcel known as E1 just east of Jerusalem, but the plan had been stalled for years amid international opposition.The latest announcement also drew condemnation, with UN chief Antonio Guterres saying the settlement would effectively cleave the West Bank in two and pose an "existential threat" to a contiguous Palestinian state. Last week, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich backed plans to build around 3,400 homes on the ultra-sensitive tract of land, which lies between Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim."I am pleased to announce that just a short while ago, the civil

administration approved the planning for the construction of the E1 neighbourhood," the mayor of Maale Adumim, Guy Yifrach, said in a statement on Wednesday.All of Israel's settlements in the West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law, regardless of whether they have Israeli planning permission.The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority (PA) slammed the latest move."This undermines the chances of implementing the two-state solution, establishing a Palestinian state on the ground, and fragments its geographic and demographic unity," the PA's foreign ministry said in a statement.It added the move would entrench "division of the occupied West Bank into isolated areas and cantons that are disconnected from one another, turning them into something akin to real prisons, where movement is only possible through Israeli checkpoints and under the terror of armed settler militias".Israel heavily restrict the movement of West Bank Palestinians, who

must obtain permits from authorities to travel through checkpoints to cross into east Jerusalem or Israel.Guterres repeated a call for Israel to "immediately halt all



settlement activity", warning that the E1 project would be "an existential threat to the two-State solution", his spokesperson said.British Foreign Secretary David Lammy also rejected the plans, saying it would "divide a Palestinian state in two (and) mark a flagrant breach of international law".Jordan's King Abdullah

II denounced the project as well, adding that "the two-state solution is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace".Bury' Palestinian statehoodViolence in the West Bank has soared since the beginning of the war in 2023.Since then, Israeli troops and settlers have killed at least 971 Palestinians in the West Bank, including many militants, according to health ministry figures.Over the same period, at least 36 Israelis, including security forces, have been killed in Palestinian attacks or during Israeli military operations, according to official figures.Aviv Tatarsky, a researcher at Ir Amim, an Israeli NGO focusing on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, condemned the greenlighting of the E1 project.“Today's approval demonstrates how determined Israel is in pursuing what Minister Smotrich has described as a strategic programme to bury the possibility of a Palestinian state and to effectively annex the West Bank," he said.

A wartime mass grave in Sri Lanka yields a baby bottle, children's clothes and 141 skeletons

CHEMMANI.(Agency)
A baby bottle, a squeaky toy and a schoolbag are among items that have surfaced from a mass grave site in Sri Lanka’s formerly war-torn northern region, along with 141 human skeletons including some that appear to be of children of different ages.The findings were made at a cremation ground in the Chemmani area near Jaffna town, the cultural heartland of the country’s ethnic Tamil minority. But hardly any burials take place here, as Hindus mostly cremate their dead according to religious customs.Excavations have been underway since June, after workers found human remains while digging to build an electric crematorium. A pit test over nine days discovered 19 sets of human remains. Shallow burials of about 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) in a scattered and disorganized manner, and the absence of clothing, indicated the site was a mass grave, according to a report provided to a court in June. Since the area was secured and declared a crime scene that month, a total of 141 skeletons have been discovered within a 165-square-meter (1,776-square-



foot) area. About 135 of the bodies had no clothing, and only one set of adult clothing was identified. Tests confirmed that a skeleton found with a schoolbag was that of a girl between 4 and 6 years old. Toddlers’ dresses, socks and footwear, tiny bead bangles and a baby powder tray were also recovered. The identities of the dead and the cause and timing of their deaths are all unclear. But many think the victims could be civilians who disappeared during Sri Lanka's civil war, which broke out in 1983 between government forces and ethnic Tamil rebels, who fought to create an independent homeland for the minority group. The war ended in 2009.Several Tamil armed groups and an Indian peacekeeping mission were active in the region over the decades. But attention has focused on the Sri Lankan military, which had a heavy presence for over a decade in Chemmani, as the gateway to Jaffna town.

Wimco Nagar to be developed as rail-metro-bus hub in Chennai

CHENNAI (Agency)
Wimco Nagar in North Chennai is being recast as a transport hub, with Indian Railways, Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) and the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) working on plans to integrate suburban, regional and urban mobility at a single node.

At Wimco Nagar, Indian Railways has proposed to extend suburban platforms to 550 metres, enabling express and mail trains - including services bound for Kolkata and other eastern destinations - to halt there. The plan is expected to transform the station from a local halt into a regional gateway, easing the passenger load on Chennai Central.

“We have suggested that Indian Railways develop a full-fledged station at Wimco Nagar, complete with waiting halls and passenger facilities. Metro land has been identified for these amenities,” a senior CUMTA official said. A multimodal integration plan has been submitted to the Railways, the official added. The master plan also includes a five-acre bus terminus on ITC land near the station, a railway ticket counter on metro-owned property, and a six-metre foot overbridge linking the metro concourse directly with railway platforms. Escalators, lifts, dedicated parking for two- and four-wheelers, share-auto bays and wider pedestrian pathways are also proposed.

Besides, the state highways department and Southern Railway are constructing a limited-use subway between Tiruvottiyur and Wimco Nagar stations, scheduled for completion by September 2025. With land requirements overlapping, CUMTA and CMRL have urged the Railways to consider land swaps to create drop-off points for cars and autos.

The Wimco Nagar scheme is backed by Indian Railways’ decision in 2023-24 to sanction `50 crore for integrating suburban stations with metro corridors across Chennai. A similar model is being explored at Chromepet, where a vehicular underpass is being redesigned to align with new station access points. CUMTA has prepared a conceptual plan, where a six-metre-wide foot overbridge is proposed to link GST Road bus stops, Chromepet railway station, the upcoming metro station and the Madras Institute of Technology campus.

30 per cent of Hyderabad plunged into digital darkness

HYDERABAD. (Agency)
Lakhs of consumers continued to remain without internet and cable TV services across the city on Wednesday following the large-scale cable-cutting drive by the TGSPDCL.

According to the Telangana Cable, TV, Internet and Telecom Service Providers Welfare Association, the city has about 2.8 million linear and non-linear optic cables, of which over 1 million were cut during the operation, leaving nearly 30% of consumers without service.

The blackout of digital services disrupted daily life for thousands of households and businesses. Vinay, an IT employee, said: “We have three days of work from home. If things like this happen, it becomes very difficult to meet targets. It’s been two days, and the internet is still not fully restored. If the government wants to take up such drives, users should at least be informed in advance.”

Dinesh, a parent of two children studying remotely, said: “My son had an exam today. With no internet, it was hard for him to appear. Mobile data can only help to an extent, and in the end, we are answerable to the college as children miss exams.”

Prakash, a dry fruit seller, said his billing system collapsed: “Our entire system is online. With no internet, we couldn’t process payments or orders. It’s like shutting shop for a day.” Mayank, a Kukatpally resident, said: “Our home security cameras stopped working as they run on broadband. With frequent power cuts already, this makes us feel even more unsafe.”

“Will take 2-3 days for connections to be restored”
Amid widespread disruptions, representatives of the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), cable operators and service providers met TGSPDCL CMD Musharraf Faruqui on Wednesday. The meeting was described as positive, with operators asked to maintain safety standards, clear clutter and ensure cables are properly laid, especially in the wake of a recent electrocution in Ramanthapur. The association said it would take 2–3 days to restore connections.

Ganeshotsav special: Is ‘shaadu maati’ ideal for making Ganesh idols and a better environmental option?

Pune . (Agency)
In June, the Bombay High Court allowed the manufacture and sale of Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) while, at the same time, restricting their immersion in natural water bodies after Ganeshotsav due to their environmental risk. Over the last two decades, shaadu maati — an eco-friendly clay — has emerged as a conscious person’s alternative to PoP.

For devotees concerned about the environment, the Bombay High Court ruling provides yet another reason to search for shaadu maati idols.

“The nature of Ganeshotsav idols is that they will be immersed at the end of the festival. These are not expected to be permanent idols. One must choose a material that will be aligned with the temporary nature of the idols. PoP, which is not naturally occurring, is used in the construction industry as it can last for years and decades. It is a material that has a long lifespan. But we are using it for a much smaller time frame. Shaadu maati, on the other hand, is moisture-absorbent and disintegrates immediately when immersed,” says Manisha Sheth, director of Punaravartan and the founder of eCoexist Foundation, which works to raise environmental consciousness.

Orchardist Naresh Kashyap says small apple growers usually transport their crop to the nearby collection centres, but big and established orchardists go to Pinjore Apple Market in Haryana, Chandigarh Grain Market, Sector 26, and other local



Though much is not known about the quantity of shaadu maati mined in Gujarat for idol making, the following figures give an idea.

In 2024, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) of Mumbai decided to distribute 1,658 tonnes of shaadu maati for free to artisans. The Punaravartan campaign, endorsed by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, has been collecting shaadu maati sludge after Ganeshotsav and providing it to the artisans to create new idols.

Last year, they collected 57,000 kg

of clay from the three cities of Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad, and Thane. This year, Pune city is targeting 100 tonnes of clay collection, and Pimpri Chinchwad at least 50 tonnes.

Unlike PoP, shaadu maati dissolves in water during immersion. The clay also allows artisans to create detailed work on the idols.

Importantly, PoP idols carry chemical paint, which consists of toxic heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, and cadmium, which are released into the water during immersion. Shaadu maati idols are receptive to mineral or vegetable pigment. “Clay and natural pigments are a better option than PoP and toxic paint. Clay is a non-renewable resource. So, it has to be used cautiously. The bottom line is that neither POP nor clay should be immersed in natural water,” says Sheth.

Not always a sustainable option, say experts

Experts have also highlighted the ecological issue in shifting shaadu maati from Gujarat to Maharashtra. “There is a carbon cost involved in transporting all this. There is an environmental cost as well, as removing soil from one landscape and putting it into the river in a different region is not a great ecological idea. Shaadu maati belongs to the terrestrial ecosystem, from where it is taken out and immersed into an aquatic ecosystem, which is the rivers,” says Dr Gurudas Nulkar, Director of Centre for Sustainable Development, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

4 months after Mazgaon woman’s murder, cops arrest fourth accused in case from Nepal border

Gulshan Hashmat Khan, 53, allegedly fell to her death from the 13th floor of her building on April 6. The Agripada police had earlier arrested her second husband in connection with the case.



nabbed Shah and brought him to Mumbai.

Sanjay Nale, Senior Inspector, Agripada police station, said, “Shoheb’s younger brother was also involved in the murder. A search is on to locate him.”

The police said that Gulshan was still married to her first husband, Hashmat Khan, 63, when she decided to wed her nephew Shoheb. She then started living with him at his flat in Mazgaon from 2022, along with her 17-year-old daughter.

Officers said that when Gulshan came to stay with Shoheb, she brought 650 grams of gold from her first husband Hashmat’s house. “Later, she told her neighbours and Hashmat that Shoheb was harassing her for money,” said Nale.

On the day she died, Gulshan allegedly fell from the 13th floor of their building around 5 am and was found in the duct area on the 9th floor, officers said.

Shoheb, however, claimed to the police

Balganga dam project: In a setback to Maharashtra govt, HC upholds Tribunal order to pay Rs 303 cr to firm

Mumbai. (Agency)
In a setback to Maharashtra government and its authorities, the Bombay High Court earlier this month upheld the majority award passed by the arbitral tribunal in April 2019 that directed the authorities to pay Rs 303 crore to FA Enterprises, a private firm, towards unpaid bills for construction of Balganga dam. The HC through August 12 verdict restored the arbitral tribunal award related to the project of water supply to expanding areas of Navi Mumbai and for drinking and Industrial purposes. The copy of the order was made available on Wednesday. A division (two-judge) bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Makarand S Karnik on August 12 quashed and set aside May 19, 2020 order of the single-judge bench of Justice (now retired) R D Dhanuka that had set aside the arbitral tribunal award and had granted relief to the state government, City and

that she had either jumped or fallen from the bathroom. Based on a statement from Gulshan’s first husband, Shoheb and the others were booked for abetment to suicide.

During the investigation, the police found blood stains on the door of a bathroom in the apartment as well as on the victim’s slippers, which were sent for forensic analysis.

“There was also an injury on the back of her head. It appeared like she had been hit with a heavy object and was then pushed off,” a police officer said.

As part of the probe, doctors and other experts were taken to the crime scene and further examination pointed to circumstantial evidence which indicated Shoheb’s role in the murder. Based on the developments, the police added murder charges to the case in June.

“Shoheb was already under arrest for abetment of suicide and was in jail. So the police took him into custody in the second week of June. During further probe, his brother and one of the drivers were arrested for destroying evidence,” Nale said.

pending the conviction... indicates far-reaching consequences... He not only remained disqualified, but also remained disqualified to contest the future election,” the court said.Of the total cases, 93 were of tree collapse within 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Wednesday. According to officials, the highest number of tree collapse cases of 43 was reported in the western suburbs between Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by 27 cases in the island city division, and 23 cases in the eastern suburbs.

Apart from this, 14 cases of partial wall collapse incidents were also reported in the city during the same period, with seven in eastern suburbs and four in the island city region. After heavy showers over the past five days, rainfall activity subdued considerably on Wednesday.

According to the IMD, between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Wednesday, the Santacruz station received 9.8 mm rain, while the Colaba coastal observatory registered mere 0.4 mm rain.

After 2 monorails got stuck, MMRDA to deploy staff to check overcrowding

Mumbai .(Agency)
A day after two monorails got stuck due to overcrowding and left over 700 passengers stranded, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) said that it will enhance efforts to avoid overcrowding.

The authority also announced that it has procured ten monorail rakes to address the peak hour demand and passenger load.

MMRDA also rolled out a set of short-term and long-term measures after the two incidents on the Monorail route between Bhakti Park and Chembur; and Wadala and Acharya Atre station Tuesday, amid heavy downpour in the city.

According to MMRDA, station staff have been ordered to strictly manage boarding in order to avoid overcrowding of trains. “Every Monorail coach can carry a maximum of 104 tonnes of load. In case it crosses the limit, the train won’t budge until passengers are evacuated safely,” a senior MMRDA official explained. Together with this, extra staff will now accompany every train. Why did the

Monorail get stuck?

Initial checks following the first incident on Tuesday indicated that the train had close to 109 tonnes, higher than the designed capacity of 104 tonnes. This caused the mechanical contact between the power rail and the current collector to break, disconnecting the supply of electricity required to operate the rake.

A senior security personnel will now always keep an eye on the movement of passengers within the coaches and a technician will be with the Monorail pilot to take care of any technical glitches during running. Emergency preparedness is being strengthened too, the MMRDA said. Each one of the eight ventilation windows in the four coaches of all four rakes is being checked and marked for easy identification. “This will assist in leading passengers during emergencies and avoid panic,” said the official. Improved signage with directions for emergency procedures and exits is being fitted within

trains to render safety information more accessible.

For the longer term, MMRDA is planning to induct new rolling stock. Ten new rakes were procured, of which seven have



arrived at the depot and are being tried and certified. Upon clearance to operate, these rakes will be put on the line to enhance carrying capacity and decrease the burden on the existing fleet. “The induction of new trains will ensure greater reliability and balance peak hour demand,” the official further said. MMRDA stated that after the

incident, a rescue team was sent immediately. The stuck train was to be towed by a standby rake, but it could not be shifted as it was overloaded. The Fire Brigade was then requisitioned to help evacuate all the passengers in a safe manner. There were no reported injuries.

According to Central Railway officials, the Harbour Line services were suspended after heavy rains in Mumbai, which pushed huge crowds towards the Monorail. Security personnel’s attempts to control boarding were overwhelmed by the influx of passengers. MMRDA clarified that the Monorail is a low-capacity transportation system intended for small corridors and not a replacement for suburban or metro rails.

“Safety of passengers is our concern. We appeal to commuters to take instructions from security and technical personnel in case of emergencies,” MMRDA stated, while also sharing that a thorough technical review has been initiated so that this does not repeat.

Pune team documents Kashmir’s endangered craft of building houseboats

Lucknow . (Agency)
From a ban on the construction of new houseboats since 1988 and a dip in the number of craftspeople to increasing difficulty in sourcing deodhar, which is required to make these vessels — this quintessential symbol of a tranquil Kashmir Valley is drifting into history as a lost item of Indian heritage.

Before the ageing craftspeople and their indigenous knowledge disappear, a team of researchers from Pune carried out a year-long documentation project that treats the Valley’s boat-building traditions as a heritage craft practice.

Nearly a year after the team started documenting this craft, master craftspeople and their teams were recently felicitated at the School of Designs in Srinagar in the presence of the director of Jammu & Kashmir’s Department of Handicrafts.

Funded by the British Museum’s Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, this documentation project sheds light on how the network of lakes and rivers that make up the Valley gave rise to the construction of floating dwellings.

The study is led by Sayali Athale and Anto Gloren. The other members of the team are Reyan U Rafiq, an interpreter from Srinagar, and researchers Ashutosh Chowhan and Anubhav Sutar from Pune. Gloren and Athale, both architects and woodworkers, have been focusing on timber in building for a while and visited the Valley a few times. “Kashmir has an amazing range of craftsmanship,

including boat building. The shikara even has a GI tag (a Geographical Indication tag, which is a form of intellectual property protection), but the craft of constructing houseboats has never been documented. Since this practice is now endangered, we felt it



necessary to help document it,” says Gloren.For centuries, the tradition of making boats shaped the region’s culture and character. In the 19th century, these floating houses, called doongas, started being used for tourism — resulting in the well-oiled myth that the British invented houseboats.

“The houseboat has evolved from several variants, and the doonga was the last of its indigenous lineage. The existence of doongas has been recorded since the early 18th century. Yet, in popular narrative, the credit for the invention of the houseboat is given to

its late 19th century British patrons. This misrepresentation of the houseboat as being an English invention and not an evolution of the local doonga has meant that it is seen as colonial heritage rather than a local tradition,” says Athale.

“The houseboat is perceived as an import serving tourists, and the history of the communities of local people dwelling in boats before the arrival of the British is often forgotten. Through our research, in tracing its predecessors, we hope to also influence this narrative and help redirect it for the future generations,” she adds.

Due to increasing pollution of lakes, the construction of new houseboats was prohibited in 1988. Before its ban, there were thousands of houseboats on Dal and Nigeen lakes, and the Jhelum. Fewer than 750 houseboats remain today. While Srinagar’s lakes are increasingly threatened by climate change and siltation, the future of houseboats is closely tied to the life of the lake itself.

“Due to the limitations, the number of craftsmen with the specific skill of houseboat hull construction has reduced over the last 35 years. With the loss of another craftsman in January this year, only four senior craftsmen remain on record who possess this knowledge. While their sons have assisted them in constructing houseboats, their primary professions are not houseboat building. With the passage of these senior craftsmen then, it remains to be seen if the knowledge tradition will be continued,” says Gloren.

Beyond Tigerism in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan state must have had a laugh when a section of pro-LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) Tamils finally accepted that their leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, indeed perished in 2009. To Colombo, it would have been amusing that a section wedded to the Tigers’ ideology was still refusing to accept the bitter truth: that the LTTE founder-leader was killed 15 years ago by the Sri Lankan military, debilitating the once feared outfit and ending a long war that almost broke the island nation.The choreographed event on August 2 at Basel in Switzerland, where hundreds gathered to commemorate Prabhakaran’s death, was itself a reflection of the self-defeating politics LTTE pursued.Prabhakaran was an insurgent leader who was kept fictionally alive by followers for reasons that are often obfuscated.So, why did Prabhakaran’s fans behave thus? The main reason was perhaps a loss of face. The LTTE had portrayed Prabhakaran as a ‘sun god’ who would deliver a free Tamil Eelam and could not be vanquished. Thus, even when blames were being apportioned for the LTTE’s rout, it was conjured up that he had escaped from Sri Lanka and would return to fight another day. A few politicians in Sri Lanka and India contributed to keep the fantasy alive.Meanwhile, unscrupulous former LTTE elements living in the West enriched themselves by duping gullible Tamils that money was needed for the upkeep of Prabhakaran, his wife and their only daughter living incognito. If this was not enough, a young lady surfaced on social media claiming to be Prabhakaran’s daughter.

This was the last straw. It created widespread revulsion in the Tamil diaspora, where support for the Tigers had been easing since 2009. Many considered it an insult to Prabhakaran that his dead daughter’s memory was being exploited to make money. Prabhakaran’s only brother publicly claimed in Europe that the rebel leader had died long ago and that he had been observing annual rituals for his departed brother. Many Tamils agreed enough was enough. This led to the event in Switzerland despite critics who argued that accepting Prabhakaran’s death would fuel the narrative that the Eelam campaign was buried for good.It’s a moment for Sri Lankan Tamils, particularly those allied to the LTTE, to go beyond conceding Prabhakaran’s death—if they need to do a genuine post-mortem on why a militant movement that at one time held a moral high ground and appeared invincible ended with a bloody whimper, leaving over 1,00,000 Sri Lankans, mainly Tamils, dead and causing unimaginable destruction. As a former LTTE guerrilla told me, Tamils in Sri Lanka stood on their own feet in 1983 when the Eelam struggle started; a quarter century later, they were on bended knees.It is easy to blame others for what happened to the LTTE, but a dispassionate analysis would show that the Tamil Tigers brought the mess upon themselves. An increasing number of former fighters are now speaking up. Some of them were close to both Prabhakaran and his intelligence chief, Pottu Amman.

The LTTE chieftain had more than one opportunity when he could have, having displayed military might, shaken hands with Colombo, with or without outside mediation, and obtained a political resolution. The first chance was when India and Sri Lanka signed a peace accord in 1987. The bigger opening came in 2002, when a Norway-sponsored ceasefire agreement came in. This was perhaps the best moment the LTTE, backed by much of the West, could have come to an honourable settlement with Sri Lanka and then built on the gains.In neither case, an independent Tamil Eelam would have been achieved. But as a senior former LTTE functionary in Batticaloa asked, did the LTTE deliver an Eelam finally? . sympathiser nation into a foe.

Back from the USSR : When Putin met Trump in Alaska

Trump’s invitation to Putin, to meet on US soil, shaking hands on the red-carpeted tarmac and sharing a limousine, announced to the world that Russia – without having backed down one iota from its maximum demands about Ukraine’s future – was recognized once more as an equal partner. And with that, Putin broke more than three years of diplomatic isolation

So now Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin have met again, this time in the former Russian territory of Alaska. As an outside observer, one could almost get the impression that time had turned back to the world before the end of the Cold War, when the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, still determined the fate of the world in haughty unity.But the meeting was much more than a historical reminiscence. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov wore a startling garment that he thought appropriate to the occasion, and to Putin’s purposes: a sweatshirt with “CCCP” (the Soviet Union’s Cyrillic acronym) emblazoned across the chest. If it was a joke, there was menace behind it.

Anyone who knows the longtime Russian foreign minister knows that he is not exactly known for his sense of humor or for overlooking details in the serious business of summit diplomacy. Lavrov’s sartorial choice was intentional; he intended to signal that Great Russia has returned to the top table of world affairs. The collapse of the USSR and its East European empire between 1989 and 1991 has been overcome. The empire is back, and it is reclaiming its lost territories.The most important of these territories is of course Ukraine. As former US National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski famously pointed out in 1994, “without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire.” Lavrov’s sweatshirt was not about the Cold War, but about the world as Russia intends it to be.

Trump’s invitation to Putin, an indicted war criminal, to meet on US soil endorsed that vision. Putin’s joint appearance with the US president, shaking hands on the red-carpeted tarmac and sharing a limousine, announced to the world that Russia – without having backed down one iota from its maximum demands about Ukraine’s future – was recognized once more as an equal partner. And with that, Putin broke more than three years of diplomatic isolation.The message sent to Ukraine by the summit was also clear: even the US president accepts that the Russian empire is back. Don’t think you can escape it by heading West. You belong where you belong: only when you understand this brute fact can peace return. You are on your own; the US will not help you, and Europe alone cannot.

But Europeans should also study the subtext of the Alaska summit very carefully, because for them, too, this manifestation of a world order determined solely by the interests of great powers contains many sobering messages. If the meeting was attended by a whiff of the 1945 Yalta Conference, where World War II’s victors



divided the geopolitical spoils, that is because it was another milestone marking the decline of multilateralism and supranationalism.

The idea of “the West” no longer means much, if anything, to America under Trump. All that counts is Trump’s worldview and his interpretation of American interests, as muddled as his interpretations are.

Europeans must decide for themselves where they stand. Although the US will not change its formal relations with Europe for the time being, Trump will continue to listen to Europeans and smirk approvingly at their flattery, then ignore them, as he did with the Alaska meeting.Europeans must therefore understand that they are alone in this new world order. The US will no longer take their interests into account, whether in matters of security or trade.Europe must become a global power in

its own right, quickly and energetically confronting the entire spectrum of challenges that this entails, including space, intelligence services, and the entire digital sector. This “turning point” in Europe’s long history requires much greater and more far-reaching efforts than just European rearmament with conventional hardware and personnel, as important as that may be. That is the message from Alaska for Europeans.

Why is Trump’s America so obviously acting against its own interests? Except for the lifting of economic sanctions, Putin obviously got everything he wanted from the summit, above all escape from diplomatic isolation, US recognition of Russia as an equal world power, and acceptance of Ukraine’s fate as an integral part of Russkiy Mir (the “Russian world”). Why is Trump strengthening Russia without any quid pro quo?

Set politics aside in mass burial probe

With investigations at Dharmasthala on hold until the SIT gives its report, which could take months, the police could begin a parallel probe into the latest complaints

Under pressure from the opposition and religious bodies, the Karnataka government has made a subtle change in its approach to the Dharmasthala mass burials case, and to the witness-complainant who claims to have buried over a hundred bodies around the temple town from 1995 to 2014. With no skeletons coming out of 17 exhumation sites—barring one skeleton and skeletal remains at an unmarked spot—the case has taken a sharp political twist. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar voiced the first doubts about the masked complainant and Home Minister G Parameshwara said the excavation has stopped. Investigations will continue only after forensic examination of the skeletons and chemical analysis of the soil. The complainant, a former sanitation worker, is likely to come under investigation. The alleged conspiracy angle will also be probed and, if his claims are false, the state will act against him.The BJP, already sceptical of the excavation, launched a fusillade against the government for its “anti-Hindu” mindset, and demanded that the CM apologise to the



people. The opposition is claiming the issue has tarnished the image of the Dharmasthala Manjunatha temple and the powerful Heggade family, and are demanding a background check on the complainant and his ‘handlers’. BJP leaders reached the town over the weekend to show support to Rajya Sabha MP and dharmadhikari Veerendra

Heggade; the Bhattaraka Jain Mutt seers are planning to gather at the temple on August 29. The Congress cannot afford to upset the majority community and will perforce have to align with the conspiracy theorists to prove its credentials.Yet, the mystery endures. Families are coming forward with complaints of missing girls and suspicious deaths, and activists are seeking a probe into the unidentified bodies buried without due procedure. Forensic experts advise a thorough soil check for human traces. Soil scientists say skeletons disintegrate faster in coastal regions and those buried near rivers could be washed away. The region’s acidic laterite soil corrodes bones, so material evidence may not be easily found if exhumed after decades. With investigations on hold until the SIT gives its report, which could take months, the police could begin a parallel probe into the latest complaints. If indeed the hilly town holds some dark secrets, political and religious affiliations should be set aside in the quest for justice. The truth can never be buried for long.

Let evidence offer ways to handle stray animals

Free-roaming animals pose a multi-faceted public health and safety challenge

THE Supreme Court’s order on removing all stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR and transferring them to shelters has sparked an animated debate across the country. This debate has become polarised, with animal lovers opposing the order and dubbing those welcoming it as anti-animal and cruel. They are also raising moral, ethical, religious and mythological arguments and invoking grounds of empathy and compassion.In recent years, we have had long legal battles over stray dogs in public places, with courts issuing orders to restrict feeding and then amending them subsequently. One should recognise that stray animals, in fact, all free-roaming animals in human habitats, pose a threat to human health, and we need a public health approach to address this problem. Free-roaming animals in cities and villages include dogs, cats, monkeys and cattle.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recognised dog-mediated rabies as a public health problem and launched a global initiative for the elimination of rabies by 2030. India is a signatory to this global call and has committed itself to reaching the goal of ending rabies in the country. Rabies is among the slew of Neglected Tropical Diseases for which special efforts have been mounted by the world health agency, and member countries like India have endorsed them.To fulfil its commitment, India launched the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Dog-mediated Rabies (NAPRE) in 2021. The health ministry has told states to make

rabies a notifiable disease and step up reporting and surveillance systems, as well as access to diagnostic services and vaccines.

Dogs are the main carriers of the rabies virus, though it can also spread from cats and monkeys. Rabies spreads through the saliva of infected animals, which gets transferred to humans through a bite. After a dog bite, if treatment is not given in time, the infected person can die.The treatment for dog-mediated rabies consists of post-exposure prophylactic immunisation administered intramuscularly or intradermally. This helps to eliminate or neutralise the rabies virus at the bite site and prevent its entry into the nervous system.

Vaccination needs to be accompanied by wound care and administration of rabies immunoglobulins in many cases. The administration of vaccination and immunoglobulins is a complicated procedure, requiring trained medical manpower. In addition, access and availability of vaccines are a major issue, given the fact that most victims of rabies exposure are from vulnerable and marginalised communities. Animal lovers often try to undermine the scale and problem of rabies by hiding behind inadequate reporting and data-gathering by government agencies. Despite the inadequacies, the rabies burden in India is massive and among the highest in the world. Globally, as per the WHO, one person dies from rabies every nine minutes — mostly after being bitten by a rabid dog. The agency estimates that rabies causes 18,000 to 20,000 deaths every year in India. About 30 to 60 per cent of the reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under 15 years, as bites that occur in kids often go unrecognised or unreported. India accounts for 36 per cent of the global burden of rabies.

The rabies burden is directly linked to the rising trend of dog bites in India. Based on data provided by national

agencies, the WHO reported recently that India had 1.22 crore cases of animal bites in 2023 — up from 72 lakh in 2019. However, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme data, released by the Central Government in April this year, put the total number of dog bites at 37 lakh in 2024 and the number of rabies deaths at 54.The only scientific and evidence-based solution to the rabies challenge is mass vaccination of



dogs. Since dogs are the primary reservoir of the rabies virus, inoculating them against it would prevent the transmission of rabies from dogs to humans. We need to vaccinate at least 70 per cent of the dog population to make inoculation effective in preventing rabies transmission to humans. In India, this is problematic because the population of stray dogs runs into millions, and our veterinary infrastructure is inadequate to handle the task. Also, the free-roaming dog population may be inaccessible in many areas. If the vaccination coverage is poor, it won’t work. Moreover, available dog vaccines don’t prevent wildlife-derived rabies.

Vaccination benefits are lost if unvaccinated dogs enter areas or territories where high vaccination rate has been achieved. Dog vaccination also does not solve the problem of dog bites, which is a traumatic experience, especially for children.The solution being advocated in India is animal birth control — taking dogs away from streets, neutering them and releasing them back on the streets. Given the large population of stray dogs and poor veterinary infrastructure, this strategy could take decades to stabilise the population of street dogs. Meanwhile, the threat of rabies and the additional burden of treatment of dog bites will still loom large.Besides, the fear of dog bites and animal attacks keeps people, particularly children, the elderly and morning walkers, away from public places like parks, recreational facilities, pavements and neighbourhood markets. The same holds true for public premises like schools, colleges, hospitals, government offices, railway stations, bus stands and courts. We need to make all our public spaces safe for citizens. Feeding of free-roaming animals/birds — dogs, cattle, monkeys, pigeons — in public places adds to the problem.

Free-roaming creatures pose a multi-faceted public health and safety challenge, which needs a multi-pronged strategy — vaccination, birth control, relocation, restrictions on feeding, public awareness and strengthening of anti-rabies clinics. The health ministry and state health agencies should seize the opportunity provided by the Supreme Court order to initiate a public dialogue to find durable solutions based on evidence and research. The debate should not be restricted to dogs but include monkeys and stray cattle, which are causing huge economic losses to farmers in some states.

Mann government misuses police to stop BJP's 'Sewadar Aa Gye Ne Tuhade Dwaar' campaign at 39 locations: Sarin



Chandigarh. (Agency)

Punjab BJP general secretary Anil Sarin on Wednesday condemned the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government for allegedly misusing police forces to forcibly halt the "BJP de Sewadar aa Gye ne Tuhade Dwaar" campaign at 39 locations. He labelled it an "anti-people" and "dictatorial" action.

"The Punjab government forcibly stopped this campaign wherein poor and needy people were getting information about the central government's welfare schemes," alleged Sarin in Chandigarh.

Sarin claimed the initiative—which aimed to spread information and enable enrollment in various central welfare schemes—was completely blocked when the Mann government deliberately intervened.

"Instead of supporting initiatives that empower the poor, farmers, women, and youth, the state government chose to misuse police force and obstruct these programmes. This act not only denied the people of Punjab access to valuable information and guidance, but also exposed the anti-development mindset of the Mann government," Sarin stated.

He further accused the AAP government of creating deliberate obstacles to the implementation of key central schemes—such as free ration distribution, health benefits under Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and numerous welfare initiatives for youth and women.

RV Road interchange in Bengaluru gets steel barricades

BENGALURU. (Agency)

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has begun installing steel barricades on platforms at the RV Road Interchange Metro Station to improve passenger safety.

The station connects the Green Line with the recently inaugurated Yellow Line.

"The installation of barricades at the RV Road Interchange Station is underway, and so far, on one side, the barricades have been almost completely installed. The installation for the station will be completed in the next two to three days," a senior BMRL official said.



The change where heavy footfall is expected. Officials noted that the 25-minute wait time for Yellow Line trains often leads to passenger accumulation, increasing the risk of overcrowding. By regulating entry and exit points, the barricades are aimed at preventing congestion near train doors and providing commuters with a safer boarding experience. Passengers have welcomed the initiative, saying it will bring more order to crowd management at the interchange.

RV Road is the second station in the Namma Metro network to have steel barricades after Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Interchange. The 19.5-km Yellow Line, connecting RV Road to Bommasandra, was opened earlier this month after multiple delays.

Standoff over Haryana teacher's death ends, cremation held after CBI probe announcement, AIIMS autopsy

The unusual circumstances surrounding the play school teacher's death, and the alleged mishandling of the case, sparked widespread protests across Haryana.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Eight days after the body of a missing 19-year-old play school teacher was found in a village in Haryana's Bhiwani district, her cremation was held Thursday morning after authorities met the demands made by her family and villagers.

Her family and the villagers refused to allow the last rites, demanding a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe and a third autopsy at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.

The Haryana Government decided to hand over the probe into the death of the teacher to CBI, and the third autopsy was also conducted at AIIMS, Delhi, Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Haryana Government extended the suspension of mobile internet services, bulk SMS (excluding banking and mobile recharge), and all dongle services in the Bhiwani district for 24 hours from 11 am Thursday, citing law and order concerns. It expressed apprehensions that inflammatory content, rumours and misinformation on social media platforms could incite agitation, violence, arson and vandalism.



Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), said the order was being extended following reports from the additional director general of police (CID), and the deputy commissioner of the district.

"This order is being extended to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order only in the jurisdiction of district Bhiwani for next 24 hours i.e. 21.08.2025 11:00 hrs

HC suspends conviction of Abbas Ansari in hate speech case: 'refusal to do so also amounts to injustice to his electorate'

Lucknow. (Agency)

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday suspended the conviction of Abbas Ansari, the son of gangster-politician Mukhtar Abbas Ansari, in a three-year-old hate speech case, saying "refusal to stay his conviction amounts to injustice not only to him but also to the electorate which elected him". Abbas Ansari, who was elected from the Mau Assembly seat in 2022 Uttar Pradesh elections, was sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment in May this year, leading to his disqualification from the membership of the House.

The 33-year-old was booked on March 3, 2022, for his campaign speech in which he had allegedly threatened to "teach a lesson" to the administrative officials of Mau after the elections. On May 31 this year, a court in Mau convicted him and sentenced him to two years of imprisonment, leading to his disqualification from the UP Assembly. He then challenged the order in the sessions court, which on July 5 stayed

the sentence but declined to stay the conviction. He then appealed in the Allahabad High Court. In his order, Justice Sameer Jain of the Allahabad High Court cited the 2024 Supreme Court order against disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi (Rahul Gandhi Vs Purnesh Ishwarbhai Modi, 2024), saying "disqualification of a person not only affect the right of public representative to continue in the public life but also affect the right of electorate who have elected him to represent their constituency". "... (Abbas Ansari) was a sitting MLA and at the time of election he was delivering the speech, and although being an MLA, he should restraint himself but merely on delivering such speech... refusal to stay his conviction in view of this Court amounts to injustice not only to the revisionist (Ansari) but also to the electorate who elected him. It appears, while refusing the prayer to stay the conviction, appellate court (sessions court) did not consider this aspect," the order stated.

'Misuse of muafi land': ED searches Wahid Sandhar Sugar Mill, Gold Gym, linked premises in Phagwara

Jalandhar.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday carried out search operations at eight locations across Punjab and Chandigarh in connection with their investigation into money laundering involving Phagwara-based Wahid Sandhar Sugars Limited and related entities and persons, ED sources said.

Sources said raids were conducted at Wahid Sandhar Sugar Mill, Gold Gym and several other premises in Phagwara linked to their owner Jarnail Singh Wahid.

Sources said it was found during the probe that Wahid Sandhar Sugars Ltd had "misused the muafi land initially allotted by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala State in 1933. The said muafi land was intended for running a sugar mill as per the conditions of allotment, and its mortgage or sale was strictly prohibited."

Wahid Sandhar Sugars Ltd had acquired the rights to operate the sugar mill on the muafi land in 2000. However, the



company allegedly breached the conditions by mortgaging and selling the land, said ED sources. "By engaging in such activities, the firm caused losses to the state government while wrongfully gaining benefits

to 22.08.2025 11:00 hrs. This order is being passed ex-parte in view of the emergent situation as explained in earlier paragraphs. Any person found guilty of violation of aforesaid order will be liable for legal action under relevant provisions of law," Misra said in the order. The play school teacher had gone missing on August 11 after visiting a nursing college to inquire about admission. When she failed to return home by evening, her father contacted the police through Dial-112, Haryana's emergency response system. The family alleged that although the police accompanied them to the college, they only questioned three intoxicated men who claimed not to have seen her and stated that the college had closed at 1 PM.

Her body was discovered on August 13 in a field near a canal. The initial post-mortem was conducted at Bhiwani Civil Hospital, followed by a second examination at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS, Rohtak). However, the family raised serious concerns about the condition of the body, which was reported-

ly missing vital organs, including the neck, and demanded a third autopsy at AIIMS.

The unusual circumstances surrounding her death, and the alleged mishandling of the case, sparked widespread protests across the state, with students and residents joining in. The Opposition also criticised the BJP-led Haryana government, accusing it of a collapse in law and order, even as Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini insisted he had been receiving minute-by-minute updates from the police, and that several people were interrogated in connection with the case.

In response to the growing unrest, the Haryana Government transferred the Bhiwani superintendent of police, and suspended some other officers.

Meanwhile, the Haryana Police, citing the viscera report and other evidence, suggested the possibility of suicide. This theory was firmly rejected by her family and the villagers, who refused to allow the cremation until their demands for a CBI investigation and an AIIMS autopsy were fulfilled.

Ganesha festival: 75 single-window centres to be set up in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Ahead of the Gauri-Ganesha festival, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a set of guidelines on Wednesday, which includes a complete ban on the use of chemical

paints, thermocol, and plaster of Paris (PoP) idols. Idols found to be made with any of the aforementioned items will be seized and disposed of, and criminal cases will be filed against individuals found responsible, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao M said.

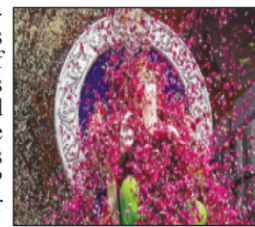
The order follows discussions held on August 5.

To erect Ganesha idols in public places, organisations or individuals must apply at the offices of the assistant executive engineers designated as nodal officers at the sub-divisional level.

The nodal officers will coordinate with the police, BESCOM, fire department, and other relevant departments to obtain and issue approvals. To streamline the process of granting permissions for the installation

of Ganesha idols, 75 single-window centres will be set up at sub-divisional offices within BBMP limits, and relevant officers will be present at these centres to provide approval.

As far as immersion is concerned, designated immersion locations in each ward will be identified by BBMP. To handle the wet waste generated during the festival celebrations, arrangements will be made to send the waste to the BBMP's processing units. Apart from public displays, individuals celebrating at home are urged to immerse the idols at home in buckets, and repurpose the clay remnants into manure.



Himachal apple growers struggle amid washed-out roads; transportation costs skyrocket

Incessant rain also made apple growers in Himachal Pradesh pluck the fruit much earlier than the desired time. The matter was raised during the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Assembly.

Shimla. (Agency)

Naresh Sharma, a small-time apple grower in the Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh, usually takes his crop to the Parala mandi, located 7-8 kilometres from his village. Usually, transporting a single carton of apples from Kiar under the Theog subdivision costs him around Rs 50.

This year, however, the cost has skyrocketed to Rs 200 per carton.

Reason: An over-flooded Gai Khad (nallah), which has no bridge, and has become extremely risky to cross due to the incessant rain lashing the region. Crossing Gai Khad is essential to reach the Bhanu Raina link road that connects to the Parala apple market. "Despite the lack of a bridge, it was earlier manageable to cross the khad. But now, due to the strong water current and continuous rain, it's too dangerous for a loaded four-wheeler," says Naresh, who is also up-pradhan of Kiar Gram Panchayat. "I've had to employ Gorkha workers to carry each carton across the khad on their shoulders, where I've arranged another vehicle to transport the apples to the mandi. All this has pushed my transport cost to Rs 250 per carton," says the 31-year-old.

"A fortnight ago, we met the Deputy Commissioner of Shimla, Anupam Kashyap, about Gai Khad. Although work to lay the culverts in the khad started, two of the culverts

were washed away by the fast current of water. This time, I don't think that we will get any profit from our apple crop," he adds.

'A very complex situation'

About 95 km away, in Gamog Gram Panchayat under Nirmand block



of Kullu district, countless sacks of apples lie by the roadside or under temporary sheds. The sacks have been there for days to be transported to the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) centre in the Nirmand subdivision in Anni. "Incessant rain forced us to pluck our Red Golden apples much earlier than usual, putting this into the C grade category," says Jagdish

Kumar, husband of Gram Panchayat pradhan Kamlesh Devi. "The roads here are so bad that pickup drivers refuse to come. We've requested local horticulture officials for help, but they only ask us to wait. If the rain continues, our apples will rot. Some of the people managed to transport the apples packed in sacks to the procurement centre, but the centre is yet to procure these. The apple sacks were lying roadside in the centre."

Devinder Chauhan, Horticulture Development Officer, said it was "a very complex situation". "The incessant rain and bad weather made many apple growers pluck their fruit much earlier than the desired time. This kind of fruit falls under the C category, which couldn't be sold in the markets, and the Himachal Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Ltd (HPMC) is bound to procure such apples at the rate of Rs 12 per kg. However, the apple should not be in a bad condition. We have to see the quality of the apple before procuring it."

Meanwhile, the Horticulture Department has projected an estimated production and procurement of 6 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of apples this season. "Just the beginning of the season. The struggles of Naresh and Jagdish are not isolated cases. Many apple growers, particularly in lower-elevation areas, face similar challenges.

Construction of Ram Temple, built with stones and no iron, likely to enter IIT-Roorkee, CBRI syllabus

Lucknow. (Agency)

THE CONSTRUCTION process of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya — using stones and no iron — is likely to be included in the syllabus at two institutes in Uttarakhand's Roorkee: The IIT and the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI).

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, in a meeting convened in Ayodhya over the past three days, has decided to hand over five years' of time-lapse video footage to the two institutes to turn into study material and also be featured in a documentary.

Chairman of the construction committee of the temple, Nripendra Mishra, told The Indian Express on Wednesday that as soon as he is back in Delhi, he would invite the heads of both the institutes and would discuss the signing of a "detailed agreement" with them in this regard.

He informed that five cameras were installed on the Temple premises to capture the time-lapse video footage of each day of the temple construction — right from the day of laying of foundation stone in August 2020, soil testing, different phases of construction to its completion, likely in December this year.

"The idea was to take all the possible and relevant photographs to show how the temple construction is going on," Mishra told The Indian Express, adding, "We have decided to initiate talks with IIT Roorkee and CBRI so that they may, perhaps, make a syllabus on the technology of the temple construction, particularly of stone with no iron. It would become part of

their syllabus and course for students to study."

Asked about how the footage would be handed over, Mishra told The Indian Express, "A detailed agreement would be signed with the institutes as the footage is the intellectual

property right of the temple Trust." The three-day Trust meeting, which concluded on Wednesday also reviewed the ongoing construction work of the temple, granite memorial for those died after having taken part in the Temple movement, development of a "Panchvati", around 10 acres of green forest area, which can provide protective area for monkeys and birds and would have a water body as well. It was also informed during the meeting that for the ongoing work of installation of 90 murals on the lower plinth of the temple,

which would narrate the story of Lord Ram. "There murals are made up of Bansi Paharpur stone and are 90 in number. They would narrate the story of Ram and would roughly spread to about 800 running ft. These murals are roughly about 6-7 ft of height. 85 of



these have arrived," informed Mishra.

Meanwhile, officials informed that the meeting concentrated on construction of the museum in the temple premises as the discussion took place on the probable technologies to be used for around 20 galleries, which would depict the life of Lord Ram and different characters of Ramayana era through different methodology. Sources inform that it has been decided that one of the galleries, which would depict in 3D the life of Hanuman, would be developed by IIT Madras.

The Defence Ministry's biggest test after Operation Sindoor

>A flurry of defence procurement announcements, a tortoise-paced acquisition process, and a chance to fix the system.

Agency New Delhi.

For over half-a-century, Indian security agencies have planned to fight a two-front war - against Pakistan and China. In recent years, as India's military modernisation has picked up speed, a third front has emerged - the systemic delays that prevent the swift acquisition of military hardware. India's arms acquisition delays are legendary. It takes between 5-6 years to buy a weapon system, three times longer than the officially prescribed two-year time limit. This is only the decision and trial-making process, not the time it will

take to actually manufacture and deliver a weapon system which, depending on the size, complexity of the weapons platform, and the vendor's capacity, could take several more years.

FOURTH-LARGEST DEFENCE BUDGET

Money is not the issue. India has the world's fourth-largest defence budget. This year it earmarked USD 78.7 billion dollars (Rs 6.8 lakh crore) for defence spending. Building indigenous defence capability was outlined as a top priority by the government under the 'Make in India' drive. Prime Minister Modi stressed the importance of indigenous defence systems in striking swift blows during Operation Sindoor.

Since the intense May 7-10 skirmishes with Pakistan, the Defence Ministry has approved over Rs 2 lakh crore worth of military hardware in the past three months. These include drone boats, surface-to-air missiles, night sights for infantry combat vehicles, BrahMos fire control systems and launchers, medium altitude drones and mountain radars.

On August 19, the Cabinet Committee on



Security (CCS) cleared a Rs 62,000 crore deal for 97 LCA Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets and Rs 19,000 crore for a Netra Mark-2 Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system based on an Airbus A321 aircraft.

If all goes well, most of these big ticket items will be delivered in under five years. But that is seldom the case because of the slow decision-making cycle. Even before Sindoor, the MoD was distraught at the sluggish system. "Our procurement policy, for a long time, has been broken, and I make no secret of that," defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said at a lecture in New Delhi on January 10 this year.

"It's true that we've not been able to do things on time. The timelines we've given

ourselves are too luxurious," he further said.

STEPS TO OVERCOME DELAYS

To overcome delays and swiftly replenish capabilities, the Defence Ministry has enabled emergency procurements for the armed forces to quickly buy hardware.

Since the 2016 cross-border surgical strikes, the services have been given financial powers to buy equipment worth up to Rs 300 crore. On July 25, for instance, the MoD inked 13 contracts for the supply of low-level lightweight radars, drones, night sights for rifles, bulletproof jackets, ballistic helmets and quick-reaction fighting vehicles worth Rs 1,982 crore.

Yet, these emergency powers are another symptom of the malaise within the system. The July 13 contracts were the fifth time the MoD has resorted to such procurements, an indication of the sloth within the system. Emergency procurement equipment is to be delivered within a year of signing the contract. But that seldom happens because manufacturers rush to grab the contracts while under-estimating their capacity to deliver.

Court questions Haryana on migrant policy after Indians wrongly held in Gurugram

Agency New Delhi.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday questioned the Haryana government on whether it has a standard operating procedure (SOP) to verify the identity of migrant workers being detained in the state. The query followed a recent crackdown by Haryana Police on alleged illegal immigrants.

The issue surfaced after several Bengali-speaking persons picked up in Gurugram in July, on suspicion of being undocumented Bangladeshi nationals, were later found to be Indian citizens from West Bengal and Assam. They were released after their documents were verified.

The petition, filed by Delhi resident Nirmal Gorana, argued that neither Haryana nor Punjab has a proper verification process in place, or that existing rules are being "flagrantly violated". The state of Haryana, Gurugram's Commissioner of Police, and the district magistrate have been named as respondents.

Defending the police action, Haryana's counsel told the court that officers were acting under Union government directions. In May 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had asked all states and union territories to form Special Task Forces in each district to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants within 30 days.

The Haryana government submitted that an SOP exists, created by the MHA's Foreigners Branch, but noted that the petitioner had not shown whether it was publicly available on the government's website.

The petitioner's lawyer, Bhavpreet Singh Dhatt, told India Today TV that "over a thousand workers detained in Gurugram were alleged to be Bangladeshi, but many had valid documentation or were from West Bengal and Assam. While some were eventually released, there was no SOP guiding these detentions.

Delhi High Court upholds MCD move to develop land for kids' playground

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition by residents of Model Town-II seeking to convert a parcel of land, adjacent to an MCD school, into an ornamental park, ruling that its use as a playground for schoolchildren is vital for their physical and overall development. In a judgment delivered on August 19, Justice Mini Pushkarna upheld the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) decision, stressing that the "requirement of the said parcel of land for the school students as a playground is indispensable for their physical development and growth."

The court noted that several parks already exist in the area, including a 100-acre facility, available for public use.

The case arose from a long-standing dispute dating back to 1987-88 when residents of F Block, Model Town-II, opposed the conversion of the plot into a multi-storied school building. At the time, MCD had assured them that only a temporary shed would be built and the permanent structure would be shifted elsewhere.

However, the school building was later constructed on the site, prompting litigation. A compromise led to the withdrawal of the earlier suit, but residents continued to press for the development of the remaining land into a park, citing an undertaking given in 2011.

When MCD began constructing a boundary wall and staircases around the land, the petitioners moved the high court again, arguing that the civic body had failed to honour its commitment to develop the area as an ornamental park.

MCD countered that the petitioners lacked locus standi and had not demonstrated any harm caused by the land's use as a playground.

Relief as Yamuna water level dips

Agency New Delhi.

The water level in the Yamuna fell below the danger mark on Wednesday, a day after several parts of Delhi's low-lying areas were flooded as the river swelled following heavy inflows from upstream barrages.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), the water level at the Old Railway Bridge (ORB) stood at 204.50 metres at 7 p.m. on Wednesday—precisely at the warning level and below the danger threshold of 205.33 metres. Earlier in the morning, the river had measured 204.76 metres at the same site, indicating a gradual receding trend after remaining above danger levels for nearly two days. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the situation was "under control" and assured citizens that monitoring teams were working round the clock. "The satisfactory thing is that the water level is much lower than the danger mark. Exit discharge is higher than the inflow. Rest assured, our monitoring and management system is active around the clock, and a close watch is being maintained," she posted on X. On Wednesday, 31,016 cusecs were discharged from the Hathnikund barrage and 41,200 cusecs from the Wazirabad barrage.

The improvement comes after water had spilled over into Yamuna Bazaar and adjoining neighbourhoods on Tuesday, flooding houses near the ghats and forcing the administration to open relief camps. Civil defence volunteers were deployed with food, medicines and bedding to assist families who evacuated. Some residents shifted to government tents, while others stayed back, moving essentials to terraces as water entered homes.

The Yamuna had reached 205.79 metres on Tuesday, above the danger mark and close to the 206-metre evacuation level, before beginning to recede by evening. Officials had attributed the surge to continuous releases from Hathnikund and Wazirabad barrages. According to the flood control department, the Hathnikund barrage was discharging about 38,361 cusecs and the Wazirabad barrage around 68,230 cusecs per hour. Inflows typically take 48-50 hours to travel down to the city, meaning even moderate releases can keep the river elevated for days.

Speaker, police chief review security arrangements

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review the security and logistical arrangements for the upcoming All India Speakers' Conference, scheduled for 24-25 August 2025. The meeting was attended by Delhi Police Commissioner SBK Singh, Special CP Traffic K Jagdishan, Special CP Security Jaspal Singh, DCP Security Manasvi Jain, Joint CP North & Central Madhur Verma and other senior Delhi government officials. During the meeting, Commissioner SBK Singh assured Speaker Gupta that the Delhi Police would ensure comprehensive security for the event.

He stressed that no security lapses would be tolerated and shared key suggestions to streamline the event's operations and protocol. Singh informed the meeting that all guests would be given the status of State Guest and provided with dedicated Delhi Police protocol and security officers.

The entire experience, from arrival at the airport to accommodation at the Taj Hotel and movement to the Assembly, would be meticulously managed to ensure smooth and efficient operations. The meeting also included a joint inspection of the Assembly premises, with Speaker and senior police officials reviewing on-ground arrangements.

The team examined venue readiness, seating arrangements, entry and exit management, and emergency protocols. The discussions were focused on ensuring the safety and smooth execution of the event at the highest level of standards. This year's conference is of particular historical significance, as it marks the centenary of Vitthalbhai Jhaverbhai Patel's election on 24 August 1925 as the first Indian President (Speaker) of the Central Legislative Assembly. Patel's election was a milestone in India's democratic history. Known for his impartial leadership and commitment to parliamentary dignity, Patel's legacy continues to inspire India's democratic institutions to this day.

Bills to oust PM, ministers referred to parliamentary panel. What happens

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has introduced three bills to remove jailed Prime Minister and ministers. The legislation faces severe opposition claims of unconstitutionality and possible misuse.

Agency New Delhi.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday introduced three contentious bills that would allow the removal of the Prime Minister, chief ministers, and ministers if they are jailed for more than 30 days for offences carrying a minimum sentence of five years. Describing the bills as a major anti-corruption measure, Shah moved a motion in the Lok Sabha to refer them to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for detailed scrutiny. The JPC will include members from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The Opposition denounced the legislation as "draconian" and "unconstitutional." They accused the ruling BJP of planning to misuse central agencies to frame non-BJP chief ministers, imprison them, and destabilise state governments. Despite

the outcry, Shah's motion was passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

On Thursday, Shah moved a similar motion in the Rajya Sabha to send the three bills to the JPC. The motion also



states that 10 members of the Rajya Sabha will be nominated by the Deputy Chairman to join the committee. Once both Houses approve the motion, the Lok Sabha Speaker will constitute the JPC, comprising around 31 members from both Houses.

The panel will be tasked with thoroughly examining the bills and submitting its report within a specified timeframe. The process could take months. The report is unlikely to be submitted before the next parliamentary session, which would delay the matter by at least three months. Moreover, as the bills involve constitutional amendments, they will require a two-thirds majority in Parliament — an uphill task for the government.

MASSIVE OUTCRY OVER THREE BILLS

Pandemonium broke out as Shah sought to introduce the three bills — the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025 — in the Lower House.

"To Blackmail, Torture Nitish Kumar": Tejashwi Yadav On Bill To Sack Ministers

Agency New Delhi.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has criticised a set of bills to sack ministers in the federal or any state or union territory government - including the Prime Minister and Chief Minister - if they have been jailed (not necessarily convicted) of 'serious criminal charges' for 30 consecutive days. Mr Yadav accused the ruling BJP of trying to 'blackmail' and 'torture' the chief ministers of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, i.e., Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu, without whose combined support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government cannot prove a Lok Sabha majority.

He claimed the motive was to keep allies, including Mr Kumar and Mr Naidu, on a tight leash. The bill, he



said, was a message, particularly before the Bihar election this year - to the line or be arrested in money laundering cases registered by the Enforcement Directorate and be stripped of power.

"They are bringing this for Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu. It (the bill) has only job... to blackmail. If PMLA

(Prevention of Money Laundering Act) cases are slapped by Enforcement Directorate... there can be no quick bail. These are torture tactics," he told reporters. "Instead of building the country, they are distorting it," Mr Yadav raged, echoing remarks by other senior opposition leaders, including the Congress' Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Trinamool's Abhishek Banerjee pointed out the ED's poor conviction rate in cases involving allegations against opposition political leaders, a topic red-flagged by the Supreme Court. In March the government admitted - as the ED was grilling RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav - that decadal conviction rate for cases against politicians is 1 per cent.

Why government tabled bills to ensure jailed PMs, Chief Ministers lose post

According to sources, the bills are the culmination of years of consultations and ground-level feedback. The government, they said, had been grappling with an unusual but recurring scenario - elected leaders arrested on serious charges refusing to vacate office, continuing to run governments from prison.

Agency New Delhi.

"You can't govern India from a jail cell. Not anymore." With these words, Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended in Lok Sabha on Wednesday the government's move to bring three landmark legislations - the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill. According to sources, the bills are the culmination of years of consultations and ground-level feedback. The government, they said, had been grappling with an unusual but recurring scenario - elected leaders arrested on serious charges refusing to vacate office, continuing to run governments from prison.

"The Constitution's makers never imagined that leaders would run governments from prison," sources told.

The tipping point came last year. On August 7, 2024, days before Independence Day, Delhi found itself without a leader to hoist the national flag. Then Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was in jail but had not resigned, instead writing to the Lieutenant Governor to nominate Minister Atishi to perform the duty on his behalf. None of the jailed AAP leaders had stepped down. In effect, the government was being run from behind bars.

It wasn't just Kejriwal. Satyendar Jain, arrested in an alleged money laundering and corruption case, retained his ministerial position for nearly a year.

Down south, Tamil Nadu's Senthil Balaji, first arrested in June 2023 by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, continued as minister without portfolio until February 12, 2024. India had entered what Shah described as a "bizarre chapter" where

ministers clung to office despite incarceration - no resignations, no shame, and no law preventing it. This, sources said, laid the foundation for a constitutional shake-up.

As the opposition began raising slogans outside Parliament, Shah rose inside the



Lok Sabha - calm, confident and combative. The moment he opened his file, opposition benches erupted. But Shah stood his ground.

Flipping through history, he threw down a

political gauntlet: "It was Indira Gandhi who amended the Constitution to shield herself. Congress continues that culture."

Shah declared that he was not pulling punches but declaring a war on corruption and moral decay in politics.

"I've introduced bills that will ensure no Prime Minister, Chief Minister or Minister can continue in office if they are in jail," he said, calling it a moral line in the sand. Those who have observed Shah closely noted that he often speaks in the House with data and evidence. He argued that the Constitution was never equipped to deal with scenarios where leaders governed from prison cells. Back in 1946, when Dr Rajendra Prasad and Dr BR Ambedkar led the Constituent Assembly, they had imagined a moral, democratic India - not ministers refusing to quit even when jailed.

NEWS BOX

Ajinkya Rahane steps down as Mumbai captain ahead of new domestic season

New Delhi. (Agency)

Veteran India batter Ajinkya Rahane announced on Thursday that he would be stepping down as captain of Mumbai ahead of the upcoming domestic season. Rahane took to social media to reveal his decision, citing the need to groom a new leader within the team. "Captaining and winning championships with the Mumbai team has been an absolute honour. With a new domestic season ahead, I believe it's the right time to groom a new leader, and hence I've decided not to continue in the captaincy role," Rahane posted on X. He added, "I remain fully committed to giving my best as a player and will continue my journey with @MumbaiCricAssoc to help us win more trophies. Looking forward to the season." Under Rahane's leadership, Mumbai ended a seven-year wait for the Ranji Trophy by clinching the title in the 2023-24 season.



The team also secured the Irani Trophy in the 2024-25 campaign. Despite stepping down as captain, the 37-year-old made it clear that he has no intention of retiring and will continue to serve Mumbai as a batsman in all formats. Mumbai's squad is well-stocked with experienced leaders such as Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Sarfaraz Khan. Except for Jaiswal and Sarfaraz, the others boast impressive captaincy credentials- Iyer has led three IPL franchises, while Suryakumar is the current T20I captain of India. Given Jaiswal's Test commitments, selectors may favour a captain available for most of the domestic season. Both Iyer and Suryakumar, currently not in consideration for Test cricket, are strong candidates to succeed Rahane as Mumbai captain. Rahane, who last played competitive cricket in IPL 2025, scored 390 runs from 13 matches for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). With his decision to step down from Mumbai's captaincy, questions arise over whether KKR will retain him as captain for the next season.

Jake Paul vs Gervonta Davis confirmed, Netflix superfight set despite 60-pound gap

New Delhi. (Agency)

A sensational showdown is officially on the horizon as Jake Paul, the 28-year-old cruiserweight sensation (12-1, 7 KOs), is set to face undefeated WBA lightweight champion Gervonta "Tank" Davis (30-0-1, 28 KOs) on November 14, 2025, at Atlanta's State Farm Arena, streamed exclusively on Netflix. The announcement follows months of speculation and even public denials, which fuelled fascination across boxing and entertainment circles. What sets this bout apart is the staggering weight disparity. Paul last competed at approximately 199 pounds, while Davis is firmly in the 135-pound lightweight division, creating a gap of over 60 pounds. The Tank has had a Hall Of Fame-worthy career since his pro debut in 2013, and has climbed through three weight classes, won multiple world titles, and compiled stoppage wins over top-tier competition. This includes Jose Pedraza, Ryan Garcia, Frank Martin, Rolando



Romero, and Isaac Cruz. Their rivalry between Paul and Davis traces back years. Paul's recent interest in fighting Davis was delayed when The Tank took a controversial draw against Lamont Roach Jr. in March. A planned rematch and Paul's other pursuits, including a potential bout against heavyweight Anthony Joshua, fell through. With Joshua negotiations now stalled, the Davis fight became Paul's marquee event of 2025. The trash talk has already begun. Paul labelled Davis a 'tiny boy' and himself an 'FPV drone,' vowing to 'disable' Davis before 'slaughtering Goliath' (hinting at Joshua next). "Gervonta who has been disrespecting my name for too long. His nickname might be Tank, but I'm an FPV drone and I'm about to disable tiny boy," he said. "Yes, he's one of the top pound-for-pound boxers in the world, but my motto is anyone, anytime, anyplace, against all odds."

Arsenal could hijack Tottenham Hotspurs' bid for Palace star Eberechi Eze

Arsenal's interest increased after Havertz suffered an injury setback.

LONDON. (Agency)

Arsenal are poised to snatch Eberechi Eze from under the noses of arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur in what could be one of the most audacious moves of the Premier League's summer transfer window, it was reported Wednesday. Spurs appeared to be on course to bring the 27-year-old Crystal Palace attacking midfielder to their corner of north London. But it is now being suggested Arsenal, amid concerns over a knee injury to Kai Havertz, will scupper the deal and bring England international Eze, released by the Gunners as a 13-year-old, to the Emirates. The Athletic said Arsenal had reached agreement in principle with Palace to sign Eze, with the deal worth in the region of the



expired £68 million (\$91 million) release clause, matching the level of fee Spurs were prepared to pay. Arsenal's interest increased after Havertz suffered an injury setback.

The Germany international came on in the second half of Sunday's victory over Manchester United and completed the game but was absent from Arsenal's open training at the Emirates on Wednesday.

Arsenal finished runners-up to Premier League champions Liverpool last season and are

expected to challenge for the title again whereas Spurs, who won the Europa League final, ended the campaign in a lowly 17th place -- one spot above the relegation zone.

Eze played 84 minutes of the weekend draw at Chelsea and trained on Wednesday ahead of Palace's Conference League play-off at home to Fredrikstad, with coach Oliver Glasner insisting he and Eagles captain Marc Guehi, a target for Liverpool, would both start the European tie.

"Before Chelsea, I think many of you were surprised that Marc and Ebs started and played almost the whole game," Glasner told a pre-match press conference earlier Wednesday. "Most of you will be surprised that they will start again tomorrow because of all the rumours. But again, they are committed." Glasner, who also guided Palace to Community Shield glory in a penalty shoot-out win over Liverpool, added: "They are committed to the team, they have a contract here, they played a crucial part that we could be so successful, and they will play a crucial part as long as they are here."

"Because they are good, they are committed to the team, and when one of the players leave, which I don't know at the moment, then they want to leave as players who always gave 100 percent for Crystal Palace." This is what they did since they signed, and this is what we expect from them until the end of their contract, whenever this is. "Palace captain Guehi is under contract until next year, while Eze's deal expires in 2027." This noise, these rumours, it's not just for three days, it's been written for weeks," said Glasner.

Sinquefield Cup: Gukesh held by Sevian, Pragg draws with Abdusattorov

ST. LOUIS (USA) . (Agency)

World champion D Gukesh was held to a draw by the lone wild card Samuel Sevian of United States, while fellow Indian R Praggnanandhaa also split the point with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the third round of the Sinquefield Cup here. With his second draw in as many days, Praggnanandhaa remained in the leading group of three players that now include Fabiano Caruana of United States besides the overnight co-leader Armenian-turned-American Levon Aronian. Caruana handed Alireza Firouzja of France his first loss in the tournament in the lone decisive game of the day. Aronian was held to a draw by Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, while another American Wesley So split the point with Duda Jan-Krysztof of Poland.

With six rounds still to come in the 3,75,000 USD prize money tournament, Praggnanandhaa, Aronian and Caruana share the lead on two points each and they are now followed by Wesley, Firouzja, Vachier-Lagrave, Sevian and Gukesh -- who all

stand a half point behind. Duda is next in line on one point, while Abdusattorov opened his account to be on a half point from his first three outings here.

For Gukesh, first draw in the tournament was rather easy with black pieces. Samuel



Sevian tried his hands at the Rosslimo variation against the Sicilian defense but Gukesh was always in control. The middle game arrived and passed smoothly as both players exchanged pieces at regular

intervals leading to a drawn endgame.

Praggnanandhaa played his first black after two white games and chose the Nimzo-Indian defence wherein Abdusattorov, struggling to find his form, could not get much. The players reached an opposite coloured Bishops endgame where the draw was a just result. It could have been an uneventful day but for Caruana who played a fine positional game to outwit Firouzja.

The Fianchetto variation against the Nimzo gave Caruana a spatial advantage as his pieces stood better in the middle game and after a fine grind the American pushed his central passed pawn to the seventh rank for the desired effect. With the top four places in the Grand chess tour at stake for the grand finale later

this year, Caruana seemed pleased with his victory. The American observed that Vachier-Lagrave has almost qualified and the rest of the bunch is fighting for the last spots.

Why Shubman Gill for Asia Cup T20 With Virat Kohli gone, his idea endures

BCCI has reportedly extended Ajit Agarkar's tenure as chairman of the senior men's selection committee till June 2026. This move comes after India's strong performances under his leadership, signalling stability amid upcoming cricketing challenges.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has extended Ajit Agarkar's tenure as chairman of the senior men's selection committee until June 2026, according to a report by The Indian Express. The decision reportedly comes after a successful period for Indian cricket under Agarkar's leadership. Appointed in July 2023, Agarkar has overseen notable milestones for the national side, including reaching the final of the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and securing victories at the ICC T20 World Cup

in 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2025. These achievements have been seen as key factors influencing the BCCI's decision to retain him. "Under his tenure the Indian team won titles and had seen transition (of the Tests and T20) too. The



BCCI had extended his contract till June 2026 and he had accepted the offer a few months back," a BCCI official was quoted as saying by The Indian Express. The current selection panel includes Agarkar alongside SS Das, Subroto Banerjee, Ajay Ratna, and S Sharath. The report suggests that changes to the committee may be

considered at the BCCI's Annual General Meeting in September. Sharath is likely to be replaced, while the positions of Das and Banerjee are also under review. Following the meeting, the board is expected to open applications for new appointments to the selection committee. Changes are also anticipated in the senior women's and junior men's selection committees. The women's panel, comprising Neetu David, Arati Vaidya, and Mithu Mukherjee, has completed its five-year term—the maximum tenure permitted under BCCI regulations. The board is expected to invite applications for new members in the coming weeks. Agarkar has spoken about the selection committee's approach to player workload management, particularly in relation to fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah. Addressing concerns about Bumrah's fitness, Agarkar stated that there was no formal workload plan but added that coordination between the team management and medical staff remained ongoing.



series (against England). If he had been taken, the team would have looked even stronger. The bowling unit would have seemed stronger. I feel that the X-factor that Siraj brings might be somewhat missed," Harbhajan said on his YouTube channel. Pitches in the UAE are expected to turn and grip, with pacers not playing that big a role in the upcoming tournament. In fact, India boasts of a well-rounded pace attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, and Hardik Pandya as an additional pace option, and it is safe to say that Siraj may have been rested after a tiring England Test series.

Siraj last played for India when the team toured Sri Lanka in July 2024. Interestingly, Prasidh Krishna, who won the Purple Cap in IPL 2025 with 25 wickets, has been named amongst the reserves, while Harshit Rana has been given a nod in the named squad.

Sara Errani's message after US Open Win: This one is for all doubles players

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Sara Errani sent a bold message after winning the US Open mixed doubles championship on Wednesday, August 20 alongside Andrea Vavassori. The defending champions beat Iga Swiatek and Casper Ruud in a thrilling final that went to a 10-point tiebreaker in the end. The Italian duo won the revamped version of the tournament at Flushing Meadows 6-3, 5-7, 10-6. The mixed doubles championship at the US Open was introduced in February this year and was met with backlash from the doubles specialists, who felt they were being denied an opportunity to earn money in the favour of big-name stars. Errani and Vavassori, who labelled the change as 'profound injustice', were given wildcard entries into the tournament. Speaking after the win, Errani dedicated the win for all the doubles specialists who couldn't be a part of the tournament. "I think this one is for all the



doubles players that couldn't play this tournament. I think this one is also for them," said Errani. Errani also paid tribute to the stars in the player box, which was led by

compatriot Jasmine Paolini, and her partner Vavassori. "We are sharing these moments that are unforgettable," Errani said. "I'm really happy to share them with you," said

Errani.

'Doubles is a great product'

Vavassori commented on the win and said that they showed on the day why doubles tournaments are a great product. The Italian said that they need more marketing and visibility in the future and also thanked the fans for showing up for the tournament. We showed today that doubles is a great product. I think in the future we need more marketing and visibility. I think this product is something that can also work in the future. It was amazing to play on this court with so many people. I have to say thanks from the bottom of my heart for the atmosphere," said Vavassori. Errani and Vavassori used their experience to get past the star duo of Ruud and Swiatek in the final. They received a cash prize of one million dollars for winning the tournament.

CA explains why 80% of emergency funds don't work when needed

New Delhi.(Agency)

An emergency fund is meant to be your safety net when life takes an unexpected turn – a sudden job loss, medical bills, or urgent home repairs. But, as CA Abhishek Walia points out, most people discover too late that their so-called “emergency fund” doesn’t really work.He wrote on LinkedIn, “Here’s why 80% of ‘emergency funds’ fail when you actually need them. An emergency fund is supposed to save you in crises: job loss, medical emergency, sudden repairs.”Walia further added that one common mistake is keeping this money in the same bank account as everyday expenses. It slowly gets used up on non-essential spends. Another issue is the amount people save. Many feel that setting aside Rs 20,000 is enough, but when a real crisis strikes, that sum hardly covers the costs.There’s also the temptation factor. During salary hikes or bonuses, people often dip into their emergency savings to buy gadgets, plan holidays, or fulfil other wants. Over time, what was meant to be a lifeline turns into just another pool of spending money.According to Walia, the solution is simple but requires discipline. “A true emergency fund should be separate, sufficient, and sacred,” he explains. Separate, by keeping it in another bank account or a liquid mutual fund; sufficient, by ensuring it covers at least six months of your household expenses; and sacred, by never touching it unless a genuine emergency arises.He adds, “If you don’t wall it off, it’s not an emergency fund, it’s just extra money lying around.”

The idea is not to deny yourself small pleasures, but to protect your future self from sleepless nights and financial stress. As Walia puts it, “Your future self doesn’t need another gadget. It eeds a lifeline when life punches hard.”

Building a solid emergency fund might not feel exciting today, but when the unexpected happens, it could be the most important financial decision you ever made.

Education loan provider Avanse secures \$200 million ECB; to expand lending support for poor students

CHENNAL(Agency)

Leading education loan provider Avanse Financial Services Limited has raised a multi-currency syndicated External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) facility equivalent to \$200 million. Classified as a social loan, this ECB facility will be used to support students from economically weaker sections in pursuing their academic aspirations, the company said in a Thursday statement.

ECB refers to commercial loans availed by eligible resident entities in India from recognised non-resident entities abroad.

The education-focused NBFC (non-banking financial institution) said the transaction was jointly led by DBS Bank Limited, through its IFSC unit at GIFT City, and HSBC India as mandated lead arrangers and bookrunners for the commercial loan, which drew participation from leading banks across Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the UAE, and India. The deal included commitments of \$141.3 million and a Japanese Yen tranche equivalent to \$58.7 million, aggregating to \$200 million.

Avanse said the ECB route enables access to diversified pools of global capital while strengthening long-term partnerships with domestic and international institutions, enhancing oth funding resilience and market positioning.

“This syndicated social-linked loan marks another important milestone in our mission to make education financing seamless and affordable for every deserving Indian student,” said Amit Gainda, Managing Director & CEO of Avanse Financial Services, in the statement.

CCPA fines Rapido Rs10 lakh for misleading advertisements

CHENNAL(Agency)

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a fine of Rs10 lakh on bike-taxi platform Rapido for running misleading advertisements and engaging in unfair trade practices.The penalty relates to Rapido’s promotional campaigns “Guaranteed Auto” and “AUTO IN 5 MIN OR GET Rs 50.” The regulator found that these advertisements made promises that were not delivered as advertised.

According to the CCPA order, as quoted in reports, Rapido’s claim of compensating customers with Rs 50 if an auto was not available within five minutes was deceptive. The benefit was not provided in cash but as “Rapido coins,” usable only for bike rides and expiring within seven days. This made the actual value significantly lower than the advertised Rs 50.

The authority also noted that important disclaimers, such as “up to Rs 50” and conditions of use, were hidden in small print or brief “T&C apply” notes, making them less prominent than the main claim. Furthermore, the so-called guarantee was offered by individual drivers and not by Rapido itself, a detail that was not communicated clearly to consumers.

The misleading advertisements ran for about 548 days across more than 120 cities in multiple regional languages. During this period, consumer complaints surged. Data from the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) showed that grievances against Rapido rose from 575 cases between April 2023 and May 2024 to 1,224 cases between June 2024 and July 2025. Many complaints related to failed services, overcharging, non-refunds, and driver misconduct.

In its order, the CCPA directed Rapido to: Immediately stop the misleading campaigns. Refund the ?50 compensation in full to affected consumers, without conditions.Submit a compliance report within 15 days.

Online Gaming Bill 2025: What are the different penalties in it

The Bill, which was passed in the Lok Sabha soon after it was introduced, focusses on reducing risks linked to addiction, money laundering, and misleading advertising.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Parliament on August 20 passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which introduces strict rules and penalties for online money gaming companies, their promoters, and even individuals involved in violations. The Bill seeks to regulate the fast-growing but controversial online gaming sector by banning money-based online games and setting harsh punishments for offenders.

The Bill, which was passed in the Lok Sabha soon after it was introduced, focusses on reducing risks linked to addiction, money laundering, and misleading advertising.

Kunal Gala, Partner, Deal Value Creation, BDO India, said that the bill focusses on player-centric protection and responsible gaming, the very factors that build the ecosystem with a trust basis.

It provides clear details of fines, imprisonment, and penalties for repeat offenders, while also holding companies and their top executives accountable.

PENALTY FOR OFFERING ONLINE MONEY GAMING

Any person who offers online money gaming services against the provisions of Section 5 will face imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore, or both.

PENALTY FOR MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

Those found guilty of making or promoting advertisements of such banned games in any media will face imprisonment of up to



two years, or a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh, or both.

PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS

Any person engaged in transactions or authorisation of funds linked to banned games, in violation of Section 7, will face imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine of up to Rs 1 crore, or both.

HIGHER PUNISHMENT FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS

The Bill makes punishments stricter for repeat violations. If a person convicted under Section 5 or Section 7 commits the offence again, the minimum punishment

will be three years of imprisonment, which can extend up to five years. The fine will not be less than Rs 1 crore and can go up to Rs 2 crore.

Similarly, repeat offences under Section 6, which deals with advertisements, will attract imprisonment of at least two years, extendable up to three years, along with fines ranging between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore.

COGNISABLE AND NON-BAILABLE OFFENCES

Offences under Section 5 and Section 7 will be treated as cognisable and non-bailable under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. This means the police can register a case and arrest without prior approval, and bail will not be easily available.

LIABILITY OF COMPANIES AND DIRECTORS

If a company is found guilty of an offence under this Bill, not only the company but also the persons in charge of its operations at the time of the violation will be held responsible.

Why zero GST on insurance premiums doesn't mean cheaper policies for you

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is expected to undergo major changes, as hinted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech.One of the proposed changes is zero GST on insurance premiums. If approved by the GST Council, customers would pay only the base premium quoted by insurers, with no additional tax.At present, every new or renewed life or health insurance policy attracts 18% GST on the premium. For instance, if the annual premium is Rs 20,000, the tax alone adds Rs 3,600, raising the total payment to Rs 23,600.On the surface, removing GST seems like a big relief, but experts caution that the outcome may not be what many are expecting.

WHY ZERO GST MAY NOT REDUCE PREMIUMS

Abhishek Kumar, Sebi RIA and founder Sahaj Money, said that a GST rate cut from existing 18% to lower rate would directly lower insurance policy costs for customers by reducing the GST liability on their premiums.

"However, if the GST rate is made zero then the savings would be much less because insurance companies would lose their Input Tax Credit (ITC) benefits and would pass on their higher cost to customers through higher base premiums," he added.

HOW INPUT TAX CREDIT WORKS IN INSURANCE

Kumar explained that under the current system, insurers can claim ITC against GST already paid on their operational costs.He mentioned that this helps reduce the net tax they owe and keeps overall policy pricing more stable. Removing GST entirely would take away this mechanism.

“ITC allows insurers to lower their tax burden by offsetting GST paid on expenses with what they collect from policyholders,” Kumar explained. Without ITC, the cost pressure shifts back to the customer.If GST is cut to 5% with ITC intact, policyholders could save a sizeable amount. For example, on an annual premium of Rs 25,000, the tax would drop from Rs 4,500 to just Rs 1,250, a saving of Rs 3,250. But in the case of zero GST, insurers might increase the base premium, meaning the actual savings would be far smaller.Kumar summed it up by saying that while a headline of “zero GST” sounds like a big win for customers, in reality, the benefit may not reach them in full. Instead, a lower GST rate with ITC could offer better savings.

How can retirees stay safe from risky 'too good to be true' schemes

New Delhi.(Agency)

Retirement is a time to enjoy financial security, but it can also be a period when people are most vulnerable to risky investments. Many retirees are tempted by schemes that promise unusually high returns, often overlooking the dangers involved.

WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR
Sanket Prabhu, Director and Head of Wealth at FINHAAT, warns, “Retirees should remember that higher returns usually come with higher risks. If an investment sounds too good to be true, it’s important to pause and fully understand the risks involved.”He added, “A lack of transparency or overemphasis on ‘guaranteed’ high returns should immediately raise red flags.”

WHY RETIREES ARE OFTEN TARGETED

One reason retirees are more prone to falling for such schemes is trust. “They may be more trusting of sales pitches and often skip a detailed risk

assessment,” Prabhu explains. “This makes them prone to making hasty decisions based on promises rather than careful analysis. Scammers take advantage of this tendency, targeting them with convincing but risky products.”



SAFER INVESTMENT OPTIONS

So, what are safer investment options for retirees? Prabhu suggests several safer investment options for retirees.

These include hybrid or debt mutual

funds, which offer steady returns with manageable risk, fixed deposits with reputable banks and companies, and secondary bonds from highly rated institutions.Additionally, the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) provides government-backed, reliable returns, making it a popular choice for those seeking security.Diversification is also equally important for anyone living off retirement savings. “By spreading money across a mix of assets, retirees can reduce overall risk while still aiming for reasonable returns. Holding uncorrelated investments ensures that if one underperforms, it doesn’t endanger their entire financial security,” he says.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Many retirees make the mistake of chasing high returns without fully assessing risks. Others concentrate too much money in a single product or overlook safer, income-generating investments.

EPFO withdrawal, pension or transfer: How to choose the right PF form

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you are a member of the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), you can use your provident fund (PF) account for several purposes, from checking your balance to withdrawing money or transferring your account when you change jobs.However, the key is to fill in the right form for the right purpose. Without the correct form, your request may not be processed.

WHILE YOU ARE WORKING IN A COMPANY

If you want to take an advance from your PF account, you must fill in the Composite Claim Form (Aadhaar) or Composite Claim Form (Non-Aadhaar). The Aadhaar version is valid if your Aadhaar, bank details, and Form 11 information are already updated on the UAN portal. In this case, you can directly submit it to the EPFO office without your employer’s signature.To use your PF balance for financing an

LIC policy, you need to apply through Form 14.If you have completed 10 years of service, you can claim pension benefits by filling in Form 10D.

If you reach 58 years of age without



completing 10 years of service, you can claim withdrawal benefits through the composite claim forms (Aadhaar or Non-Aadhaar).

WHEN YOU LEAVE AN ORGANISATION

When an employee leaves a company and joins another, the provident fund balance can be transferred by submitting Form 13.In case a member

dies while still in service before the age of 58, the family can claim the final PF settlement using Form 20, apply for a monthly pension through Form 10D, and avail insurance benefits under the EDLI scheme with Form 51F.

IF YOU STOP WORKING AND DON'T JOIN ANOTHER COMPANY

In such cases, after a waiting period of two months, you can apply for the final PF settlement and a scheme certificate from the pension fund. This again requires the Composite Claim Form (Aadhaar or Non-Aadhaar), especially if you have completed 10 years of service.

WHY IT MATTERS

Using the correct form saves time and ensures your PF requests are not rejected. Whether you want to withdraw money, transfer your account, or apply for a pension, EPFO has a specific form for each situation.

Sebi would also work with the corporate affairs ministry and stock exchanges to build a regulated platform for pre-IPO or unlisted companies so that they can trade with required disclosures.

MUMBAL(Agency)

The markets watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is looking for ways to increase the tenure and maturity of equity derivatives contracts, chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has said.An equity derivative is a financial contract whose value is derived from the performance of an underlying equity asset, such as a single stock or a stock index. These derivatives allow investors to participate in the price movements of



these underlying assets without actually owning them directly. A surge in derivatives trading, which has also been driven by retail investors, has prompted the regulator to limit the number of contract expiries and increase lot sizes to make such trades more expensive. The curbs came in after Sebi has found that retail investors were heavily losing from the derivatives to the tune of Rs 1.25 lakh per investor. Addressing the annual capital markets summit organised by the industry lobby Ficci here Thursday, he

also called for further deepening the cash segment in the market so that the quality of the market is maintained. He further said the cash segment has more than doubled in the past three years. Later talking it reporters on the sidelines, Pandey the details on increasing the tenure and maturity of derivatives will be finalised after talking with the industry.Whether Sebi prefers a longer term, he said “Yes, I mean, that is qualitatively we have to see, but we have to calibrate it. So if you really look at my

statement, where is that in a calibrated manner? No, this is just an idea as of now.

In response to a question from the industry, Pandey said Sebi would work with the corporate affairs ministry and stock exchanges to build a regulated platform for pre-IPO or unlisted companies so that they can trade with required disclosures. The pilot project will be a regulated platform and will identify and remove unnecessary processes and pain points in fundraising, disclosures, and investor onboarding, he said. “The IPO market is booming, but pre-listing information is often insufficient for investors,” Pandey said, adding the pilot project will be a regulated platform. It will identify and remove unnecessary processes and pain points in fundraising, disclosures, and investor onboarding.It will explore emerging areas, products, and asset classes to boost both capital demand and supply. Former Sebi chair Madhabi Puri Buch had hinted at such a pre-listing trading a few weeks before the end of her tenure in end February.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu

Has A Strong Message On Positivity And Boundaries

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has never shied away from being unfiltered and real. Bold, confident and unapologetic, she has always been proud to showcase her authentic self. In her 15-year-long career, the actress has received immense love from audiences across the country along with several prestigious accolades. Recently, she featured on the cover of Grazia magazine, making heads turn not just with her impeccable fashion choices but also with the off-screen courage and strength she continues to display in overcoming life's challenges. This morning, the actress once again used her social media to send out a message that resonated deeply with her followers. Known for sharing words of strength, healing and positivity, Samantha's latest post was a heartfelt reminder of reclaiming one's power and embracing self-love.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Powerful post

Sharing a close-up picture of herself, Samantha spoke about calling her "power back" from every person, place and entity that may have drained her energy. Her words carried



undertones of healing, setting boundaries and reclaiming vitality. She wrote, "I call my power back to me, from every person, place, entity. From every space, portal, time and dimension. From every connection, attachment and vessel where I left it. Anyone and anything that is attempting to siphon my energy, You DO NOT have my consent to use my vitality and I call my power back. I now release that which is not my own. I lay down the weight that doesn't belong to me as well as the weight that does."

The Khushi actress further shared how forgiveness is a part of this process of healing. She added, "I forgive all things, all people and all others. I forgive myself. I cloak myself in a bright light of protection – impenetrable. I shed light to my shadows and lovingly work through all insecurities. Flaws and self-destructive habits that cause me not to flow in how I was created to. I honour those parts of myself and I love them to life. Any and

every soul tie is now disconnected." Opening up about the importance of self-evaluation, Samantha expressed how it has helped her break free from old patterns. The Citadel: Honey Bunny actress wrote, "My mind is decluttered, and eye see clearly. Those who no longer serve me, and the mindsets attached to them. I take time for self-evaluation to uncover what in me connected me to that energy and I heal my broken places."

Her post beautifully resonated with self-acceptance and the idea of taking space unapologetically. She continued, "I take up space in my own life and I unapologetically do the same in the rooms that I walk into. My light, my energy speaks for me before I ever open my mouth. I speak those things that are not as though they were. Not as if they have never been but I activate them with my light energy into being from obscurity. My vibration reverberates and pushes away any energy that's not on the same frequency. And I align knowing that this is all that is required of me."



Nora Fatehi

On Tamil Debut With Kanchana 4: 'Language Is A Challenge, But...'

Nora Fatehi is all set for her Tamil debut as the actor joins Kanchana 4 as the female lead. Kanchana 4 is one of the much-awaited films, and joining it as a lead, especially in a debut, is quite exciting for Nora. She is embracing this new phase of her career with enthusiasm. While talking to Hindustan Times about why she chose Kanchana 4, Nora Fatehi shares, "When Kanchana 4 was offered to me, I immediately felt it was the right project to step into Tamil cinema. The franchise already has such a strong legacy, and the script was so unique that I wanted to be part of it. I was looking to be a part of another comedy after the success of Madgaon Express."

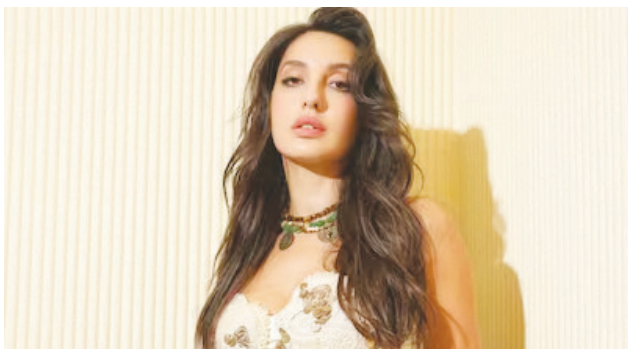
Language has been a challenge, but Nora isn't one to shy away from experiments. "Of course, language is always a challenge, but I love challenges. It's definitely the hardest so far, but I spend extra hours rehearsing," she explains. With experience in Malayalam and

Telugu industries too, Nora reflects on the differences she's noticed. "Every industry has its own flavour. Tamil cinema is very rooted in storytelling, and there's a lot of emphasis on performance and strong scripts. Bollywood, on the other hand, has its own larger-than-life energy. Both industries are passionate about cinema, but the styles of working, the audience expectations, and even the filmmaking processes

feel slightly different. For me, it's exciting to experience and learn from both worlds."

All you need to know about Nora Fatehi

Nora Fatehi was raised in Toronto by her Moroccan parents. She made her foray into Bollywood with Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans (2014) and became a household name thanks to her stunning dance performances in hit tracks like Dilbar, O Saki Saki, Kamariya, and Garmi across Hindi,



Telugu, and Malayalam films. A self-taught dancer who learned belly dance by watching online tutorials, she's also appeared on reality shows like Bigg Boss 9 and Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa. On the work front, Nora Fatehi was last seen in Netflix's series The Royals, sharing screen space with Ishaan Khatter, Bhumi Pednekar, Sakshi Tanwar, Chunky Pandey, and Zeenat Aman.

'Virat Kohli Would Come To Anushka Sharma's House': Vivek Agnihotri On Being Actor's Neighbour



Before tying the knot in Italy, Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma's love story had already become a talking point. And now, The Bengal Files director Vivek Agnihotri has recalled a little-known memory from that time, back when Anushka was his neighbour in Mumbai. Speaking on The Raunac Podcast, Vivek Agnihotri revealed that he never actually met Kohli but often saw glimpses of him visiting Anushka. "Anushka Sharma was my neighbour back then. We lived in the same society, we moved out and they must have too... but her father is still a great friend of mine," he said.

According to him, this was before Virat and Anushka's wedding. "Much before their wedding, Virat would often come to her house, to meet her. Children in our street used to go crazy. They would run behind his car in fondness. That is the only memory I have of him. I have never met him personally. Also, I am not too much into cricket, I never find time between my work. I have been busy," the filmmaker added.

Anushka Sharma Was My Neighbour: Vivek Agnihotri

Agnihotri shared that it was during this period Anushka's family had shifted from Bangalore to Mumbai, living with her in the same complex. His bond was actually with her father, with whom he struck up a friendship.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma Love Story

The couple first met in 2013 while filming a shampoo advert, and soon after, dating rumours began going viral. Despite constant public attention and even reports of break-ups, they went on to marry in a private ceremony in Tuscany, Italy, in December 2017. Today, they're parents to two children – daughter Vamika (born 2021) and son Akaay (born 2024). The family now spends most of their time in the UK, making appearances in India for cricket and other commitments.

Anushka Sharma And Virat Kohli's Professional Life

Workwise, Anushka appeared in the 2018 film Zero before taking a break from acting. Aanand L Rai's directorial featured her alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif.

Sunita Ahuja Keeps Her Word, Shares Kada Prasad With Paps After Golden Temple Visit



Sunita Ahuja interacted with the paparazzi at the airport and handed over a box full of Kada Prasad.

Sunita Ahuja, wife of actor Govinda, recently launched her YouTube channel where she shares lesser-known details about her personal life. A few days ago, she was spotted leaving for Amritsar to offer prayers at the Golden Temple. At the time, she warmly promised the paparazzi that she would bring back Kada Prasad for them. True to her word, Sunita kept her promise. After returning from Amritsar, she distributed the sacred Kada Prasad among the shutterbugs.

Sunita Ahuja Fulfills Her Promise

A video shared on Instagram features Sunita at the Mumbai airport as she arrived from Amritsar. In a heartfelt gesture, she came to interact with the paparazzi stationed at the premises and handed over a box full of Kada Prasad. She said, "Jaate time maine promise kiya tha, darbar sahib jaa rhi hun aur baba ji se Prasad laungi, to ye raha haap logon ka parasad, aap sab log khaiye. Thank you so much. (I had promised while leaving that I am going to Darbar Sahib and will bring prasad from Baba ji, so this is your prasad, all of you, please eat. Thank you so much)." The paps, too, thanked Sunita for her kind gesture.

How Did Social Media React?

In no time, the comments section was flooded with reactions from fans and admirers. An Instagram user wrote, "So sweet." Another one shared, "Lovely."

Govinda And Sunita Ahuja's Marriage Life

The couple tied the knot in 1987 and has been married for 37 years now. They are proud parents to two kids, a daughter named Tina and a son named Yashvardhan.

Earlier this year, several reports suggested that the duo is now parting ways. However, in her recent vlog, she strongly turned down the speculations and said, "Koi bhi mera ghar todne ki koshish kare, jo bhi mera dil dukhayega, yeh Maa Kali sabke gale kaat k rakh degi. Ek acche insaan ko, acchi aurat ko dukh dena acchi baat nahi hai. Mujhe aur kisipe vishwas nahi hai (Maa Kali will punish anyone who attempts to break into my home or causes me harm. It is not right to harm a good person or woman. I don't trust anyone else)."



5 sights to tick off in

Gulmarg

The country's premier, and possibly only bonafide ski resort town, Gulmarg and its pine-fringed meadows encircled by Mount Apharwat and surrounding snow-capped mountains have been part of popular culture and Bollywood since aeons. Even today, the 'meadow of flowers,' attracts droves of visitors in the summer who come here to ride in the world's second highest cable car, play golf, and take hack rides to the glaciers at Khilanmarg and further up to Al Pather Lake. In the winter, Gulmarg transforms into a faux Alpine ski resort with its famed powder attracting extreme skiers from across the world. Gulmarg is a four hour drive from

Srinagar.

Maharani Temple

With its bright red sloping roof framed against the snowy peaks in the background, this small Shiva temple presents a striking picture in a corner of the main meadow in Gulmarg. Its claim to fame is derived from Bollywood: the site where the popular 'Jai Jai Shiv Shankar,' song in yesteryear's hit 'Aap Ki Kasam,' was shot, it's a popular spot with visitors for a photo-op. It's also a big destination during the festival of Shivratri.

Gulmarg Golf Club

The Gulmarg Golf Club, is amongst the most

spectacular courses in the country, possibly the world, to tee it up at. With 18 holes stretching over 7505 yards, including the 665 yard par-5 fourth hole, coupled with the elevated tees, up and down fairways, and penalising rough, it presents a severe test of physical and golfing abilities. It is also the highest green course in the country and indisputably the most authentic Scottish links-style layout in the land.

Al Pather Lake

A gorgeous alpine lake, accessible after an arduous trek past a ridge of Mt. Apharwat (reached via the cable car) Al Pather remains frozen for most of the year. While serious



trekkers can contemplate making the entire trek from Gulmarg—a one-day affair—most people will find the taking a pony ride up adventurous enough. Al Pather Lake's environs are freezing, even in the summer, and susceptible to sudden showers. It's essential to carry woollens and adequate protection against the elements.

Khilanmarg

You can trek up from the Gulmarg bus stand if you like but a more prudent way up involves perching yourself on the back of a pony. After a bone-crunching hour long ride, Khilanmarg emerges in view as a carpeted meadow of flowers in the summer, and a frozen expanse of snow in the winter. There's some ice in the upper reaches even in the summer months and there are sled-operators who'll take visitors on hair-raising ride from one end to the other. Scenic views abound from almost any corner—the southeast edge affords magnificent vistas of the twin peaks of Nun and Kun.

Gulmarg Gondola

A huge attraction: lines start forming at the gondola ticket office almost two hours before it opens in the morning. The cable car takes visitors all the way up to Mt. Apharwat Mountain (3747 metres) from where you can get panoramic Himalayan views including major peaks like the Nanga Parbat. The ride has two phases: those who're not comfortable with heights can opt to come back from the Kondoori valley a mere 400 metres up the mountain. Tickets can also be booked at the tourist office in Srinagar or online.

The clear azure sky suddenly changes colours and a darker shade of grey begins to envelop the atmosphere. It looks as if the sky was perennially missing the floating grey clouds in its vicinity. The rainiest place on planet earth for a substantial period in the past, Sohra in local parlance or Cherrapunjee as the world knows, creates a heavy concoction of flowing rivers, cool breeze, swaying trees and hot noodle soups. There is a thick cover of mist that greets anyone whose footsteps cross these undulating green valleys. Cherrapunjee still retains the charm of a British summer retreat with solitary dilapidated bungalows and remnants of colonial churches dotting the verdant valleys in between the prolific number of hotels that have conjured up recently in these parts. Cherrapunjee is the second largest town after the capital city of Shillong in Meghalaya and lies at a distance of close to 56 km from Shillong. There are regular cabs available from Shillong for a 2 hour drive to Cherrapunjee. The sight of the waterfalls in the monsoon season from July-September is the prettiest but this place also offers cosy retreats and nature walks during the winter months from October to February.

Dainthlen Falls



About 2 km away from Cherrapunjee, one comes across this fall which is just 5 km away from the road. The splendour of this falls is enhanced by the presence of large number of natural potholes, much bigger in size and dimension than the regular ones on the metallic roads. The view of this waterfall tumbling down from a height of close to 80-90 m is from its source and provides a good opportunity to follow the path all the way to the bottom. There is a small legend associated with the name of this fall. According to locals, there was a huge demon python by the name of Thlen who was drenched in greed and power. Some brave men caught the animal and destroyed its hood with a huge stone near this fall. Some of the marks present on the stones are still reminiscent of the violent struggle of that snake, say the naysayers. As a result, this fall got this name. The turbulence of this fall gathers a lot of steam during the monsoons compared to the rest of the year.

Mawmai Cave

To the south of Cherrapunjee Market, about 6

km away, lies the village of Mawmai. At the village, a small clearing in the grasslands amidst the forests surrounding it leads to the entrance of this cave. This is a popular cave among the tourists and beginners alike. This cave is not very long and provides ample opportunity to see the stalactite and stalagmite formations of water dripping along the limestone walls. This is fully lighted and divided into old and new sections. A small entrance fee is charged from the tourists for entering this cave. A torch would be extremely handy in regions of narrow openings where the main source of light gets obstructed by the close proximity of the people in the queue. For the caving enthusiasts, there are some technical and challenging caves in Jaintia Hills where proper caving gears are required to do explorations. The population of bats inside the cave is almost negligible here due to excessive lighting and heavy visits of the regular tourists here.

Kynrem Falls

Kynrem Falls, located at a distance of 12 km from Cherrapunjee in the East Khasi Hills district is a three-tiered waterfall covering a distance of 305 m vertically. The base of the falls passes through the motorable road that goes all the way to Bangladesh and a small bridge provides movement for vehicles and people across this waterfall. The fall spreads out in two different streams or rivulets with each of them gaining momentum by getting merged while flowing down the last leg of the third tier. The source of this fall originates from Thangkharang Park. It's the 7th highest waterfall in India and due to its seasonal nature; this waterfall is best enjoyed during the monsoons. The roaring din of the cascading fall poses a healthy competition to the noisy cicadas all around the neighbourhood of this fall.

Living Root Bridge

Living Root Bridges are century-old natural shoots of the banyan fig trees grown around the vicinity of large and small rivers which in turn aid in providing a means to cross the bridges by entangling those shoots from opposite banks. As the shoots gain strength with time, the bridges become more and more robust. The phenomenon is unique and endemic to this part and travellers from around the world come to see the miracle of these living root bridges. There is a small village known as Tynra, about 2 km from away from Cherrapunjee where the journey to these living root bridges begins. Across 25000 steps covering a distance of close to 3.5 km, the village of Nongriat is the focal point of the famous Double Decker Living Root Bridge.

There are two layers of bridges on the river here as according to local tales, the lower living Root Bridge got submerged in a heavy deluge around 40 years back. As a result, a higher elevated living root bridge above this one was conceived to tide over this problem. Contrary to the popular belief, the living Root bridges are more sturdy compared to the steel wire ones and provide a firm footing on the base for easy movement all along. The small natural swimming pools around this bridge provide

good source of relaxation after a hard day's hike. There is also a small guest house on the other side of the bridge run by Meghalaya Tourism that caters to tourists here.

Wakaba Falls

It's a tiered waterfall close to 170-190 m in height and provides a stupendous beauty of surrounding canyon all around its vista. The fall lies at a distance of 15 km from Cherrapunjee towards Shillong. The fall becomes completely invisible during the winter months with thin streams of water creating a pattern reminiscent of the crisscross pattern of the hair strands at the back of a woman's head. The beauty of this fall comes alive during the monsoon months as the garrulous water makes its way through huge boulders and vegetation in and around the canyon. Sometimes heavy mist envelops the entire canyon and sighting the waterfall turns into a peek-a-boo through the dense layer. One needs to have a bit of luck and patience to witness its full glory. There are some good viewpoints all around the canyon to witness the magnificence of this waterfall.

Nohkalikai Falls

Close on the heels of 340 m drop, the tallest plunge waterfall in India is a vista to behold. The mist around the valley of this fall along with the sad legend associated with the name of this fall creates a mystic aura that engulfs the canyon all around. The name 'Nohkalikai' in Khasi language refers to 'Jump of Likai'. According to the folklore of this region, Likai was a married woman living along with her daughter and husband. Her husband died and she had to remarry but due to little means of income she had to become a porter and remain away from her home and child for long hours during the day.

Whenever she was at home, she would give full attention to her child. As a result, her jealous husband killed the infant and cooked her after throwing away her head and bones. Likai returned home and ate the meat but soon realized her folly and went mad with rage. With remorse and guilt, she jumped off the cliff close to the waterfall and hence the waterfall got the name 'Nohkalikai'. A calm and serene turquoise pool of water at the base of this waterfall illuminating death as a placid end to

all tumultuous means creates a wonderful contrast to the gushing volume of this fall from the cliff. There is a flight of stairs that lead close to the base of this fall and also provide terrific vantage points to enjoy this waterfall.

Thangkharang Park

This park is situated at a distance of 12 km from Cherrapunjee and the source of Kynrem Falls lies in this park. This park provides ample prospects for travellers to revel in the panoramic view of the moorish plains of Bangladesh far ahead. The sight of serpentine roads along the valleys from this park is a joy to watch. There are two foot bridges within the park which provide wonderful view points to vast rolling green valleys and the water logged plains behind them. This park also hosts the famous Khoh Ramrah rock popularly known as the Shiva Rock.

This rock is a huge piece of stone in the shape of a lingam that stands precariously on the other side of the park opposite to the entrance. This park is also a fantastic place to enjoy the usual 4 o'clock rains that grace this part of the region every day in the evening during the monsoon season.

Top attractions in

Cherrapunjee

