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Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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Editor-Simmi Kaur Babbar, Mo.no.9654077232/9971359517

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Where Were 5,000 Sikh Bodies Cremated?

All India Sikh Conference Babbar Demands Answers?

The Sikh Times
Special Correspondent

New Delhi. The All India Sikh Conference (Babbar), led by its President Sardar Gurcharan Singh Babbar, has issued an explosive demand to the Government of India and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, seeking immediate answers from the Congress leadership and Delhi Police regarding one of the darkest chapters in India's history—the November 1984 Sikh Carnage. Babbar has posed a hard-hitting and haunting question that has been echoing in the minds of millions of Sikhs across India and around the world for over four decades: "Where were the bodies of nearly 5,000 innocent Sikhs, butchered in the streets of Delhi during November 1984, cremated?"

Babbar highlighted shocking facts

In 1984, Delhi had only 24 cremation grounds. It was logistically impossible to cremate thousands of victims within these facilities. There are no records of mass cremations at these cremation grounds.



Thousands of bodies were reportedly loaded onto trucks and allegedly taken to the Aravalli hills and nearby forests, where they were burnt secretly without proper rites, a barbaric act that violated Sikh religious customs. No Sikh granthi (priest) was ever called for ardas (final prayers), nor was Sikh riti-riwaaz (customary religious practice) followed for any victim. He further questioned, "If these bodies were



not burnt in the forests, then where were they taken? Who ordered this secret disposal? And why is there no record of it?"

"No Postmortems, No Justice"

The All India Sikh Conference Babbar demanded that Delhi Police explain:

1. Where were the postmortems conducted for these thousands of bodies?
2. Why were the victims' families denied their right to claim their loved ones' remains?



3. Why was there no official record of firewood, ghee, or other materials used for cremating such a massive number of bodies? Sardar Babbar thundered, "Burning 5,000 corpses is no ordinary task. Yet, there is not even a single proper record in government files. Why this silence for 41 years?"

Drawing parallels with Sikh history, Babbar declared "Just as Sikhs never forgot Mughal tyrants like Aurangzeb and Jahangir, and the atrocities inflicted upon Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, we will never forget the November 1984 Sikh Carnage."

"Our community cannot forget the insults to Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the destruction of hundreds of gurdwaras, the rapes of Sikh women, and the slaughter of innocent Sikh

men and children."He compared the Sikh struggle for justice to the Ayodhya movement, saying "Just as our Hindu brothers never forgot Shri Ram Mandir for centuries, Sikhs will never forget the November 1984 massacre."

Despite numerous inquiry commissions and investigations over four decades, not a single mastermind has been hanged for the 1984 Sikh genocide. Babbar termed it "a black stain (Kala Dhabbā) on India's judicial system", stating "For 41 years, an entire community has been denied justice. This is not just an insult to Sikhs—it is a humiliation of India's democracy and constitutional promise of equality before the law."

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No Shortage of Funds for Delhi's Development Projects: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi. 3 August 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday inaugurated a Jan Seva Kendra (Public Service Centre) at the community centre located in DDA Flats, Rajiv Gandhi Park, in the Greater Kailash Assembly constituency. The Chief Minister firmly stated that her government is committed to the development of Delhi and will ensure that there is no shortage of funds for developmental work.

On this occasion, Parliament Member Ms Bansuri Swaraj, MLAMrs Shikha Roy, and other dignitaries were also present. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that today's event is a tribute to Nari Shakti (women's power). When the MLA, the MP, and the Chief Minister are

all women, it is a powerful symbol of women's leadership and empowerment. She praised Mrs Shikha Roy for her unwavering commitment to public service, noting that she has been selflessly serving the people for the past 30 years.

Paying tribute to the unity of the people and the power of the vote, the Chief Minister said that by electing a triple-engine government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, the people of Delhi have demonstrated that when there is a clear vision for development and genuine intent for public welfare, transformation is inevitable.

She added that over the past five months, the face of Delhi has begun to change with accelerated progress in sewage management, drainage, roadwork, water systems, pollution control, and other public services, the positive impact of which is now clearly



visible. She further announced the historic decision to allow markets in Delhi to operate 24x7. Traders will no longer need to make repeated visits to government offices for licences. With the introduction of a single-window system, administrative processes will be significantly streamlined. The government remains

committed to fulfilling even the smallest aspirations of Delhi's citizens whether it's cleaning a drain, repairing a street, or resolving local drainage issues. The Chief Minister emphasised that for any development work in the capital requiring financial support, the state government will promptly provide assistance.

Caught on cam: Army officer's 'murderous assault' on SpiceJet staff over extra fee

New Delhi. (Agency)

A senior Army officer assaulted four SpiceJet employees at the Srinagar airport, following a dispute over excess cabin baggage, the airline said on Sunday. SpiceJet said its staff members suffered severe injuries, including a spinal fracture and a serious jaw injury, in what it described as a "murderous assault". According to the airline, the incident took place on July 26 during the check-in for a Delhi-bound flight. The passenger, a senior Army officer, was carrying two cabin bags weighing a total of 16 kg, more than twice the airline's permitted limit of 7 kg.

When the ground staff informed the officer of the excess baggage and requested payment for the applicable charges, he refused to pay the amount and turned violent. A video of the incident showed the officer, whose identity has not yet been disclosed, assaulting the staff with a steel signboard stand. SpiceJet added that the officer refused to pay the requested amount and then "forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process," which constitutes a "clear violation of aviation security protocols".

ACISF official escorted the passenger back to the gate, at which point the situation escalated. The Army officer grew increasingly aggressive and physically assaulted four members of the

SpiceJet ground staff.

"Our staff members suffered a spinal fracture and serious jaw injuries after being attacked with punches, repeated kicks and a queue stand. One SpiceJet employee collapsed unconscious on the floor, but the passenger continued kicking and hitting the fainted employee. Another staff member suffered bleeding from the nose and



mouth after receiving a forceful kick to the jaw while bending down to assist the colleague who had fainted," the airline said in a statement. The four injured employees were immediately taken to a hospital for treatment. Responding to the incident, the Army said it has taken cognisance of the matter and is awaiting the outcome. Army sources added that the force remains committed to upholding discipline at all levels.

Shashi Tharoor Was Asked Who Would Be Next Vice President. His Response

New Delhi. (Agency)

Days after Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said he has "no idea" who the next Vice President would be, adding that it would be a nominee of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"All we know is that it will be somebody whom the ruling party nominates, as we already know the composition of the electorate. It's the two houses of Parliament. Unlike the Presidential election, where the state assemblies also vote. For the Vice President, it's only the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. So we already know the majority. I think it's fairly clear that the next vice president will be the nominee of the ruling party," he said. Mr Tharoor added that he "hopes" the Centre consults the Opposition on selecting the next Vice President. "We hope they consult the Opposition too, but who knows," the Congress leader said. The election for the next Vice President will be held on September 9, and the notification will be issued on August 7, the Election Commission said. The last date for filing nomination papers will be August 21. The result of the election will be announced on the polling day - September 9 - itself.



The Vice President of India is elected by an Electoral College comprising the elected members and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and the elected members of the Lok Sabha. The strength of both the Houses together is 782, and the winning Vice Presidential candidate will require 391 votes, considering that all eligible voters exercise their franchise. In the Lok Sabha, the NDA enjoys the support of 293 of the 542 members and 129 members of the 240 in the Rajya Sabha. The ruling alliance has the support of 422 members.

Jagdeep Dhankhar resigns

Jagdeep Dhankhar, who served as the 14th Vice President of India since August 2022, stepped down on July 21 - the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Chidambaram flags 6.5 lakh voter addition in Tamil Nadu amid Bihar revision row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid a raging row over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram has claimed that 6.5 lakh "migrant workers" were added as voters in Tamil Nadu, calling it "alarming" and "illegal". Accusing the Election Commission of trying to change the "electoral character" of states, the Rajya Sabha MP said the SIR exercise in Bihar was getting "curiouser" by the day.

At the centre of Chidambaram's argument is the ECI's move to drop 65 lakh voters from the draft electoral rolls, which includes 36 lakh electors who have either migrated permanently or were untraceable. The Congress

leader has sought to link it with the addition of voters in Tamil Nadu, which goes to polls next year and faces the prospect of a similar Bihar-like exercise. "While 65 lakh voters are in danger of being disenfranchised in Bihar, report of adding 6.5 lakh persons as voters in Tamil Nadu is alarming and patently illegal," the former Home Minister tweeted, tagging the state's Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

"Calling them 'permanently migrated' is an insult to the migrant workers and a gross interference in the right of the electorate of Tamil Nadu to elect a government of its choice," he further said.

CHIDAMBARAM CLAIMS ABUSE



OF POWER BY POLL BODY

Chidambaram questioned why should a migrant worker not return to Bihar or their home state to vote in the respective state assembly elections. "A person to be enrolled as a voter must have a fixed and permanent legal home. The migrant worker has such a home in Bihar (or another state). How can

he/she be enrolled as a voter in Tamil Nadu?" he said.

The senior Congress leader, who has vehemently criticised the recent voter list revision exercise in poll-bound Bihar, accused the ECI of "abusing" its powers. "If the migrant worker's family has a permanent home in Bihar and lives in Bihar, how can the migrant worker be considered as 'permanently migrated' to Tamil Nadu?" he further said. Chidambaram asserted that this abuse of powers by the poll body must be fought politically and legally. The addition of "guest workers" to the Tamil Nadu voter list has also been opposed by the ruling DMK as well as regional parties.

Chandrababu Naidu flags US tariff impact on Andhra aqua farmers, assures support

New Delhi. (Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said his government will take necessary steps in response to the 25% tariff imposed by the United States on Indian products, highlighting its potential impact on the state's aqua farmers. Chandrababu Naidu, whose Telugu Desam Party is an NDA partner at both the state and national levels, is the first Chief Minister to raise concerns about the impact of the move.

He made this statement while addressing farmers in Darsi during the launch of the PM KISAN - Annadata Sukhibhava scheme. Naidu said the 25% tariff imposed by US President Donald Trump will increase the burden on aqua farmers in the state. He said the government is aware of the



issue and will discuss it with farmers to prepare an action plan. He further said the state provides electricity to aqua farmers at a subsidised rate of 1.50 paise per unit.

"We are supporting aqua farmers by giving them electricity at 1.50 paise per unit of current. The increase in tariff in America will burden the aqua farmers in the state.

We have taken it into cognisance and we will discuss with the farmers in a day or two and formulate an action plan. Fishermen were given Rs. 10,000 earlier, but now Rs. 20,000 each. We have given money to 1,29,178 people under the matsyakarula sevala," he said while addressing the gathering.

On July 31, US President Donald Trump announced tariffs on Indian products and warned of further penalties. Earlier, in April, Naidu had written to the central government seeking protection for Andhra Pradesh's aquaculture sector from the US tariffs. In his letter to Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, he urged the Centre to take steps to secure an exemption for aqua products from the additional duties imposed by the Trump administration.

Land records doctored for farmhouse colony, ACB files FIR against Ansals, ex-govt officials

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Ten years after it received a complaint alleging largescale manipulation of land, the anti-corruption bureau (ACB) filed an FIR on Friday against Ansal Housing, its associate companies, a former patwari and revenue department officials for illegal farmhouses in the Sohna Aravalis. The officials are accused of changing classification of land from 'gair mumkin pahad' (uncultivable hill, which is protected under Punjab Land Preservation Act) to 'farmhouse', 'roads' and 'houses' in revenue records in 1995. This paved the way for development of farmhouses on protected Aravali land in violation of the Aravali Notification, 1992. The investigation, initiated in Sept 2015, was prompted by a complaint from social worker Ramcharan Shukla, who accused different companies of taking over non-convertible land to build farmhouses and roads in connivance with officials. The Aravali Notification 1992 prohibits construction and felling of trees without permission in protected areas.

750-acre forest to breathe life into Gurgaon air

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In a move to combat urban environmental challenges, the city is set to host one of NCR's largest urban forest projects. The 750-acre 'Matri Van' along Gurgaon-Faridabad Road will serve as a green buffer, combining ecological conservation with public recreation spaces. The project, launched under the govt's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, will span five villages — Chakkarpur, Haiderpur Viran, Wazirabad, Ghata, and Nathupur. It will extend from Khushboo Chowk to Ghat Chowk, connecting with the existing Aravali Biodiversity Park and Nagar Van on the Chakkarpur hill belt. Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav and the minister for housing and urban affairs Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the project in Sector 54 on Saturday. The forest will be developed through partnerships between CSR entities, RWAs, NGOs, multinationals, and govt bodies. While plantation of saplings will start within a week, it will continue for the next five years. The result, according to officials, will be visible in a week. The project, officials said, will focus on native flora. The plantation drive will feature indigenous species like bargad, peepal, gullar, and Aravali-specific trees such as dhauk, kullu, and khairi. Themed spaces, including Bodhi Vatika, Medicinal Plant Grove, and a butterfly park, will add to the forest's diversity. "We're not just planting saplings. We're dedicating an entire forest to mothers," said Yadav, adding that invasive Prosopis juliflora shrubs would be removed to revive degraded forest patches. The project's design will incorporate sustainable features like water conservation through recycling and misting systems. Public amenities will include walking tracks, yoga zones, and forest interpretation signage, with 10 thatched huts planned as interim rest points. An Aravali Arboretum — a botanical garden-like zone focused on showcasing native flora — will serve as an educational zone, featuring specialised corners for research and learning.

Non-forest activities are not allowed on land classified as 'gair mumkin pahad'.

The alleged doctored of revenue records in 1995 facilitated the development of Ansal Aravali Retreat, a farmhouse community developed by Ansal Properties and Infrastructure at Raisina, with plots ranging from 1-2.85 acres. The project was initiated in 1988-89 and marketed from 1990-92. It is situated in Raisina village, Sohna Tehsil, Gurgaon. Many influential people have farmhouses here. Shukla alleged in his complaint that lush green forests were being cleared in collusion with the patwari and girdawar, as well as the tehsildar to facilitate sale of what was non-convertible land as prized real estate worth crores. ACB found during its investigation, after perusing 1990-91 records of Raisina and recording statements, that subsidiary companies of Ansal Housing and Construction Limited, namely Delhi Towers and Estate, Elite Developers, Ansal Theaters and Clubotels (previously Green Park Theaters Associated), and Ansal Properties and

Infrastructure purchased around 1,200 acres of land for the Aravali Retreat project, converting it into farmhouses and selling it. Classified as 'gair mumkin pahad' in the 1985-86 revenue records, the status of these plots was allegedly changed during the preparation of the 1990-91 records by then patwari Rai Singh in 1994-95. It's the same land that was purchased by the real estate companies for Aravali Retreat.

In 202, on National Green Tribunal's orders, the land status was changed to the original 'gair mumkin pahad' in revenue records.

Patwari Rai Singh told ACB he conducted a survey of the site and recorded the land as he observed it. The previous patwari had also recorded farmhouses, roads, etc in surveys, and based on these entries, the land type was changed during preparation of the records, he claimed. He could not, however, cite any rule under which he did so. "Rai Singh, in collusion with Ansal Group and its subsidiary companies, misused his position and recorded farmhouses, non-cultivable roads and

non-cultivable buildings instead of non-cultivable hill in the 1990-91 records," an ACB official said. The FIR was filed by ACB Gurgaon under sections 167 and 218 (public servant framing a document), 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC. Besides Ansal Housing and Construction Ltd, the FIR names Delhi Towers and Estate, Elite Developers, Ansal Theaters and Clubotels, Ansal Properties and Infrastructure, Rai Singh, then officials of the revenue department, other departmental employees and officials, and other employees of Ansal group.

"The act was found to be a conspiracy involving fraud and collusion with govt employees, with Rai Singh misusing his position in collusion with Ansal group and its subsidiary companies to change the land nature," said the official. Asked why it took 10 years to register the FIR, a senior ACB officer said findings of the initial investigation are sent to the director-general of vigilance for approval, following which an FIR is filed.

No STPs, waste flows through Badshapur drain into Yamuna

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Toxic waste continues to flow unchecked into the city's Badshapur drain, polluting the Yamuna — amid an absence of any treatment mechanism. The Badshapur drain spans 29km and is technically a rainwater channel. But over the years, it has become a dumping line for industrial and domestic waste. Industrial units in the city are continuing to discharge untreated wastewater into the Badshapur stormwater drain, despite repeated complaints, official surveys and govt action plans identifying the channel as a key source of pollution in Yamuna.

What flows through it eventually empties into the Najafgarh drain and finally, the Yamuna — carrying a toxic cocktail that includes chemicals, sewage and heavy metals. Locals say no inspection teams have visited the area in months. Residents said these units often discharge chemical-laced water into the same channel at night or early morning. "We have seen at least 15 tankers dumping waste into the drain at



the same spot. This is routine," said Manoj Yadav, a resident of Sector 34. "Sometimes they wait until it's dark, assuming nobody's watching."

In 2019, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board identified 26 illegal

discharge points into the Badshapur channel. A year before that, the state's own Yamuna Action Plan flagged this very drain as a major source of pollution entering the river system. An HSPCB official on Friday acknowledged that untreated effluents being released into the stormwater channel was a problem but added that the agency has resource constraints. "We are aware of the violations and have issued notices to several industrial units in the area. We have shut down several polluting units in the past," the official said. Guddu Kumar, another local, said the stench is unbearable. "It's hard to breathe. Our kids keep falling sick. We have filed complaints with the pollution board, but nothing changes." Environmentalist Varun Gulati said, "This isn't new. For years, we have submitted photos, videos and written complaints. These units dump waste somewhere after getting notice or sometimes shift to some other place."

Gurgaon braces for a wet week ahead, dip in temp likely too

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The district's weather is set to remain humid, and then wet over the next few days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting recurring rain and thunderstorms, especially between Sunday and Wednesday. IMD officials have warned of potential waterlogging in urban areas like Gurgaon, especially if the rainfall intensifies midweek. Residents in low-lying localities or areas prone to drainage issues have been advised to remain cautious. On Saturday, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 31.7 degrees Celsius, a slight dip of 0.1 degrees Celsius from the previous day, while the minimum rose to 26 degrees Celsius — up by 0.4 degrees Celsius. Rainfall was measured at 1.5mm, according to data from the KVK automatic weather station (AWS). Sunday could bring more intense

weather. According to the forecast, parts of the city may receive sustained rain and thunderstorms in the morning, followed by scattered storms in the afternoon. Daytime temperatures are likely to dip



slightly to around 31 degrees Celsius.

"The unsettled pattern is expected to persist into early next week. On Monday, some areas may see isolated thunderstorms in the morning, clearing later for some sunshine.

Tuesday brings a higher risk of afternoon thunderstorms, with similar daytime highs around 32 degrees Celsius," said an IMD official. The heaviest rainfall is likely on Wednesday morning, when

dense cloud cover and intense showers are expected. While the rain may taper off later in the day, the sky will remain mostly overcast. Temperatures will hover around 31 degrees Celsius during the day and dip to 26 degrees Celsius at night. By Thursday and Friday, conditions may gradually stabilise. Thursday will start out cloudy but could clear up later. Friday is expected to be mostly cloudy, with temperatures climbing to 34 degrees Celsius. With a combination of heavy morning showers and afternoon thunderstorms in the mix, the city is staring at several days of wet commutes and muggy weather.

News box

Like a slap on face: For drivers of BluSmart, a tough afterlife

Gurgaon.(Agency)

They were the faces behind the green revolution in India's ride-hailing sector — the drivers who steered BluSmart's fleet of electric cabs to success in Gurgaon, Delhi and Bengaluru. With their crisp uniforms and courteous demeanour, they helped build a loyal customer base that valued punctuality and reliability. Founded in 2019, this all-EV fleet was soon challenging Uber and Ola.

But their world came crashing down this April when BluSmart abruptly stopped operations, leaving nearly 10,000 drivers stranded at the crossroads of uncertainty. So sudden was BluSmart's demise that many drivers were still in the middle of rides when the company stopped taking bookings. For many like Amarjeet Singh, the shutdown was nothing short of devastation. Having recently brought his wife and mother to Delhi and invested in a new motorcycle with a bank loan, the BluSmart driver's dreams of a stable family life were shattered overnight. "It felt like a tight slap on my face, as if someone was mocking me. I was so stressed. I got married earlier this year and thought I would finally be able to live a happy life with my wife. But..." says Singh, who has since found work as a personal driver.

Affected by financial turmoil of Gensol, a company it shared founders with and from which it leased EVs, BluSmart recently went into insolvency, dimming hopes that it could bounce back in the near future.

BluSmart had positioned itself as a driver-friendly alternative to conventional ride-hailing services. Unlike Ola and Uber, drivers here didn't need to own or rent vehicles. The company provided electric cars, promised weekly payouts, medical insurance up to Rs 1 lakh, and flexible schedules. Most drivers earned between Rs 35,000 and Rs 40,000 a month.

The aftermath of the shutdown was brutal for drivers.

Mukesh Kumar, who now works as a family driver in Delhi, says, "I made nearly Rs 30,000-35,000 a month, and it was all mine. No EMIs, no CNG costs." He misses the fixed schedules and incentive-based payments of BluSmart.

ATM screw left loose after servicing, duo return to steal Rs12 lakh

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Two ATM servicing staff were arrested for allegedly stealing over Rs 12 lakh from a machine one of them had previously repaired. The accused, Suraj Narayan (33) and Sonu Rajput (34), both residents of Delhi, were nabbed near Vijay Nagar flyover on Saturday following a tip-off. Police recovered Rs 10.2 lakh in cash, three mobile phones, and a motorcycle used in the theft. According to DCP (city) Dhaval Jaiswal, the two men worked for different private companies that maintain ATM machines — Suraj with Tech Byte Company and Sonu with NCR Company. They met through Sonu's brother last year and initially collaborated to buy and resell ATM parts. Over time, that partnership evolved into a criminal conspiracy.

Their plan began two months ago, targeting an ATM in Jassipura maintained by Sonu's company. While repairing the machine, Sonu deliberately left the latch's screws loose and later requested to be transferred from the site to avoid suspicion. The theft was then carried out over seven days.

On July 18, Suraj entered the ATM kiosk wearing a helmet and sprayed black paint over the CCTV cameras. The following day, Sonu returned and cut the camera wires. On July 24, the duo came back and removed Rs 12.4 lakh from the machine without using force, leading the bank to suspect involvement of staffers. The theft was discovered on July 25 when a technician, called to repair the unresponsive ATM, found the cash missing. The machine had been loaded with cash on July 16, but no transactions occurred afterward. Police are scanning CCTV footage from July 16 to 25 to confirm the suspects' movements. An FIR is being registered.

Noida maps 34 dog bite spots as cases rise

Noida. (Agency)

The health department has identified 34 dog bite hotspots across the district, with most of them located in the Bhangel, Bisrakh, and Dankaur blocks.

Data shared by the department showed 69,188 dog bite cases were recorded in the district between Jan and May this year. The list, prepared based on the number of anti-rabies vaccines administered, is to be displayed at all primary health centres soon.

Officials said the increase reflects growing concerns over stray dog populations, with hotspots now including sectors 130, 110, 45, 5, Khoda, Nangli Vazidpur, Haldoni, Nangala Charandas, Dujana, Achchheja, Palwari, Sadarpur, Barola, JJ Colony in Sector 8 and 9 Noida, and Harola village in Sector 5 Noida.

Other vulnerable spots are Thora in Jewar, Patwadi, Chaprola, Mirjapur, and the Omicron sectors 1, 2, and 3. Additional locations such as Atta Fatehpur, Jalpura, Kherli Hafizpur, Usmanpur, Canarsi, Mohalla-Traders, Jahangirpur, Rabupura, Faleda, and Torah have also been flagged. These areas have been marked due to increasing concerns over safety and public health risks.

Among the recorded cases, stray dog bites formed the majority. In March alone, stray dogs were responsible for 11,599 cases — the highest monthly count so far. Jan and Feb reported 9,383 and 10,174 stray bite cases, respectively. In contrast, pet dog bite cases remained significantly lower. March registered only 2,463 pet-related bites, down from 3,124 in Jan and 4,662 in Feb, suggesting better management of domestic animals.

"Residents are advised to exercise caution when encountering stray dogs and to seek immediate medical attention if bitten. Pet owners are encouraged to ensure that their dogs are well-trained, vaccinated, and kept in a comfortable environment to minimise aggressive behaviour," said Dr Tikam Singh, Noida's deputy chief medical officer. The department's updated list of hotspots aims to alert residents and prompt stronger animal control and vaccination measures. As Noida grapples with a rising stray dog population, civic bodies are being urged to enhance sterilisation drives.

Aravali zoo safari design likely to be ready this month

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The forest department is finalising the design and detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed zoo safari in the Aravalis, which will cover parts of Gurgaon and Nuh. Officials said the design is expected to be ready by the end of Aug, after which the DPR will be sent to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for approval. The project, part of the Nicobar compensatory afforestation plan, became feasible after the Union environment ministry's June 2022 directive allowing zoos as a forestry activity under specific conditions. On Saturday, Union minister for housing and urban affairs and power, Manohar Lal Khattar, and Union minister for environment, forest and climate change, Bhupender Yadav, inspected the proposed site near Sakatpur village in Gurgaon. The state forest and environment minister, Rao Narbir Singh, accompanied them during the visit.

Khattar said the Aravalis, with their natural beauty, biodiversity, and historical legacy, offer immense tourism potential. "A safari here will help conserve these ecological riches while creating a unique tourist destination," he said. "International-standard facilities will be

developed, and the project will be implemented in four phases, with the first phase covering 2,500 acres." He added that the safari will raise awareness about wildlife and provide local employment.

Bhupender Yadav reiterated the Centre's full support for the project, calling it a significant "eco-tourism venture" near the national capital. He reviewed the site and held detailed discussions with the housing minister and senior Haryana forest officials about Phase 1 plans. According to the plan, local plant species and a wildlife-friendly ecosystem will be promoted across the safari area.

Forest minister Rao Narbir Singh confirmed that the state and central govts will jointly implement the project. "A comprehensive blueprint is being prepared for the different phases. There will be four entry gates for the safari: near Sohna along the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, on the Tawdu-Sohna road, near Naurangpur, and at Sakatpur village," he said. Officials have studied models like Sharjah Safari in the UAE, Vantara in Jamnagar (Gujarat), and Gir Sanctuary as references for the project. The Union ministers also

reviewed the plan and a short documentary on the proposed Phase 1, presented by the Haryana forest department. The Aravali zoo safari, inspired by the UAE's Sharjah Park, was initially announced in Sept 2022. In Jan



2025, the Haryana govt formed an eight-member committee to oversee various matters related to the Aravalis zoo safari. The committee, headed by the principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden (Haryana), includes Dr SP Yadav, IFS (retd), advisor, Project Cheetah, MOEF&CC Gol, additional principal chief conservator of forests (FC), chief conservator of forests (wildlife), Gurgaon, conservator of forest, Gurgaon, divisional forest officer,

Gurgaon, divisional forest officer, Nuh, and divisional wildlife officer, Gurgaon. Meanwhile, the forest department has initiated a comprehensive survey to identify degraded Aravali areas in Gurgaon which will be part of the Aravali zoo safari project. The survey aims to identify areas of low-density forest, with densities below 40%, which are likely to be degraded. The targeted areas for this survey include Sakatpur, Gairatpur Bas, Shikohpur, and forest patches in Bhondsi, Ghamroj, Alipur, Tikli, Aklimpur, Naurangpur, and Bar Gujar. These areas fall under the jurisdiction of the Forest (Conservation) Act.

The terrain is characteristic of the Aravali hills — undulating, with varied soil depth and scrub vegetation, poor moisture retention, and susceptible to water stress. The safari will feature a dedicated unit for the conservation and breeding of endangered species like chinkara, blackbuck, vultures, and soft-shelled turtles. The facility will maintain detailed records of animal behaviour, breeding patterns, and population statistics to establish a comprehensive database.

Multi-crore scam: CBI books 2 former Lok Nayak Hospital officials, 2 firms

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has lodged an FIR against the former medical director and the former CMO of Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi, and proprietors of two private firms, alleging serious irregularities in the procurement of medicines and consumables, causing losses worth crores to the government exchequer. The FIR, lodged on July 30, has named Dr Suresh Kumar, former medical director of the hospital, Dr Hem Prakash, who served as the chief medical officer and procurement officer during the period, Suresh Kumar Chaudhary, proprietor of Adison Equipment Company, and Mayank Parashar of SR Surgical, another company that deals in medical equipment. According to the CBI, an initial enquiry

revealed that between 2018 and 2021, SR Surgical, in alleged collusion with Dr Hem Prakash, supplied branded medicines to the hospital despite no such demand from the departments concerned. The FIR states, "The enquiry prima facie reveals that undue benefit/favours were given to Adison Equipment Company by Dr Suresh Kumar, MD and other unidentified officials of Lok Nayak Hospital by extending the rate contract of Adison Equipment Company from time to time without any justification." According to the CBI, the procurement involved purchasing inferior-quality equipment at a higher price, despite the availability of superior-quality macerators at lower rates, thereby causing a wrongful loss to the government exchequer and an undue gain to Adison Equipment

Company. The hospital procured medicine worth Rs 32.23 crore from SR

medicines for Rs 7.05 crore, meaning nearly 80 per cent of the purchases

Adison Equipment Company was allowed to continue supplying goods

participating. Adison Equipment Company and Faith Biotech Pvt Ltd were declared L-1 vendors, and a rate contract was issued to them for the period between January 29, 2018, and January 28, 2020. But investigators say after the contract expired, Adison continued to supply goods for over a year without any fresh tender being floated. The FIR stated, "...no fresh open tender was floated and undue extension was continuously given to Adison Equipment Company starting from January 29, 2020 till July 13, 2021 without any justification." "No reason has been given by the LNH Authority with regard to not inviting a fresh tender before the date of expiry of the existing tender i.e. January 28, 2020," the FIR noted.



Surgical between April 7, 2021, and September 16, 2022. Out of this, branded medicines accounted for Rs 25.17 crore and generic

by value were branded medicines, the CBI findings revealed. The agency has also raised concerns over the manner in which

after its official rate contract expired. In 2017, the hospital floated an open tender for equipment procurement, with five firms

DDA restores and reopens historic Roshanara Club

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has restored the heritage areas in Roshanara Club in North Delhi and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday inaugurated the restored heritage buildings. The club was taken over by DDA in 2023, sparking a legal back-and-forth between DDA and the former private management. Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal, Model Town MLA Ashok Goel, Vice Chairman DDA, N Saravana Kumar and other senior officers of DDA also attended the momentous occasion. Roshanara Club, holds a unique legacy as a cradle of Indian cricket and is considered as the birthplace of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). In 1922, Civil Lines was populated by British bureaucrats and the emerging Indian elite, who joined hands to set up the club on 22 acres on the western side of Roshanara Bagh. The club is renowned for hosting a meeting that led to the ideation and creation of the Board of Cricket Control Of India (BCCI). Located in the heart of North Delhi, the Club has stood for over a century as a symbol of prestige and excellence. Sprawling over 22 acres of green serenity, it has long served as a regal and lush haven for its members. During the process of inventory and assessment, it was observed that the club's infrastructure had sustained significant damage and its conditions had dilapidated over the years due to continuous neglect more-over the site was also marred by encroachments. DDA undertook extensive civil, electrical, and aesthetic restoration to restore the grandeur of Roshanara Club while preserving its original heritage. The restored Roshanara Club now houses a wide array of state-of-the-art facilities. Indoor amenities include a reception area, main lounge, card and billiards rooms, kids' play area, a fully functional bar and dining hall, banquet, library, swimming pool with changing rooms, gym/fitness centre, squash board and badminton hall, yoga and sauna and steam area.

NDMA to conduct disaster management exercise

New Delhi: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Indian Army and the state governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, will conduct a large-scale disaster management exercise. This multi-state, multi-agency exercise is one of the largest preparedness drills ever held in the National Capital Region (NCR) and aims to strengthen coordination and response mechanisms for major disasters like earthquakes and industrial chemical hazards. The exercise will culminate in a full-scale Mock Exercise on Friday, which will simulate a response to a major earthquake scenario. This will take place simultaneously across all 18 participating districts of the NCR. The public may witness the following activities, which are part of a planned drill and NOT a real emergency: Increased Movement of Emergency Vehicles: Expect to see a higher-than-usual presence of ambulances, fire tenders, police vehicles, and army trucks on the roads. Deployment of Response Teams: Personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Armed Forces, Civil Defence, and other agencies will be deployed in various locations. Establishment of Field Facilities: Temporary facilities such as Incident Command Posts, Staging Areas, Relief Camps and Medical Aid Posts will be set up in designated areas. Simulated Rescue Operations: Response teams will be seen conducting search and rescue drills, casualty evacuation, and providing medical aid to simulated victims. The purpose of this public advisory is to ensure that citizens are fully aware of the exercise and do not become alarmed by the large-scale movement of emergency response units. All activities are being conducted to test and improve the region's ability to respond effectively in a real crisis, ultimately enhancing the safety of all citizens. Symposium at the Manekshaw Centre will bring together senior leadership from all participating agencies to discuss the region's hazard profile and response strategies. A Table Top Exercise (TTEX) at the Manekshaw Centre will see disaster managers wargame their response plans against simulated disaster scenarios on July 30. The field-level Mock Exercise will be conducted across the NCR, coordinated by the Delhi State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). "This exercise involves a "Whole-of-Government" approach, with participation from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), technical and scientific institutions like the IMD and NCS, and civil society organizations. All residents are requested to cooperate with authorities and not be hindered by the exercise movements. The goal is to build a more resilient and safer NCR for everyone," the NDMA said in a statement.

Probe ordered against 8 cops for illegal detention of student

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday directed the Police Commissioner to conduct an enquiry at the latter's end against eight policemen, including the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Uttam Nagar police station, for illegal detention of a 20-year-old student. The Dwarka Sessions Court was hearing the bail application of the student, enrolled in IGNOU, who was arrested in connection with a robbery case. The incident was reported on July 8 and an FIR was also filed on the same day. However, the student was arrested on July 6 before the filing of the FIR. The unexpected delay in registration of the FIR casts serious doubt on the truthfulness of the complaint. Advocate Sumit Chouhan alleged that the complainant is a Sansi and is involved in the illegal business of selling liquor. "The boys, including my client, had an argument with her over the rate of liquor which she converted into a robbery complaint," Chouhan added. CCTV footage from the student's home reveals the illegal actions of the police, showing off entering without a warrant and forcibly taking the student away, the advocate mentioned. "The court ruled that the arrest violated the student's fundamental rights and granted him bail. The judge also ordered a fair investigation into the conduct of the eight police personnel involved. This incident has raised serious concerns about police accountability and misuse of power in Delhi," he said.

Cop nabs 3 thieves after six-km chase

New Delhi: In a display of bravery, a Delhi Police Constable, Kartar Yadav, overpowered three thieves after chasing them for six kms on a bike. During the pursuit, he suffered a fracture on his right hand and head injury. The incident took place late on Thursday night in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar. Yadav said while he was on patrolling duty in the area, he saw three suspicious persons riding a motorcycle. When they were signalled to stop, the trio tried to flee. The cop started chasing them on his patrolling motorcycle towards Khel Gaon in the Hauz Khas area. During the chase, he rammed his bike into theirs, causing them to fall. As soon as the suspects fell off their motorcycle, they attacked the cop with an iron rod and screw driver.

HBA Foundation launches national campaign on World Drowning Prevention Day

New Delhi: In an extraordinary tribute born from tragedy, the Hemant Bala Advaita (HBA) Foundation on Friday launched a nationwide drowning prevention awareness campaign to mark the "World Drowning Prevention Day", an annual global observance declared by the United Nations to raise awareness about one of the world's most overlooked public health issues. The initiative was

inspired by the heart-breaking loss of 18-year-old Advaita Verma, a gifted music prodigy, who drowned in Panna Lake near Lonavala in June 2024. His parents, Sudesh Verma and Renu Kaul Verma, have chosen to turn their grief into a movement, hoping that no other family endures the pain they now carry. "Drowning is silent, swift and preventable," said Sudesh Verma. "We want to use our tragedy to warn

others. If this campaign saves even one life, Advaita's voice will continue to echo." According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over 236,000 people die each year from drowning making it the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths globally. More than 90 per cent of these deaths occur in low and middle income countries, where water safety education, supervision and emergency infra-

structure remain critically lacking. In India alone, drowning claims over 38,000 lives annually, with children aged 5 to 14 years being the most vulnerable. Regions such as the Sundarbans in West Bengal have recorded one of the highest drowning mortality rates in the world, with more than three children under nine drowning every single day, according to a 2020 study. "What is truly alarming," said Verma, "is that most of these deaths are preventable. Lack of awareness, basic water safety knowledge, and unsafe recreational water bodies are major culprits." To commemorate Advaita's legacy and connect with young people through a medium he loved-music-the HBA Foundation also launched

the Advaita — A Symphony Music Award 2025, a national singing competition with a message. Open to Indian vocalists aged 15-19, in Delhi and NCR, the competition encourages youth to create musical entries that raise awareness about drowning prevention. The deadline for submission is 15 August 2025, and the grand finale will be held in Delhi this September. The top winners will receive trophies, certificates and cash prizes. "Music was Advaita's soul," said Renu. "Through this contest, we hope his voice will carry forward this life-saving message." The HBA Foundation is calling upon schools, music academies, colleges, and youth groups across Delhi and NCR to participate and

spread the word. Special mention was made of Symbiosis's Encore music group, of which Advaita was a part, inviting its eligible members to honour his memory by participating. Media houses, influencers, educators, and civil society groups were also urged to lend their voice to the campaign. "We need a national awakening on drowning," Renu said. "Too many young dreams are being lost to silent waters."

ABVP protests for veg food autonomy at JNU

New Delhi: In a move addressing the concerns of vegetarian students, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged a protest outside the office of the Dean of Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Friday. Led by joint secretary Vaibhav Meena, the students submitted a memorandum demanding separate food arrangements and the safeguarding of food-related rights for vegetarian students residing in university hostels. The protest, marked by a joint delegation, highlighted the growing discomfort faced by vegetarian students, particularly in hostels such as Mahi-Mandavi. During the ongoing holy month of Shravan, several vegetarian students expressed unease at having to dine alongside those consuming non-vegetarian food. In response, students had mutually agreed to introduce separate seating arrangements for vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals. 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NEWS BOX

Special Counsel Who Oversaw Criminal Probes Against Trump Faces Federal Probe

World . (Agency)

A US federal agency has opened a formal investigation into former Special Counsel Jack Smith, who oversaw two criminal probes into President Donald Trump following his first term in the White House. The Office of Special Counsel confirmed to Reuters that it was investigating whether Smith violated the Hatch Act, a law prohibiting federal employees from using their position for political activity. The decision follows a request for a probe by US Senator Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican.

The OSC is an independent agency that probes the conduct of federal employees, but it does not have the authority to bring criminal charges. It is different from the type of Special Counsel's office previously overseen by Smith, who was appointed by the Department of Justice to pursue criminal cases.

The OSC's investigation, which was first reported by the New York Post, is the latest in a series of actions taken by Trump and his allies against their perceived political enemies.Smith, who resigned from his post in January following Trump's election victory, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Earlier this week, Cotton accused Smith of aggressively pursuing his cases against Trump with the aim of hurting his presidential campaign, calling Smith "a political actor masquerading as a public official" in a series of posts on X. "That's why I've asked this unprecedented interference in the 2024 election be immediately ivestigated by OSC," Cotton wrote on X.A former war crimes prosecutor, Smith brought two criminal cases against Trump: one accusing him of illegally retaining classified material and another related to Trump's attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss, an effort that sparked the January 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol.

Neither case went to trial, having been delayed and buffeted by a series of legal challenges, including a ruling by the Supreme Court's conservative majority that granted former presidents broad immunity from criminal prosecution.Smith dropped both cases after Trump won the election, citing a longstanding Justice Department policy against prosecuting a sitting president, but issued a report in January saying the evidence he gathered would have been enough to convict Trump at trial.

Trump denied wrongdoing and assailed the prosecutions as politically motivated attempts to damage his campaign.

Volcano Erupts After 600 Years, Russia Earthquake May Have Caused It

WORLD. (Agency)

The overnight eruption of the Krashenninnikov Volcano in Kamchatka, its first in 600 years, may be connected to the huge earthquake that rocked Russia's Far East last week, Russia's RIA state news agency and scientists reported on Sunday."This is the first historically confirmed eruption of Krashenninnikov Volcano in 600 years," RIA cited Olga Girina, head of the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team, as saying.She added that the eruption may be connected to the earthquake on Wednesday that triggered tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile, and was followed by an eruption of Klyuchevskoy, the most active volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula.On the Telegram channel of the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Girina said that Krashenninnikov's last lava effusion took place in 1463 - plus/minus 40 years - and no eruption has been known since.The Kamchatka branch of Russia's ministry for emergency services said that an ash plume rising up to 6,000 meters (3.7 miles) has been recorded following the volcano's eruption. The volcano itself stands at 1,856 metres.The ash cloud has drifted eastward, toward the Pacific Ocean. There are no populated areas along its path," the ministry said on Telegram.The eruption of the volcano has been assigned an orange aviation code, indicating a heightened risk to aircraft, the ministry said.

Earthquake Of Magnitude 4.5 Strikes Tibet

WORLD . (Agency)

As per the statement, the earthquake occurred at a shallow depth of 10km, making it susceptible to aftershocks.In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 4.5, On: 03/08/2025 09:17:04 IST, Lat: 29.76 N, Long: 92.55 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet."One being of 4.0, and the other being 4.3 magnitude on the Richter Scale.

In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 4.0, On: 30/07/2025 11:31:02 IST, Lat: 28.32 N, Long: 87.65 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet."

"EQ of M: 4.3, On: 30/07/2025 06:58:42 IST, Lat: 28.36 N, Long: 87.68 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet."Shallow earthquakes are generally more dangerous than deep earthquakes. This is because the seismic waves from shallow earthquakes have a shorter distance to travel to the surface, resulting in stronger ground shaking and potentially more damage to structures and greater casualties.

The Tibetan Plateau is known for its seismic activity due to tectonic plate collisions.

Tibet and Nepal lie on a major geological fault line where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence as a result of it. The region is seismically active due to tectonic uplifts that can grow strong enough to change the heights of the Himalayas' peaks.Meanwhile, downpour in Tibet early on Wednesday morning triggered flood in rivers flowing in Nepal, prompting authorities to issue warning in three districts.The district of Rasuwa, adjoining the Tibetan side which was hit by a flash flood on July 8 had claimed seven lives with over a dozen still missing, after Lhende River swept infrastructure near Nepal-China border.

Officers scour mountainous area of Montana for ex-soldier suspected of killing 4 in bar

The search was still focused on an area off Stumptown Road west of Anaconda, both on the ground and by air, and included multiple local, state, and federal agencies.

World . (Agency)

Deputies spent Saturday traversing a rugged mountainous area of Montana with helicopters overhead as a manhunt for a military veteran suspected of fatally shooting four people at a bar stretched into a second day with no capture.Michael Paul Brown, 45, fled The Owl Bar in the small town of Anaconda in a white pickup before ditching it at some point, according to Lee Johnson, administrator of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, which is overseeing the case. He urged residents late Friday to stay at home and remain on high alert.Authorities released a photo of

the suspect said to be taken as he fled after the shooting: Gaunt, barefoot and wearing nothing but black shorts, he is seeing walking down what appears to be a flight of outdoor concrete steps."While law enforcement has not received reports of Brown harming any other individuals, he is believed to be armed, and he is extremely dangerous," Johnson said.The search was still focused on an area off Stumptown Road west of Anaconda, both on the ground and by air, and included multiple local, state, and federal agencies.Anaconda-Deer Lodge Police Chief Bill Sather said Saturday that businesses in the area could open, but he urged caution.Authorities said they would release the names of the victims once all of their families have been notified."This is a small, tight-knit community that has been harmed by the heinous actions of one individual who does not represent what this community or Montanans stand for," Johnson said.Anaconda, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Butte, is home to

roughly 9,000 people. Hemmed in by mountains, it was founded by copper barons who profited from nearby mines in the late 1800s. A smelter stack that is no



longer operational looms over the valley.Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar, according to owner David Gwerder, who was not there when the shooting happened Friday morning. Gwerder told The Associated Press that the bartender and three patrons were killed, and he did not

think anyone else was inside. He was not aware of any conflicts between Brown and the victims."He knew everybody that was in that bar. I guarantee you that," Gwerder said. "He didn't have any running dispute with any of them. I just think he snapped."

Brown served in the Army as an armor crewman from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq from early 2004 until March 2005, according to Lt. Col. Ruth Castro, an Army spokesperson. Brown was in the Montana National Guard from 2006 to March 2009, Castro said, and left military service at the rank of sergeant.Brown's niece, Clare Boyle, told AP her uncle has struggled with mental illness for years and she and other family members repeatedly

sought help. "This isn't just a drunk/high man going wild," she said in a Facebook message. "It's a sick man who doesn't know who he is sometimes and frequently doesn't know where or when he is either."

Seven more Palestinians, including a child, die from starvation in Gaza amid Israel's aid blockade

WORLD . (Agency)

Seven more Palestinians, including a child, were killed in the past 24 hours due to starvation induced by Israel's continuous blockade of humanitarian aid into Gaza, the director of Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital said.This has raised the death toll of Palestinians who have died from hunger and malnutrition to 169, including 93 children.17-year-old Atef Abu Khater, who died from hunger on Saturday, used to be a local sports champion, according to media reports.The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has described the children in Gaza affected by Israel's aid blockade as "walking corpses."Children arriving at UNRWA clinics are skeletal, listless, and dangerously close to death. Without urgent nutritional treatment, they won't survive, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said."Families are no longer coping; they are breaking. Parents are

too hungry to feed their children. They can't even follow basic medical instructions. Their very existence is under threat," he said."This is not a crisis. It's a collapse," he stressed.

"We're like dogs chasing bones"

Even as Israel has allowed limited aid to be air dropped into Gaza, after months long blockade of all kinds of humanitarian assistance, starving Palestinians are finding it far from a relief.Most of the air-dropped packets are damaged when they crash on landing, forcing desperate Palestinians to sift through sand for bits of food and scrape whatever they can off the ground, an experience they find humiliating, according to AlJazeera.

"We're like dogs chasing after a bone. Why do they throw things like that? We don't want them to help us in that way?" Rana Attia, a displaced Palestinian in Gaza was quoted by Al Jazeera as saying.Eslam al-Telbany, a

mother who was desperately seeking food to feed her hungry children ran after air-dropped aid, only to be disappointed.

"I went and my children prayed that I return with food. They haven't eaten or drunk anything for two days. This breaks my heart that they're waiting for me to feed them," she said.

According to locals, the limited aid entering Gaza is also being stolen by armed gangs and later sold at very high prices -- double or triple the standard black-market price.

Meanwhile, Israel on Saturday killed at least 30 Palestinians, including 13 aid-seekers in different attacks across the enclave.According to the UN human rights office, at least 1,373 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military while waiting for aid near the distribution sites of US-backed and Israel-operated Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

Head Of North Korea's Assembly Holds Talks Wh Russia, Three Other Nations In Geneva

North Korea's Pak In-chol met with Russian, Mongolian, Vietnamese, and Lao counterparts at a global parliamentary summit in Geneva, highlighting strong Russia ties; no meetings occurred with Chinese or South Korean leaders.

WORLD . (Agency)

Pak In-chol, chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, has held talks with his counterparts from Russia and three other countries in Geneva, Switzerland, on the sidelines of a global meeting of assembly chiefs, state media reported Sunday.

Pak met with the chairperson of Russia's Federation Council, as well as the heads of the Mongolian and Vietnamese assemblies and a deputy chairperson of the Lao parliament,

during his attendance at the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament from last Tuesday to Thursday, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.During her talks with



Pak, Valentina Matvienko, the Russian parliamentary speaker, cited the "close friendship" between the North Korean and Russian leaders as the "fundamental element" that has elevated bilateral ties to their highest level in history, the KCNA reported.The agency also quoted her as saying that Russia-North Korea ties

"have overcome all kinds of challenges and proved their value since the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership treaty." She also reaffirmed Russia's solidarity with North Korea.

China's top legislator Zhao Leji also attended the global event, but no talks took place between him and Pak, a possible sign that bilateral ties have yet to fully recover after being strained by Pyongyang's close alignment with Russia over the war with Ukraine, Yonhap news agency reported.

The international event has been hosted every five years since 2000 by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organization of national parliaments, with North Korea consistently dispatching a representative.South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik also attended this year's event, but no meeting took place between him and Pak either.

Israeli fire again kills Gaza aid-seekers as US envoy meets with hostages' families

DEIR AL-BALAH . (Agency)

Israeli forces opened fire near two aid distribution sites run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation as crowds of hungry Palestinians again sought food, killing at least 10 people, witnesses and health workers said Saturday.

The violence came a day after US officials visited a GHF site and the US ambassador called the troubled system "an incredible feat."Another 19 people were shot dead as they crowded near the Zikim crossing from Israel in the hope of obtaining aid, said Fares Awad, head of the Gaza health ministry's ambulance and emergency service.Nearly a week has passed since Israel, under international pressure amid growing scenes of starving children, announced limited humanitarian pauses and airdrops meant to get more food to Gaza's over 2 million people. They now largely rely on aid after almost 22 months of war.But the United Nations, partners and Palestinians say far too little aid is coming

in, with months of supplies piled up outside Gaza waiting for Israeli approval. Trucks that enter are mostly stripped of supplies by desperate people and criminal groups before reaching warehouses for distribution.Experts this week said a "worst-case scenario of famine" was occurring. On Saturday, Gaza's health ministry said seven Palestinians had died of malnutrition-related causes over the past 24 hours, including a child.Aid is "far from sufficient," Germany's government said via spokesman Stefan Kornelius. The UN has said 500 to 600 trucks of aid are needed daily.Families of the 50 hostages still in Gaza fear they are going hungry too, and blame Hamas, after the militants released images of an emaciated hostage, Eyvatar David.More deaths near US-supported GHF sitesNear the northernmost GHF distribution site near the Netzarim corridor, Yahia Youssef, who had come to seek aid, described a grimly familiar scene. After helping carry three people wounded

by gunshots, he said he saw others on the ground, bleeding."It's the same daily episode," Youssef said. Health workers



said at least eight people were killed. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at a gathering approaching its forces.

At least two people were killed in the Shakoush area hundreds of metres (yards) from where the GHF operates in the southernmost city of Rafah, witnesses said. Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis received two bodies and many injured. Witness Mohamed Abu Taha said Israeli troops

opened fire toward the crowds. He saw three people — two men and a woman — shot as he fled.Israel's military said it was not aware of any fire by its forces in the area. The GHF said nothing happened near its sites.GHF says its armed contractors have only used pepper spray or fired warning shots to prevent deadly crowding. Israel's military on Friday said it was working to make the routes under its control safer.The GHF — backed by millions of dollars in US support — launched in May as Israel sought an alternative to the UN-run system, which had safely delivered aid for much of the war but was accused by Israel of allowing Hamas to siphon off supplies. Israel has not offered evidence for that claim and the UN has denied it.From May 27 to July 31, 859 people were killed near GHF sites, according to a UN report Thursday. Hundreds more have been killed along the routes of UN-led food convoys. Hamas-led police once guarded those convoys.

Brutal arrest of Black student in Florida shows benefits of recording police from new vantage point

WASHINGTON . (Agency)

A video that captured the brutal arrest of a Black college student pulled from his car and beaten by officers in Florida has led to an investigation and calls for motorists to consider protecting themselves by placing a camera inside their vehicles.

William McNeil Jr. captured his February traffic stop on his cellphone camera, which was mounted above his dashboard. It offered a unique view, providing the only clear footage of the violence by officers, including punches to his head that can't clearly be seen in officer body camera footage released by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.Since McNeil had the foresight to record the encounter from inside the vehicle, "we got to see firsthand and hear firsthand and put it all in context what driving while Black is in America," said civil rights attorney Ben Crump, one of several lawyers advising McNeil.

"All the young people should be recording these interactions with law enforcement," Crump said. Because what it tells us, just like with George Floyd, if we don't record the video, we can see what they put in the police report with George Floyd before they realized the video existed."McNeil was pulled over that day because officers said his headlights should have been on due to bad weather, his lawyers said. His camera shows him asking the officers what he did wrong. Seconds later, an officer smashes his window, strikes him as he sat in the driver's seat and then pulls him from the car and punches him in the head. After being knocked to the ground, McNeil was punched six more times in his right thigh, a police report states. The incident reports don't describe the officer punching McNeil in the head. The officer, who pulled McNeil over and then struck him, described the force this way in his report: "Physical force was applied to the suspect and he was taken to the ground."

But after McNeil posted his video online last month and it went viral, the sheriff's office launched an internal investigation, which is ongoing. A sheriff's office spokesperson declined to comment about the case this week, citing pending litigation, though no lawsuit has been filed over the arrest.McNeil said the ordeal left him traumatized, with a brain injury, a broken tooth and several stitches in his lip. His attorneys accused the sheriff's office of trying to cover up what really happened."On Feb. 19, 2025, Americans saw what America is," said another of McNeil's lawyers, Harry Daniels. "We saw injustice. You saw abuse of police power. But most importantly we saw a young man that had a temperament to control himself in the face of brutality."

'Won't allow such obscenity to thrive in Maharashtra': MNS workers vandalise dance bar in Panvel



Mumbai . (Agency)
MNS workers vandalised a bar in Panvel late Saturday night, just hours after MNS leader Raj Thackeray addressed a gathering at the 78th foundation day of the Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) in Panvel taluka, where he condemned "immoral activities" taking place in the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Raigad. In his speech, Thackeray criticised the dance bar culture and other immoral activities reportedly taking place in the region, despite Raigad district being the hallowed land of Shivaji. MNS workers stormed into the Night Riders bar near Palaspe Phata in Panvel and damaged glass decorations and furniture.

Panvel police have taken cognisance of the property damage. Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) leader Sanjay Raut was also present at the PWP foundation day event.

Interestingly, last month, Panvel BJP MLA Prashant Thakur had objected to the sale of liquor in Kharghar node, which is part of Panvel taluka in Raigad. However, state Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar stated during the monsoon session of the Assembly that if Thakur wanted to declare Kharghar a "No Liquor Zone", he must follow the legal process and gather signatures from local residents expressing their opposition to bars, as per democratic procedures. Following the latest attack on the Night Riders bar by MNS workers in Panvel, several political developments are expected regarding liquor sales in the region.

Gujarat high court awards life term to two women for setting another ablaze

AHMEDABAD. (Agency)
The Gujarat high court sentenced two women to life imprisonment for burning a woman alive in Porbandar district 15 years ago on basis of her dying declarations.

The district court had disbelieved the dying declarations and acquitted the two cousins, in Sep 2012. The state govt challenged the acquittal, and the high court found them guilty of murder and sentenced them. According to case details, the deceased woman was separated from her husband and lived at her maternal home in Ranavav town of Porbandar. One of the two cousins suspected her of intimacy with her husband. The two cousins beat the woman and then poured kerosene and set her ablaze. She was rushed to the hospital. Before she succumbed to her burn injuries, her statements were recorded by a doctor, an executive magistrate, and a police sub-inspector.

When the two cousins were put on trial, there was no direct evidence before the district court. The trial court rejected the dying declarations on the ground that a person who sustained 90-95% burn injuries would not be in a position to give a statement. The trial court also found her thumb impressions doubtful and acquitted the cousins. The HC, after hearing the state govt's appeal, reversed the trial court's order. The bench of Justice C M Roy and Justice D M Vyas found the grounds on which the trial court rejected the dying declarations as "perverse in nature". The bench said, "Oblivious of the law relating to appreciation of evidence of dying declaration, the trial court recorded the said erroneous findings. The trial court lost sight of the fact that dying declaration is a valid piece of evidence and it cannot be thrown out or rejected on such technicalities, which are legally not tenable."

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation enforces pollution rules for private sites, ignores own

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
While private builders in Ahmedabad have been mandated to install air quality monitoring sensors at construction sites for over a year, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has failed to enforce the same standard on its own projects. Despite clear orders from senior officials over a year ago, engineers overseeing AMC's construction work have not installed these sensors, citing the absence of provisions in existing tenders. AMC's engineering department is currently handling the construction of nine flyovers, underpasses, and railway overbridges — none of which are equipped with air quality sensors. Likewise, new civic infrastructure projects such as ward offices, community halls, sewage and water treatment plants, party plots, water tanks, and pumping stations also lack these sensors. Even newly floated tenders continue to exclude this mandatory requirement, highlighting a gap

In redevelopment deals, Mumbai residents sweat over fears of managing committee-builder nexus

Mumbai. (Agency)
In a housing society in Khar, residents were shocked when they learnt managing committee members enjoyed an all-expense paid holiday in Bangkok, courtesy a builder. The son of a society chairman in the eastern suburbs, who owned a small software firm, got projects worth Rs 6.5 crore, while the daughter, a doctor, managed to get a top post in a hospital.

The secretary of another society, who owned a small printing press, got a huge contract to print the annual reports of a construction firm. In a Vile Parle society, a woman member has filed a case in the consumer court against the managing committee for allotting her a flat on a lower floor instead of a higher floor, which she claimed she was to get.

In Mumbai's real estate industry, redevelopment has become the most lucrative market not just for developers hunting for prime properties. A lesser-known secret is the role of the all-powerful managing committees (MCs) of housing societies; these are a small group of people

who initiate redevelopment, meet developers and finally convince society members to select the best.

TOI spoke to a cross-section of people in the redevelopment market, including builders, advocates, housing society members, architects, and activists, about the crucial role played by MCs and the influence they wield among competitive developers. Advocate K K Ramani, who has many housing societies as his clients during redevelopment, said the MC has a lot to contribute and its members devote their time and effort. "Someone has to make a decision, good or bad. It is a thankless job. They cannot satisfy everyone," he said.

Ramani believes residents are more aware of their rights and keep MCs on their toes, but people in the know told TOI underhand benefits for MC members continue from builders and are of varied nature.

Ramani said the MCs he deals with are dedicated people and do not short-change other members. "It used to happen two decades ago when society members left everything to the MC to decide during

redevelopment. Now, members are more aware of their rights," he added.

However, people in the know told underhand benefits for MC members continue. "Their chosen builder will give them preferential



treatment like better amenities, more area than they are entitled to at a discounted price, or free interiors of the new flat. Or it could be giving a MC member his redeveloped flat on a higher, sea-facing side," they said.

A developer, who spoke to on the condition that his identity not be revealed, said his experience with MCs was that "25% are genuine while 75% have vested interests". "Someone from the MC wants more area, others may demand money on the side," he said. This developer also claimed several "project management consultants" (PMCs) appointed by MCs to help societies in the redevelopment process, have become "glorified brokers" and are "super corrupt". "They knock out money from developers for selecting them for redevelopment," he said.

Another developer with a slew of redevelopment projects in the prime Bandra-Khar belt, said some PMCs and MCs "rig tenders" so that the project goes to a selected builder. "These syndicates (nexus of PMC and MC) are known to get kickbacks ranging from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore in prime localities. Redevelopment is their payday," he said. This developer further said what surprises him is that most of these shady MC members come from a wealthy background.

How a fundraising e-mail shaped Telangana's biggest helping hands

HYDERABAD. (Agency)
In 2007, a simple act of compassion set the stage for one of Hyderabad and state's most impactful health-focused non-profit organisations. Helping Hand Foundation (HHF), which now supports over 15 lakh people annually, wasn't born of a plan — it emerged from a moment of urgency. A year earlier, Mujtaba Hasan Askari, then a senior IT professional at Infosys and volunteer with its CSR initiative 'Mamta', had come across a desperate case: a plumber's son needed urgent brain surgery that cost `1.5 lakh. Askari emailed his office network asking for help. The response was overwhelming. Nearly `7 lakh poured in. "That moment gave me hope," he tells. "It showed me how much people care, and what we can achieve together."

Moved by the generosity and the scale of need it revealed, Askari began volunteering over weekends from his brother's ad agency office. Word spread. People from across Hyderabad



and nearby districts came seeking help. Within months, queues formed. By 2007, HHF was formally registered as a charitable trust.

Initially, HHF raised funds to cover medical costs for underprivileged patients. But as demand exploded, it became clear the model wouldn't last. "It wasn't sustainable," Askari says. "We needed a better way."

The shift came with a simple insight: instead of paying private hospital bills, HHF would help

patients access what was already available to them in government hospitals. The foundation began setting up "health desks" within public hospitals. Staffed by trained volunteers, these desks helped patients navigate the often-overwhelming system: explaining procedures, arranging admissions, securing beds or even locating a stretcher.

"Government hospitals are busy and understaffed. For a poor patient walking in, it can feel like nobody cares. Our team becomes the face of the hospital for them," he says. Today, HHF runs help desks in over a dozen public hospitals in Hyderabad, with plans to expand to Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda.

A leap of faith

In 2014, after years of juggling his corporate career and social work, Askari quit Infosys to devote himself fully to HHF. "It wasn't easy, but I knew where I wanted to be," he remarks. "This work gave my life a deeper meaning."

BBMP offers digital route to upgrade 'B' khata to 'A' khata

BENGALURU. (Agency)
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to roll out a dedicated software system from August 10, enabling property owners within Greater Bengaluru limits to convert their 'B' Khata to 'A' Khata through an online process. This initiative is aimed at properties in converted layouts and areas with private roads. BBMP hopes to centralise khata management, improve arrears collection, and initiate automatic attachment proceedings in cases of default or long-standing dues.

According to Prashanth Mirla, an advocate and expert on BBMP property tax matters, 'A' Khata has been considered a mark of legal compliance, free from deviations and regularised as per law. In contrast, properties with deviations, revenue land, or irregularities were generally classified under the 'B' registry. He explains that areas falling under the jurisdiction of Village panchayats in Bengaluru Urban District jurisdiction follow a system called the E-Swathu system. Under this, legally



compliant properties are covered by Form 9 and Form 11, while those with deviations are classified under Form 11B.

With rapid urbanisation and the inclusion of outer areas under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, nearly six lakh properties still lie outside BBMP's purview. A recent government order has stated that all such properties existing as of September 30, 2024, will be brought under the

new e-Khata regime. "One property record will be maintained. The record will also have a remark column, adding remarks like deviations, tax arrears," said Mirla.

A senior BBMP revenue official added that under Section 221 of the Greater Bengaluru Authority Act, properties must have road access to qualify for the conversion. Importantly, private roads that provide access to sites or buildings will also be treated as public roads for this purpose. This is intended to prevent landowners in revenue pockets from seeking compensation or Transferable Development Rights (TDR) later, even if the sale of such property happened years ago. "When land conversion takes place, its characteristics change, and when the fees are paid, it will be automatically converted into 'A' Khata. If a building is built on a plot, it will also be regularised. The exercise will curb manipulation. The government can expect revenue from layout formation charges as well as development charges from revenue pockets that will now be eligible for conversion," Mirla added.

Rare plate sheds light on Vengi Chalukya systems



HYDERABAD. (Agency)
The recent discovery of a fifth copper plate inscription in a Muslim graveyard in Kodad, Suryapet district, continues to enrich historical understanding of the Vengi Chalukya dynasty's political and administrative systems. Now preserved at the Department of Heritage, Hyderabad, it is part of a rare collection of nine such plates found in the region. According to Archaeological Survey of India Director (Epigraphy) K Munirathnam Reddy, the inscription traces royal lineage from Kubja Vishnuvardhana to Vikramaditya II, son of Chalukya Bhima I and Vijayamahadevi. It records a land grant issued by Vikramaditya II, granting 12 khandukas of land in Kodajenu village, along with Ghattikallu and Bojjaprolu hamlets, to Gundayya (also known as Manma Gunda), son of Erra and grandson of Gunda.

Remarkably, the charter mandates that residents of 300 villages under Kondapalli vishaya remit one-sixth of their tax (bali), six cows, one adaka of ghee and a pair of garments (vastrayugalam) to Gundayya. The inscription, engraved in Sanskrit using Telugu script by Srikantha Ranabharana, was issued in Saka 848 (February 24, 927 CE), on a Saturday in the Phalgun month, likely during the Uttarayana festival. It bears the royal seal of a boar (Varaha) and the legend "Sri Tribhuvanamkusa".

The grant was made in the presence of several mahasamantas at the royal palace and is believed to have been a strategic move to strengthen the kingdom's security. Notably, this is the second copper plate of Vikramaditya II found in Kodad from the same year, the first marking his coronation, and the latest interpreted as a protective gesture for the realm.



This includes a robust monitoring system, utilizing both CAAQMS and manual stations, to identify pollution hotspots. Based on this data and source apportionment studies, mitigation plans are being developed. The city is also actively participating in a central govt initiative by regularly uploading critical information such as SVS, grant expenditure, utilization certificates, and PIP to the PRANA portal.

In addition to these technical and administrative efforts, a significant focus is on public engagement and internal training. Workshops are being held to train staff on data uploading procedures, and public awareness programmes are being organized across the city. Furthermore, a new software is under development to streamline the complaint handling process related to air quality.

A recent AQI survey by the Gujarat Environment Management Institute (GEMI) showed a 40% improvement in Ahmedabad's air quality, leading the Centre to reward the city with an incentive grant of Rs 120.04 crore for 2022–23. Consequently, the consultant agency's term was extended.

AMC collects fees for air sensors, but installations lag

Ahmedabad: A year after the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) rolled out its policy to install air quality monitoring sensors at large construction sites, the results

are mostly invisible, much like the sensors themselves.

Though builders dutifully pay the required fees while getting their plans approved, the civic body has failed to ensure timely sensor installation, thanks to a chronic shortage in supply and lethargic performance by the designated agencies.

"Under the rules introduced in Aug 2023, construction projects over 10,000 sq m must install air quality sensors, which are meant to alert AMC officials if pollution levels spike. These devices are connected to an online monitoring platform that tracks air quality in real time and is supposed to trigger fines in case of repeated violations. The idea was sound: monitor, warn, penalise. But over the past year, not a single builder has been fined based on the data collected, largely because the infrastructure meant to generate that data never got installed at many sites," said an official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Why two Buddhist nations are fighting over a Hindu temple

A century-old dispute along the 817-km border between Cambodia and Thailand suddenly degenerated into a military conflict when the world’s eyes were firmly on Gaza. The conflict jolted ASEAN, the regional association focused largely on economic issues. A shooting war over a dispute that includes the ownership of an 11th-century Hindu temple—Preah Vihar, a Unesco heritage site perched on a hilltop overlooking the two Buddhist-majority countries—was unexpected.Direct talks between the Thai and Cambodian prime ministers, mediated by the Malaysian PM, have resulted in an unconditional ceasefire, though Thailand had earlier rejected third-party mediation. Cambodia alleged that Thailand had agreed to a Malaysian proposal but then backed off, possibly owing to pressure from the Thai military. The Thai foreign minister made the ceasefire conditional on Cambodia showing “genuine sincerity in ending the conflict” and indicated his country was open to dialogue.

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation; China and the US also offered to mediate. For Donald Trump, it was yet another opportunity to grandly announce that he had called upon both countries to accept a ceasefire and threatened to withhold trade deals if they didn’t comply. He added slyly that he was reminded of his role in the India-Pakistan ceasefire. Trump seems desperate to shore up his peacemaking credentials that have been severely dented by his failure in Ukraine and Gaza despite threats and deadlines.In the short and sharp conflict, the two Asian militaries lobbed rockets and artillery shells into each other’s territories claiming self-defence. Thailand deployed drones on Cambodia’s military targets. Thailand, a non-Nato ally of the US, is better equipped with American weaponry; whereas Cambodia’s smaller military is armed with old Chinese and Russian weaponry. An estimated 45 civilians and soldiers were killed and over 2 lakh inhabitants fled their villages near the border.

It was the second skirmish in 3 months since a Cambodian soldier was shot dead after landmine explosions injured five Thai soldiers. Both countries recalled their ambassadors accused the other of “war crimes”. Thailand blamed Cambodia for targeting villages, civilian establishments like a hospital and petrol stations, while Cambodia alleged that Thailand had used banned cluster bombs.Tensions had been reignited in 2008, too, when Cambodia sought Unesco heritage status for Preah Vihar, leading to violent clashes that caused 28 deaths. This time, Thailand declared martial law along the border and sealed it. Cambodia stopped importing Thai fuel, fruits and vegetables, and banned movies, TV shows and some websites from across the border.India, which has good relations with both countries, issued a statement: “India... hopes that both sides will take measures for a cessation of hostilities and prevention of further escalation.” Indian embassies in Bangkok and Phnom Penh have issued advisories cautioning Indian nationals to avoid visiting places near the border. Though Thailand is India’s maritime neighbour, the conflict does not pose a security challenge for India.Simmering tensions over the dispute have persisted since 1907. Both sides blame the former colonial ruler of Cambodia, France, for the poorly-demarcated border running through dense forests dotted with ruins of old temples. Thailand disputes the ownership of the land adjacent to the temples, citing maps drawn by colonial-era French cartographers as inconsistent; Cambodia claims territories that are now in Thailand.Control over popular temples like Preah Vihar and the smaller Ta Muen Thom are disputed.

THE GREAT GAME: He has changed the power equilibrium by cutting a deal with Pakistan and slamming India’s ‘dead economy’.

THIS feeling, on this monsoon morning after Donald Trump announced the US had signed an oil deal with Pakistan, feels a bit like those mornings in the wake of India’s victory over Pakistan at Kargil back in 1999 — quiet, almost unreal. Except this time, the shoe is on the other foot.Back in July 1999, Atal Bihari Vajpayee firmly told Bill Clinton to tell Nawaz Sharif — whom Clinton was seeing in Washington DC in an effort to end the Kargil conflict — that India would only compromise when the last Pakistani soldier walked back from the Line of Control across which he had walked into Kashmir. Nawaz Sharif had no choice but to agree. The Kargil conflict ended. A year later, Clinton was on a five-day visit to India, bathing in rose petals in Jaipur. On his way out, he stopped in Pakistan for five hours.

This weekend, as India examines the shift in US policy in favour of Pakistan — a shift so dramatic that heads should roll if it was not foreseen in the Indian establishment, from DC to Delhi — Pakistan will underline its new best friendship by importing one million barrels of oil from the US in October.For the first time since 1989 — when the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan and the Americans, soon after, flushed with the victory of having evicted the godless Communists from Kabul, stopped the pipeline of armaments and dollars to Rawalpindi — the Americans are returning to Pakistan.It’s another roll of the dice in the unending great game, but this time around India is bound to get hurt.Remember that Pakistan is an ally of China. Remember, too, that Trump began his second term by imposing wild tariffs against Beijing because he realised the Chinese had undercut the American economy from under its feet; bringing back manufacturing from China, Trump knew, was central to Making America Great Again.But Trump changed the power equilibrium in South Asia this week by cutting a deal with Pakistan and slamming India’s “dead economy.” It must have been the heat in DC or something he ate in Mar-a-Lago, because he forgot that only five years ago, Modi had declared, “Ab ki baar, Trump sarkar” in Houston, sending the Indian-American crowd into a frenzy and delivering more than a few precious Indian-American votes into Trump’s kitty.Make no mistake, Trump’s power play is certain to aggravate the international chessboard. It is too soon



and too simplistic to say today that old friendships will rearrange themselves around a 21st-century version of the Cold War. Everyone will still talk to everyone, of course, especially in Quad meetings — there’s a summit in Delhi coming up in November, which means Trump is sure to show up. But with the US President having thrown Modi into the arms of the Russian bear (“the dead economies of India and Russia”), Modi may have no option but to warm up to Vladimir Putin.

The thing about friendships and foreign policy — which is, essentially friendships between nations — is that they have to be between equals. That’s why the unusual

embrace between India and the US wasn’t just between the world’s largest and oldest democracies or that Indian Americans later grew to be among the most influential ingroup in America — from Sundar Pichai to Shantanu Narayen and Sanjay Mehrotra — but that despite the economic inequality, both nations weren’t afraid of treating each other as peers.Roosevelt understood the uniqueness of India, even if Eisenhower didn’t. Kennedy understood — a photo of his friend and then Ambassador to India, John Kenneth Galbraith, hangs in the tiny library upstairs at the Government Museum in Chandigarh, on the other side of the pillar on which MS Randhawa’s photo hangs — even if Kissinger didn’t.

And even when Kissinger openly defended his pro-Pakistan tilt and criticised the exodus of ten million Bangladeshis into West Bengal in 1971, K Subrahmanyam, an erstwhile top defence analyst,

wasn’t afraid of admonishing him and asked if he remembered the escape of his fellow Jews from Germany. (In the wake of the 1998 nuclear tests, when the dust finally settled, India’s Ambassador to the US Naresh Chandra and Kissinger became fast friends.)

The opposite was also true. Vajpayee understood the incredible importance of the US — and described the two nations as “natural allies,” even when US anger over India’s 1998 nuclear tests had barely subsided. And when Manmohan Singh, that brilliant PM who hated public speaking went and told George Bush that “India loves you” — it was true in a Hollywood sort of way, because the US had brought India into the exclusive club of de facto nuclear nations with the 2008 nuclear deal.Modi, too, with “Ab ki baar, Trump sarkar” in 2020 understood that flattery was the direct route to the White House. It boggles the mind, therefore, why External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has stubbornly refused to give Trump the credit for ending the Op Sindoor conflict, including during the Parliament debate, though Trump has claimed this at least 15 times. (In contrast, the shrewd Pakistanis nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.)To be fair, India has always rejected third-party intervention in India-Pakistan matters, insisting that the bilateral track, via the Simla Agreement of 1972, holds supreme over everything else. But what happens when India refuses to have any communication at all with Pakistan, whether it’s over water-sharing or playing sports, leave alone a formal dialogue?

Here’s what is really believed to have happened on the intervening night of May 9-10, when Modi unexpectedly gave the order to bomb 11 Pakistani bases. The IAF action shook the Pakistanis badly. The Pakistanis called the Americans and the Americans called Jaishankar. Tell the Pakistanis to tell us, Jaishankar responded. Which is when the Pakistani DGMO called his Indian counterpart on the afternoon of May 10 and both sides agreed to call it off.But India, then, went ahead and insisted that “Pakistan,” not just the Pakistani terror group, The Resistance Front (TRF), was responsible for the Pahalgam attack — even as Trump was preparing to receive Pakistan’s Field Marshal Asim Munir for halal lunch at the White House. The Americans were not going to take that lightly.

No politics over metro revamp plan in Odisha

A mass rapid transit system will not only offer improved mobility options, but would also bring tremendous socio-economic and environmental positives

Just a year-and-a-half after the foundation stone was laid with great fanfare by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Bhubaneswar Metro Rail project has been grounded. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the turnkey consultant for Odisha’s largest infrastructure project, cancelled project-related contracts awarded to two major firms last week, signalling the state government’s intention of revisiting the whole plan. BJD chief Patnaik described the cancellation as a great betrayal of the people of the state. In its pushback, the BJP government made it clear that the ₹6,255-crore project was not feasible in its original form and a more sustainable plan is being devised. The urban rail project, announced in April 2023 by Patnaik, envisaged a 26-km elevated corridor in the first phase connecting Bhubaneswar airport and Trisulia, a point where the expanding state capital merges with neighbouring Cuttack. With a 2027 deadline, the previous government had prepared a detailed project report (DPR), formed the state-owned Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation in August 2023, and awarded



contracts.

The project had received mixed reactions back when it was declared, too, over the cost-benefit analysis, length of the network and per-hour passenger carrying capacity. The BJD clearly had timed and designed the entirely state-

funded project with the 2024 elections in mind. Work had started, but it was on a slow track. However, after the BJP came to power last June, it wanted to tweak the project and the DPR was put on hold in March amid talks about taking the project underground. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, however, put it back on track by constituting a ministerial committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo to look at alternative models for the project. A mass rapid transit system will not only offer improved mobility options, but would also bring tremendous socio-economic and environmental positives. Since plans are afoot to extend the network well into Cuttack city and the project will have to start afresh, the government must ensure that it does not fall victim to partisan politics, because continuity in governance must be maintained. After all, the need for an urban rapid transit system for the greater capital region of Bhubaneswar is beyond dispute.

With Operation Sindoor, even after the Parliament debate, questions linger

The lives lost in Pahalgam are not isolated tragedies. They join the unbroken line of innocents who have paid with their lives for our failures of anticipation. We must allow that reality to haunt us — not in despair, but as a driving force for better vigilance, stronger systems

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor was executed with admirable precision and purpose. The nation witnessed the readiness of our armed forces, the speed of response, and the confidence with which cross-border strikes were conducted. These are not small achievements. They reflect an India that no longer hesitates to act in defence of its people and territory.Yet, amid the expressions of solidarity and triumph, a set of questions still lingers — questions that were not answered in Parliament, nor addressed in the official statements that followed. As someone who has served within the machinery of the Indian state, I believe these questions deserve not only to be asked, but to be sustained in the national memory. For, a nation’s strength is not merely defined by its ability to retaliate, but by its commitment to learning from what precedes the need for retaliation.

The first duty of the state is to prevent. That a group of terrorists could infiltrate and carry out a devastating attack in one of Kashmir’s most surveilled and strategically vital regions signals a breach not only of physical security, but of institutional coordination.

Where was the lapse? Was it a failure of intelligence collection, analysis, or dissemination? Were inter-agency protocols followed — or bypassed? What assessment has been made of the local support structures that enabled such movement? These are not peripheral queries. They go to the core of whether our deterrence posture is genuinely effective or primarily reactive.The recent parliamentary debate was a welcome recognition that national security cannot be left to press briefings alone. But even as it brought key



a response necessary in the first place. That is the space Parliament is meant to occupy — not to second-guess real-time decisions, but to seek clarity about the frameworks that produced those decisions.

One is reminded that in parliamentary democracies, asking difficult questions is not defiance; it is duty. The absence of candour in response to such questions may win applause in the moment, but it leaves our systems

unexamined and untested.Among the more troubling loose ends is the claim by US President Donald Trump that he played a role in mediating a ceasefire during the standoff. While such assertions may not always be grounded in precise fact, the absence of a firm, official rebuttal has only allowed ambiguity to grow.India has long prided itself on strategic autonomy. Our ability to act — and be seen to act — without external pressure is fundamental to the credibility of our security doctrine. To leave that credibility open to reinterpretation is to invite misperception not only among adversaries but also among allies.

Silence, in such cases, is not strategic restraint. It can be construed as tacit consent — or worse, uncertainty.

India’s deterrence posture has evolved in practice, but it remains largely undefined in principle. Repeatedly, we have responded forcefully to provocations — from Uri to Balakot to Pahalgam — but the absence of a clear, publicly articulated doctrine invites strategic ambiguity. At some stage, ambiguity begins to undercut deterrence.Do we have a threshold doctrine that governs responses? What are the escalatory contours we are prepared to manage? How do we plan for hybrid threats that combine kinetic violence with digital disruption? These questions merit a formal treatment — not in partisan debate, but through institutional policy articulation.

There is a growing tendency in our political culture to view national security through a personal lens: The Prime Minister’s resolve, the Opposition’s tone, the

media’s narrative. But true national security lies beyond personalities. It lies in systems that function regardless of who is in office, in doctrines that endure, and in institutions that are empowered to question, correct, and reform.To that end, it is concerning that after such a significant breach and the massive deployment of military assets, we have not heard of any institutional accountability being established, any resignations considered, or any operational audits made public. Transparency in such cases is not a sign of weakness; it is the very basis of democratic strength.

Operation Sindoor may stand as an example of India’s military responsiveness. But it should also serve as a reminder that vigilance, not retaliation, is the first responsibility of the state. When Parliament gathers, when the public listens, and when leaders speak, the goal must not only be to project unity, but to preserve credibility.In the long run, India’s greatest strength will not lie in its ability to respond — but in its ability to anticipate, to prepare, and to self-correct without waiting for crisis.And perhaps, most importantly, we must never lose sight of the cost of our lapses. The train of innocent lives lost — stretching back from the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, through the horror of 26/11, to countless attacks in Kashmir, Delhi, and elsewhere — remains an open wound on the national conscience. Each act of terror that slips through the net of prevention leaves behind not just grief but a moral reckoning.The lives lost in Pahalgam are not isolated tragedies. They join the unbroken line of innocents who have paid with their lives for our failures of anticipation. We must allow that reality to haunt us — not in despair, but as a driving force for better vigilance, stronger systems, and an uncompromising pursuit of security.

Fisherman loses part of foot after rare flesh-eating bacteria infection in Mumbai

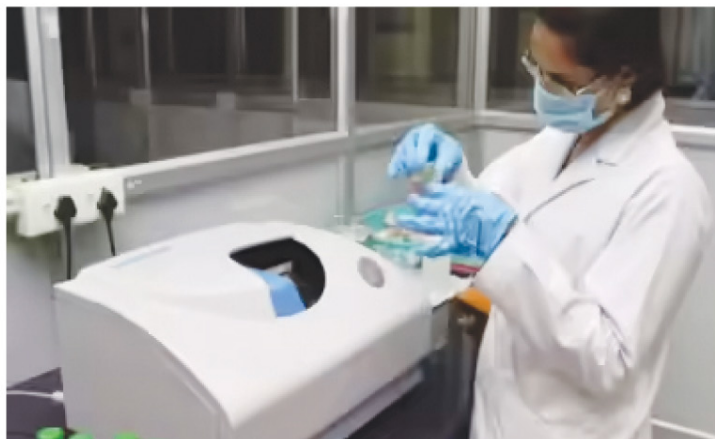
Mumbai.(Agency)

A 78-year-old fisherman from Worli lost a portion of his left foot due to an infection caused by a rare "flesh-eating" bacteria, according to doctors who treated him for a 20-day period before discharging him last week.

The bacteria was identified as *Vibrio vulnificus*, belonging to the same family that causes cholera, an acute diarrhoeal infection. *Vibrio vulnificus* is found along the coasts, and infections could be caused either by eating contaminated raw shellfish or oysters or exposure due to broken skin while wading through contaminated salt or brackish water.

"*Vibrio vulnificus* infections have been reported in India, but are extremely rare," said Dr Gunjan Chanchalani, who heads the critical care department in Wockhardt Hospital, near Mumbai Central railway station, and was part of the team that treated the fisherman. On June 26, the fisherman was brought to the hospital in a near-death situation. "He was in septic shock, with a bad left leg wound. We realised the infection was spreading through his body

and his blood pressure was low," said the doctor. Through scans, tests, and history-taking from family members, the doctors realised he had necrotising fasciitis (flesh-eating disease) after a minor foot injury during a routine



fishing trip off the Worli coast. He recalled a sharp prick while wading through brackish water a few days earlier. Necrotising fasciitis, which can be fatal, is caused by a combination of different bacteria, with the most common being Group A *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. It is known to spread

throughout the body within 48 hours, and the key is to identify the organism causing it and administer the right antibiotic. The Wockhardt microbiologists found *Vibrio vulnificus* in the culture they grew in the lab within 48 hours, and he was started on doxycycline, the antibiotic that works on cholera as well. However, as the infection spread through his bloodstream (sepsis) and lungs, he was on a ventilator for seven days. Also, surgeons had to carry out three debridements—removal of dead (necrotic) skin tissue to help the wounded leg heal—but they had to finally amputate the front portion of his left foot. "His son told us fishermen in their colony have had similar infections," said Dr Chanchalani. "This could be due to salinity of the sea water getting reduced or pollution due to climate change," she added.

Dr Rahul Pandit, who heads the ICU at H N Reliance Hospital in Girgaum, said, "Flesh-eating is a loosely used terminology; the bacteria destroy the skin, soft tissue, and fascia (muscles)." Necrotising fasciitis is not commonly seen in Mumbai, he said, with a few ICUs getting one or two cases a year.

Plan to increase Poondi reservoir's storage capacity pending for four years

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Water Resources Department's (WRD) proposal to raise the water storage capacity of Sathyamoorthy Sagar reservoir, also known as the Poondi reservoir, has been pending for the past four years despite preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR). The department had planned to increase the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) by two feet—from the present 35 feet to 37 feet. This move, which would help increase the reservoir's storage from 3.231 tmcft to 3.971 tmcft, adding an extra 0.74 tmcft of water continues to remain on paper till now.

Locals claim that besides increasing drinking water sources for the city, the project is also expected to mitigate flooding risks in a few villages located close to the reservoir. Speaking to TNIE, a senior WRD official said the DPR prepared last year estimated the project to cost Rs 552.60 crore. However, the report has still not been taken up with the state government since it is still under the consideration of the WRD.

The official said that feasibility studies have already been done at a cost of Rs 48 lakh for the project. "Work of surveying the existing ground level for the entire existing embankment, proposed foreshore bund area and reserved forest area adjoining the reservoir are completed. Once we get approval from the finance department, we

submit the DPR and execute the task immediately," the official added.

Another official said the city's water demand is expected to reach 38.73 tmc by 2050 from the current demand of around 20 tmc. However, the reservoirs in and around Chennai that currently supply water have a combined capacity of only 11.5 tmc. With Veeranam in Cuddalore district, this goes up to 13.213 tmc. "Hence, strengthening of



existing resources along with planning new sources are important," he explained.

It is notable that the Tamil Nadu government has also planned the construction of a new reservoir near Thirupurur at an estimated cost of Rs 471 crore with a capacity of 1.6 tmc. Though the estimated cost is lesser than the cost estimated for increasing Poondi's capacity, sources said the construction of a new reservoir, is going to take a longer time with escalation of budgeted cost.

Front Continued news

Where Were 5,000 Sikh Bodies Cremated?

All India Sikh Conference Babbar Demands Answers?

Babbar made a direct appeal to Prime Minister Modi, urging immediate action "Mr. Prime Minister, this issue is not just about justice—it is about the honour and dignity of an entire community. The world is watching. Sikhs across India and the diaspora demand an answer. Announce a bold step, order a comprehensive investigation, and bring the guilty to justice." He warned that Sikh anger is global. "Sikhs across the world are protesting. We will not allow this matter to fade into history. We appeal to PM Modi not to treat this lightly, for it is an open wound that bleeds even today."

"Sikh Qaum Will Never Forget"

Babbar concluded emphatically "We are a community that has fought for righteousness from the Mughal era to the present day. We have shed blood to defend this nation. But we will never forget November 1984 until every guilty hand is punished and every unanswered question finds closure."

This is not just a demand for justice—it is a battle for history, dignity, and truth. The Sikh Qaum will continue its global campaign until justice is served.

Ganesha festival: BBMP to set up 75 zonal offices



BENGALURU.(Agency)

To facilitate the public during the upcoming Gauri-Ganesha festival, a single-window clearance system will be implemented at all 75 zonal offices of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), announced BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

The event was jointly organised by BBMP and the Bengaluru City Police Department to maintain law and order during the festivities. The committee, comprised of officials from BBMP, the police department, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), and the Fire and Emergency Services, will be set up at all 75 zonal offices.

Addressing the "peace and harmony" meeting held on Saturday at the Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, he said, "These centres will function as single-window units where all permissions related to Ganesha celebrations can be obtained. Detailed addresses of these centres and information about the respective nodal officers will soon be available on the BBMP website. Devotees planning to install Ganesha idols may visit their respective single-window centre to secure the necessary permissions."

BBMP will make appropriate arrangements at designated immersion points across major lakes within its limits for safe and systematic immersion of Ganesha idols. Temporary mobile immersion units (mobile tanks) will be deployed ward-wise to ease the process. The Chief Commissioner emphasised the importance of celebrating Gauri-Ganesha in an environmentally friendly manner. He further stated that instructions have already been issued to fill potholes along the Ganesha procession routes. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh urged the public to strictly follow the instructions. "Organisers have to avoid installing idols in the middle of roads and instead identify suitable locations to ensure public convenience and compliance with legal guidelines," the police chief stressed.

Hyderabad surrogacy racket link: Dholka gang sold infants to childless couples, IVF centres for Rs 3L; 7-month-old rescued

AHMEDABAD.(Agency)

The seven-month-old child who was kidnapped from the street in Dholka was not the first child to be targeted by the accused, Manisha Solanki, but it was the fifth such crime by her, said investigators.

"Solanki and the other four accused, who were arrested in the kidnapping case, used to sell the child to childless couples or IVF centres for nearly Rs 3 lakh," said a police official.

The cops are investigating if the accused had connections with the Hyderabad IVF clinic.

Recently, an IVF centre in Hyderabad was in the news after police records showed that the clinic staff not only defrauded childless couples in the name of IVF and surrogacy procedures but also allegedly kidnapped children to run the baby-selling racket. SP Omprakash Jat said that the five arrested included Manisha Solanki, who is a resident

of Dholka and a native of Kheda; Binal Solanki, also a resident of Dholka, Jayesh Beldar, a resident of Rajkot, Mahesh Solanki, a resident of Kheda, and Siddhant Jagtap, a resident of Nasik, Maharashtra. "Jagtap purchased the child for nearly Rs 3 lakh and sold it further to be given to childless couples," said Jat.

Jat said Manisha was earlier involved in four other kidnappings of such infants. "She sold three in Hyderabad and one in Mumbai," said Jat. "The cops are also interrogating three more suspects in the case," he said. The arrest of four individuals, including two women from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra, has revealed that an interstate human trafficking racket was operating in Ahmedabad. The four were arrested after the Dholka town police rescued a seven-month-old girl belonging to a roadside vendor.



Cops said on Saturday that the accused had previously scanned the area before planning the abduction. "On Wednesday, at around 6.45am, two of the accused arrived on a motorcycle and abducted the child while she was asleep. The abductors then travelled to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar via Ahmedabad

in a private vehicle, where they met with an associate.

Cops said that until 2021, Manisha used to work in a private firm, and it was then she left her job and for the first time donated her egg at the IVF centre.

She then used to travel to Hyderabad, Telangana, and Maharashtra IVF centres to donate eggs. "There she came to know that childless couples were there to buy kidnapped children and that she could get a good commission," said officials. Manisha then encountered Binal at one of the IVF centres in Dholka. Binal was also donating eggs, and they earned Rs 25,000 to 30,000 for one-time donation. The duo were joined by Beldar, who was the brother of another egg donor. Cops said that Manisha met Jagtap in Maharashtra, and it was Jagtap who purchased the child.

Telangana teachers turn bird detectives, capture first live sighting of elusive Buttonquail

KARIMNAGAR.(Agency)

On weekdays, Gosika Madhu shapes young minds as a government schoolteacher, while Abdula Raheem, a software engineer, writes code. But come the weekend, this unlikely duo turns into Telangana's avian detectives: cameras in hand, eyes to the sky and hearts set on discovery. Their latest find has etched their names into the state's ornithological history: the first-ever live documentation of the elusive small buttonquail in Telangana, a bird so adept at camouflage it had never before been photographed alive in the state.

Madhu and Raheem, co-founders of the Karimnagar Birdwatchers Community, are driven by a shared passion for birds and nature. On their regular field trips, they have captured over 200 species on camera. But their recent sighting at the SRSP backwaters in Nandipet, Nizamabad district, was nothing short of a miracle, bird lovers say.

The bird they photographed, the small buttonquail (*Turnix sylvaticus*), also

known as the common buttonquail, had never been live-recorded in Telangana on the global birding platform eBird. "There were only two previous records for the state, and one of those was of a dead bird," Madhu tells.

Often mistaken for a quail, the small buttonquail is a secretive, ground-dwelling bird that inhabits grasslands, scrublands and dry farmlands across Asia and Africa. It is notoriously difficult to spot, preferring to run instead of fly and blending effortlessly into its surroundings. Adding to its mystique is its unusual mating behaviour: the female initiates courtship, while the male incubates the eggs and raises the chicks.

The duo's discovery adds to a growing list of significant sightings by KBC. In October 2024, they recorded 150 to 200 endangered Indian Skimmers at the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) in Karimnagar, the first-ever appearance of the species documented in Telangana.

Khammam officials deploy trench warfare to protect trees

KHAMMAM.(Agency)

It was a reclamation waged not with slogans, but with shovels. When encroachers turned their gaze towards a lush, 20 crore CAMPA plantation in Errabodu village of Singareni Khammam's forest authorities mounted a quiet but firm counter-offensive—one built on trenches, teamwork and awareness.

The 120-acre plantation, painstakingly developed with tall seedlings under the Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAMP), had been raised through months of tireless effort by forest staff.

But repeated attempts by a few

farmers to grab the land prompted District Forest Officer (DFO) Siddharth Vikram Singh to step in. Accompanied by Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Bhadradi Bheema Naik, Sidharth conducted an on-site



inspection and ordered immediate action.

Under the leadership of Forest Divisional Officer (FDO) Venkanna, and with support from

the police, forest personnel moved swiftly.

Strategic trenches were dug to demarcate forest boundaries, a move that not only thwarted encroachment but also laid the groundwork for tree conservation. Bamboo saplings will now be planted along the bunds of these trenches to reinforce the area's ecological health. Though initial tensions flared between encroachers and the forest teams, the situation was defused through the intervention of officials.

On the ground, awareness sessions were held to explain the ecological value of the land and the legal implications of illegal occupation.

Mithibai top college choice as students dig new-age courses

Mumbai.(Agency)

In a season of choices and cutoffs, the city's 18-year-olds revealed where their hearts—and hopes—truly lie. Mithibai College emerged as the clear favourite, drawing the lion's share of applications, its name pencilled in on about 50,000 admission forms. But it wasn't just the college that commanded attention. The BCom degree, especially in autonomous institutions without its rigid boundaries, wore the crown this year—emblematic of a generation chasing both stability and relevance in a shifting academic landscape.

K J Somaiya College of Arts and Commerce is second, followed closely by Jai Hind College. All three are not just institutions with multiple faculties, they are legacy institutes with flexibility now pushed in by the National Education Policy (NEP), where students no longer need to colour within the lines of a single stream.

"The main reason for so many applications," says Krutika Desai, principal of Mithibai College, "is that we are a multi-faculty institution." But probe a little deeper, and what surfaces is not just breadth, but depth. It's not the usual suspects that are pulling in the crowds anymore. "The conventional science course is less popular," Desai admits. "But our new programmes like BSc in health

science, BSc in applied statistics, and data science analysis are in demand. We offer psychology not just in BA but also in BSc. Courses such as BMM have closed at 92%. All seats across courses are full."

At Jai Hind College—one of the city's multi-faculty hubs and the third most sought-after by applicants—the self-financed streams are tilting sharply towards BMS and BBA. These professional courses, still awaiting the start of admissions, have become the first choice for a generation chasing management dreams early. In the humanities wing, Psychology and Economics are leading the race, mirroring trends across campuses, confirmed principal Vijay Dabholkar.

It's not just about the college's banner anymore. It's about the course, the commute, the crowd, and the career it promises to build. Dr Rajendra Singh, trustee of R Jhunjhunwala College, reads the admission data like a mosaic—each fragment a reflection of shifting student aspirations. It's not just about scholarships, he insists. "We ensure that teaching is regular, that education happens in the classroom."

The numbers are staggering. Mumbai University received 12.65 lakh applications for its undergraduate courses, and more than

1.16 lakh for postgraduate ones. But the real story lies in the undercurrents. While the applications are almost evenly split between boys and girls—boys inching ahead by a few decimal places—it's the women who are quietly reshaping the postgraduate landscape,



accounting for over 60% of all PG applications.

What's drawing them in isn't just legacy programmes, but a wave of new-age courses that are recalibrating the old contours of higher education. Data science and artificial intelligence—strangers to these syllabi just four years ago—are now headlines, pulling

in applications that dwarf those for some timeworn degrees. One such BSc (data science) course alone clocked over 25,000 applications.

The tilt is just as visible in traditional colleges. At Ramnarain Ruia, among Mumbai's pure arts and science institutions, psychology tops the charts, closely followed by political science and economics—subjects that, according to principal Anushree Lokur, students now see as springboards to market-ready careers. In science, too, the interest is veering toward the applied: Microbiology, biotechnology, computer science, and statistics—while the more 'core' disciplines are slowly being left in the rearview mirror.

"There is a steady decline in interest in core science courses," Lokur says.

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Press Area, TITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikhstimesindia.com
Email : sikhstimesindia@gmail.com

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Delhi Police ban drones, other aerial devices, for 2 weeks as security measure for Independence Day

Violators could face up to one year in jail and a fine of Rs 5,000. This decision follows a security review meeting led by new Delhi Police Commissioner S B K Singh.

Agency New Delhi.
Flying a drone, or any unmanned aerial vehicle, in Delhi between August 2 and August 16 could lead to a jail sentence of up to one year and a fine of Rs 5,000, as per an order by Police Commissioner S B K Singh in connection with preparations for Independence Day.
The move came days after Singh officially took charge as the police commissioner at the Delhi Police headquarters on Ashoka Road. Singh's first order of business after taking over the commissioner's office was to hold a security review meeting on Friday to review preparations for Independence Day on August 15. According to the order, flying aerial devices such as paragliders, para-motors, hang-gliders, UAVs unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), microlight aircraft, hot air

balloons, small-sized powered aircraft, quadcopters, and remotely piloted aircraft has been banned under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. (BNNS).
"It has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by the use of sub- conventional aerial platforms over the jurisdiction of the NCT of Delhi on the occasion of Independence Day Celebrations- 2025 in the National Capital of Delhi and doing so shall be punishable under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," the order stated.



The order has been forwarded to all deputy commissioners of police, additional

Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and Delhi Cantonment Board.
The meeting lasted nearly two hours and included district deputy commissioners, range joint commissioners, and special commissioners.
An officer said the meeting emphasised on surveillance measures to be intensified in sensitive areas, increased patrolling and vigilance. Senior officers were asked to personally supervise security drills and verify the deployment of quick reaction teams, bomb disposal squads, and sniffer dog units.

Delhi cops bust illegal arms factory in Rajasthan; two arrested

Agency New Delhi.
Delhi Police has busted an arms manufacturing unit and recovered illegal weapons buried under the ground in Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The alleged kingpin and supplier of the network has also been arrested, an official said on Saturday. 18 illegal country-made pistols and firearm components, as well as manufacturing tools were recovered, he said.
The arrested accused were identified as Bilal (22) and his associate Sahil (25), both residents of Rajasthan. Bilal, the primary accused disclosed the name of one of his suppliers Sahil (25) who was also arrested and two single-shot pistols were recovered from his possession.
During an ongoing Crime Branch investigation, a man identified as Bilal emerged as a key source of illegal firearms supplied to gang members in Delhi for the past two years. The probe led authorities to an illegal arms factory in Rajasthan, allegedly owned and run by Bilal. However, the accused fled before he could be arrested.
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Harsh Indora said that Bilal's elder brother Asgar was arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell in 2020 for a similar offence, the DCP added. Bilal admitted that he turned to the illegal arms trade in search of quick money after noticing rising demand for weapons in the Mewat region, the DCP said. He learned to manufacture firearms from his uncle in 2017, who ran a small illegal arms unit.
After his uncle's death in 2018, Bilal began producing single-shot pistols on his own. What started as small-scale supply through known contacts soon expanded, with increasing demand in the Bharatpur-Mewat area boosting his reputation. Over time, Bilal built a full-fledged distribution network, becoming a key player in the illegal arms trade.

Traffic movement on Janakpuri flyover to be suspended for a month from August 2



Agency New Delhi.
Traffic movement on the District Centre flyover in Janakpuri will be suspended for a month from August 2 for repair work, Traffic Police said in an advisory on Friday. According to the advisory, the PWD will undertake repair work on the flyover for which the Shivaji Marg carriageway from Uttam Nagar to Tilak Nagar will remain closed at the flyover.
Traffic will be diverted to the parallel slip road on Shivaji Marg during the repair period to maintain vehicular flow, the advisory said. Emergency vehicles will be permitted but may face congestion, it said.
Signage will be put up and traffic staff will be deployed at the location to guide commuters and ensure smooth movement, officials said. Delhi Police has advised commuters to avoid the flyover and use the slip road as an alternate route. People have also been requested to plan their journey in advance to accommodate possible delays. Traffic movement on the District Centre flyover in Janakpuri will be suspended for a month from August 2 for repair work, Delhi Traffic Police said in an advisory on Friday.
According to the advisory, the Public Works Department (PWD) will undertake repair work on the flyover for which the Shivaji Marg carriageway from Uttam Nagar to Tilak Nagar will remain closed at the flyover level.
Traffic will be diverted to the parallel slip road on Shivaji Marg during the repair period to maintain vehicular flow, the advisory said.

Woman and her paramour held for killing husband, dumping body in Haryana

The incident took place in July last year, and the woman had lodged a false missing report of her husband in the Alipur police station.

Agency New Delhi.
A 34-year-old woman and her paramour were arrested for allegedly killing her husband and dumping his body in a canal in Haryana's Sonipat area. The incident took place in July last year, and the woman had lodged a false missing report of her husband in the Alipur police station.
Police were investigating the disappearance of Pritam Prakash (42), a known criminal from Alipur. His mobile phone signal was traced to a village in Sonipat, Haryana.
During the raid, police detained a man named Rohit, who initially misled them but later confessed to having an illicit relationship with Pritam's wife, Soniya. He admitted that she had given him Pritam's mobile phone, police said. Police also nabbed Soniya, who disclosed that in July 2024, she had

given a contract for the killing of her husband to her relative Vijay. He killed her husband and disposed of his dead body in a drain at Sonipat. Later, Vijay sent her a news article about the body recovered from the drain by the local



police of Gannaur, Sonipat, but it was never identified, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Harsh Indora said.
Soniya said that Pritam was a drug addict and often used to beat her. Since their

marriage, she often used to fight with Pritam about his addiction. Pritam had been to jail many times for illegal possession of weapons, robbery, theft, kidnapping, and other cases.
In 2023, she came in contact with Rohit, a taxi driver in Delhi, and they became friends. Rohit has also been to jail several times. They wanted to marry, but her husband was an obstacle. On July 2 last year, she had a fight with Pritam and went to her sister's house in Gannaur, Sonipat. She asked Rohit to kill her husband, but he demanded '6 lakh, saying that he needs to hire other men, the DCP said.
Later, she asked her sister's brother-in-law Vijay to kill Pritam, and he demanded 'one lakh, and the deal was finalised for '50,000. In June 2025, Vijay was arrested in a theft case and is currently in police custody in Haryana, the DCP added.

Streets Waterlogged After Heavy Rain In Delhi, 'Yellow' Alert Issued

Agency New Delhi.
Heavy rainfall lashed several parts of Delhi on Sunday, bringing relief from humidity but also leading to waterlogging in various areas across the national capital. Areas including Vijay Chowk, Connaught Place, Minto Bridge, Sarojini Nagar, AIIMS, and Panchkuan Marg witnessed intense showers.
Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier predicted light to moderate rainfall in the Delhi-NCR region on Thursday morning. Rainfall was also reported in areas such as Janpath, Lajpat Nagar and the Minto Bridge, a day after heavy showers affected routine life across parts of the city.
"Light to moderate rainfall accompanied by light thunderstorm and lightning is



very likely to occur at NCR (Bahadurgarh, Manesar). Light rainfall is very likely to occur over the entire Delhi-NCR, including Loni Dehat, Hindon AF Station, Ghaziabad, Indirapuram, Chhapraula, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ballabhgarh," the IMD said in a post on social media platform X.
On July 29, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal criticised the BJP-led government in Delhi, headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, over persistent waterlogging issues in the capital. Mr Kejriwal shared a purported video of waterlogging at Connaught Place, questioning the performance of what he termed the "four-engine" government.
In a post on social media X, Mr Kejriwal remarked that it was "hard" to believe the conditions of the heart of Delhi, Connaught Place. "When this is the condition of Connaught Place, the heart of Delhi, it's not hard to imagine the state of the rest of Delhi. Just 10 minutes of rain and the roads have turned into ponds. In 5 months, where has the BJP brought Delhi to? Is this the speed of the '4-engine' government?" his post read.

Fake two-wheeler spare parts and engine oil racket busted in Delhi, 5 arrested

Agency New Delhi.
The Delhi Police Crime Branch Saturday claimed to have arrested five people allegedly involved in the manufacturing and selling of fake two-wheeler spare parts and engine oil in North West and Central Delhi.
Harsh Indora, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), said the police seized a large quantity of fake automobile spare parts and engine oils worth approximately Rs 10 lakh, preventing their circulation in the market.
He said The police received specific intelligence regarding the manufacture and sale of counterfeit products, including two-wheeler spare parts and engine oil, bearing the trademarks of reputed companies such as Honda Motorcycle, ASK, and TVS Motors.
"Acting on the directions of senior officers, the information was further developed, and contact was established with the authorised legal

representatives of the companies. On July 15, a dedicated team led by Inspector Ajay Gahlawat under the close supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police Ashok Sharma was constituted," Indora said.
He said the police conducted a raid at the Madanpur Dabas village in North West Delhi, and recovered a significant quantity of counterfeit two-wheeler engine oils, empty bottles, and packing materials bearing the branding of Honda and TVS Automobiles.
Subsequently, on July 25, following further leads provided by the authorised legal representatives of Honda Motorcycle, ASK, and TVS Motors, the police undertook another raid at a shop in Nai Wala Market in Karol Bagh and Madanpur Dabas. This operation led to the recovery of a substantial stock of counterfeit two-wheeler spare parts and packaging materials of Honda and ASK, said the

police. The police said during interrogation, an accused, Shubham Panjiyar, 29, of Uttam Nagar in West Delhi, confessed to being involved in the sale and purchase of counterfeit vehicle spare parts since 2020.
He also disclosed his prior involvement in a similar case registered at Nihal Vihar area under the Copyright Act, said the police, adding that her revealed the names of co-accused: Shubham Panjiyar, Himanshu Kawatra, Naveen alias Deepak Taneja, Ramakant Chaurasia and Shyam Narain.
The police said further investigation is underway to identify the broader network behind this illegal activity. These coordinated operations have dealt a significant blow to the illegal counterfeit trade and reaffirmed the Delhi Police Crime Branch's commitment to safeguarding consumer rights and brand integrity, the DCP said.

Delhi: Year after woman reports husband as missing, she & partner held for murder

Agency New Delhi.

On July 5, last year, Pritam Prakash from Outer North Delhi's Alipur, was murdered and his body dumped in a drain near Agwanpur village at Gannaur district in Haryana's Sonapat. Fifteen days later, his wife Soniya (34) filed a missing complaint at Alipur police station, claiming that Pritam had gone missing during the night of July 5.
What began as a probe into a missing person's complaint unraveled into a calculated plot involving deception, betrayal, and a staged disappearance, eventually leading to Soniya and her partner Rohit's (28) arrests on Friday for Pritam's murder, police said on Saturday. The motive behind the murder – a toxic marriage, years of domestic abuse, and the desire to start a new life together.
The case took a turn when Delhi Police, conducting routine checks on absconding criminals, noticed that Pritam had been off the grid for too long. In fact, he had been missing for so long that he had been declared a Proclaimed Offender in one of the cases lodged against him. It was then, police said, that they discovered the missing person complaint filed by Soniya. When they attempted to trace Pritam's phone, the police realised that it was active in Jaji village of Sonipat. A raid was conducted but in place of Pritam, the police found Rohit, in possession of the phone.
Police said Rohit first attempted to obfuscate the truth by saying that he had bought the phone from a stranger. When questioned further, he cracked. He allegedly admitted to being in a relationship with Soniya and claimed that she had given him the phone to dispose of after Pritam's murder. Subsequently, police said, Soniya was arrested.

Out On Bail In Rape Case, Man Follows Survivor, Shoots Her In Delhi

Agency New Delhi.
A woman was shot at in Delhi's Vasant Vihar allegedly by a man who was out on interim bail in a rape case she filed against him last year, an official said on Saturday. The woman, a head manager at a salon, was hit on the chest and was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre in a PCR van. The woman remains under treatment and is reported to be in stable condition, officials added.
Abuzair Safi (30), and his accomplice Aman Sukhla have been arrested for attempting to kill the woman on Wednesday.
The arrests were made on Thursday and Friday. According to police, two men on a black motorcycle fired at the woman on Wednesday. Safi, who got bail for a rape case the woman filed last year, was the one who allegedly fired at her, they said.
Police reached the spot and found an abandoned auto-rickshaw. The driver, Ranjeet Yadav, told police that his female passenger had sustained a gunshot wound and was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre by a PCR van.
A case was registered at Vasant Vihar Police Station under Sections 109(1) (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and provisions of the Arms Act, based on the woman's statement, police said. "During interrogation, it emerged that Safi was enraged at the survivor for getting a criminal case registered against him. He had tried to contact her multiple times, but she refused to respond, which further aggravated his anger," a senior police officer said.
Police said they used CCTV footage, technical surveillance, and social media to nab Shukla and recovered the motorcycle used in the crime.



NEWS BOX

Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko upsets top-seeded Coco Gauff to reach Montreal quarterfinals

IMONTREAL. (Agency)

Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko upset top-seeded Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-4 on Saturday night to reach the National Bank Open quarterfinals."Your support was incredible," Mboko told the crowd in French after a chorus of "Olé, Olé, Olé!" chants echoed around the venue. "I'm really happy to win today. .. It's incredible. I'm so happy to beat



such a great champion."Gauff dropped to 2-3 since winning the French Open. She followed the major victory with opening losses in Berlin and Wimbledon, then overcame double-fault problems to win two three-set matches in Montreal. Gauff had five double-faults Saturday after having 23 in her opener against Danielle Collins and 14 against Veronika Kudermetova.

"She's playing high-level tennis," Gauff said. "I think that's what showed today. I think she was the better player."The 18-year-old Mboko, ranked 85th in the world, finished off the 21-year-old Gauff — who had 24 unforced errors — in 1 hour, 2 minutes.

"When I was up 5-4, the crowd started cheering even louder, and everything got super noisy," Mboko said. "I used that as more fuel for myself and to pump myself up a little bit more. I just used the crowd to my advantage as much as I could."Mboko will face Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain, a 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Lin Zhu of China in a rain-interrupted match that ended just before midnight.In Rome in May, Gauff rallied to beat Mboko 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

"I was actually really thinking about it a lot during the match," Mboko said. "I had flashbacks to when I played her in Rome a little bit. I just remember when she came out playing even better and stepped it up a bit better. Wanted to step my game up a little bit more and make sure I matched whatever she was producing, and I wanted to stay right there with her."Earlier, 24th-seeded Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine and ninth-seeded Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan set up a quarterfinal match. Kostyuk beat McCartney Kessler of the United States 5-7, 6-3, 6-3, and Rybakina topped Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine 5-7, 6-2, 7-5.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Bumrah headline AB de Villiers's all-time IPL XI

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former South Africa captain and RCB legend AB de Villiers has unveiled his all-time Indian Premier League XI—and it's a line-up packed with firepower, flair, and a hint of nostalgia. Unsurprisingly, the list includes some of the biggest names from Indian cricket, a few iconic overseas stars, and yes, de Villiers himself.De Villiers' XI features a dream top-order of Rohit Sharma and Matthew Hayden as openers, followed by Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, both of whom have consistently dazzled in the league with their strokeplay and match-winning knocks. De Villiers slotted himself in the middle order, a position he dominated during his years with Royal Challengers



Bengaluru.All-rounder Hardik Pandya finds his place too, bringing the perfect balance with his power-hitting and seam bowling. The wicketkeeping and leadership duties go to MS Dhoni, who continues to be one of the most influential figures in IPL history.The bowling unit is just as star-studded. Spearheading the pace attack is Jasprit Bumrah, partnered by Lasith Malinga, both known for their deadly yorkers and game-changing spells. Yuzvendra Chahal, another RCB alumnus, joins the spin department alongside former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori.AB de Villiers' All-Time IPL XI:Rohit Sharma, Matthew Hayden, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, AB de Villiers, Hardik Pandya, MS Dhoni (C & WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Lasith Malinga, Daniel VettoriThe selection reflects a mix of IPL legends who've shaped the tournament since its inception—spanning pioneers like Hayden and Vettori to modern-day suprstars like Suryakumar and Bumrah.De Villiers, who recently led South Africa Legends to the World Championship of Legends (WCL) title, after beating Pakistan Legends in the final, continues to remain actively involved in cricket through commentary, analysis and even his own YouTube channel.

West Indies hold their nerves to beat Pakistan in T20 thriller

It is the first T20 victory for West Indies in seven matches, a span that includes a heavy 5-0 series defeat to Australia, on top of a test series sweep last month.

KOLKATA. (Agency)

LAUDERHILL: Jason Holder took four wickets and then smashed a boundary off the final ball of the game to lift West Indies to a thrilling two-wicket victory over Pakistan on Saturday and level the three-match Twenty20 cricket international series.

The veteran allrounder bowled an inspired spell to take 4-19 off four overs, as Pakistan struggled to 133 for nine after it won the toss and batted in Florida.The West Indies reply also stumbled as Pakistan's spinners kept scoring difficult but late cameos by Gudakesh Motie and Romario Shepherd kept West Indies just about in the contest



before Holder's heroics off Pakistan talisman Shahid Shah Afridi's final delivery clinched it.It is the first T20 victory for West Indies in seven matches, a span that includes a heavy 5-0 series defeat to Australia, on top of a test series sweep last month.Been a tough couple of weeks for us," captain Shai Hope said. "We always try to get better, the guys have put in a lot of hard work.

"Hopefully today is the turnaround we are

looking for."Earlier, Hasan Nawaz's 40 from 23 balls and captain Salman Agha's 38 from 33 deliveries led Pakistan from a precarious 53-4 in the 10th over, but 133 looked a vulnerable target at the innings break. Fresh from taking three wickets in Pakistan's 14-run win in the opening game at the same venue on Thursday, Mohammad Nawaz took another three Saturday, returning 3-14 from his four overs.Like Thursday's game, West

Indies found scoring more than five-an-over difficult on the spin-friendly pitch and lost regular wickets.When Roston Chase was teased into a big shot by Saim Ayub (2-20), West Indies had sunk to 70-5 in the 14th over and looking at a steep mountain to climb.West Indies rally Motie got the innings moving with his quickfire 28 from 20 balls before Shepherd chipped in with 15 from 11 balls, including taking 10 runs off Hasan Ali in the second-to-last over to give West Indies a glimpse.

Needing eight runs from the final over, Afridi (1-31) removed Shepherd off the second ball, with Holder and new batter Shamar Joseph only ableto score singles off the next three balls.Afridi then bowled a wide to leave West Indies needing three runs from the final ball. Holder (16 from 10 balls) then found the gap at backward square to score the boundary they needed and end their six T20 match losing streak."We've had a fair bit of criticism which is warranted," player-of-the-match Holder said. "We haven't done justice to our potential."We can be a lot better, consistency has definitely

Marta's late heroics lead Brazil to ninth Copa America Femenina title

Marta, who has played in six World Cups and six Olympics, has 122 goals in 206 games with Brazil.

QUITO. (Agency)

Six-time world player of the year Marta came off the bench to score twice, including an equalizer in stoppage time, as Brazil came from behind three times before winning the penalty shootout 5-4 against Colombia on Saturday to secure their ninth Copa America Femenina title.

The 39-year-old Marta entered the match in the 82nd minute scored in the sixth minute of stoppage time to level for Brazil at 3-3, before scoring again in extra time to have the Brazilians in front for the first time in the match.Leicy Santos scored in the 115th

to bring Colombia back level at 4-4 as the match went to a penalty shootout.

Goalkeeper Lorena Da Silva then saved two penalty kicks in the shootout to clinch Brazil's fifth title in a row at the continental championships, and beat Colombia for the fourth time in the past five finals.Marta,



who has played in six World Cups and six Olympics, has 122 goals in 206 games with Brazil.Angelina Alonso in the 45th and

Amanda Gutierres in the 80th also scored for the Brazil team that won the silver medal at the Paris Olympics losing to the United States in the final.Gutierres scored her sixth goal of the tournament to finish as the top scorer alongside Paraguay's Claudia Martinez.Linda Caicedo in the 25th, Mayra Ramirez in the 88th and Santos scored for Colombia.

The Colombians also had an own goal by Brazil defender Tarciane in the 69th as it took the lead three times before being pegged back in an extraordinary final.

The Brazilian women have won eight of the nine editions of the Copa America and are considered the best team in South America. Their best finish at the World Cup was runner-up in 2007 and they have reached the Olympic final three times.

Murali Sreeshankar continues magical run after injury, secures 3rd straight title

Murali Sreeshankar secured his third consecutive title at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet after returning from a knee injury. Sreeshankar is aiming to qualify for the World Athletics Championships in September.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's star long jumper, Murali Sreeshankar, continued his fine run after making a return from injury, securing his third straight title as he won the event at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Saturday, August 3. The 26-year-old produced a winning jump of 7.94m in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze label (category C)

meet.His other efforts were 7.73m, 7.58m, 7.57m, 7.80m and 7.79m. Sreeshankar's personal best is 8.41m. This was the Indian ace's third competition since returning from a knee injury which he suffered in April last year. This was Sreeshankar's third



competition since returning from a knee injury, which he suffered in April last year. The issue forced the 26-year-old to undergo surgery and miss the 2024 Olympics in

Paris.Before suffering the injury, Sreeshankar last appearance on the field was during the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2023. The 26-year-old secured the silver medal at the Games and looked prime for a good run at the Olympics.

Sreeshankar had made a stunning return to the field earlier in the year at the Pune Open, where he secured the win with a 8.05 m jump to secure the top spot. He then continued his fine run at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in PortugSreeshankar won in Portugal with a jump of 7.75 m before heading to Kazakhstan. While the Indian ace wasn't able to get into the 8-metre mark on Saturday, he showed good consistency with the rest of his jumps, securing a strong finish and the top step of the podium.al where he once again came on top.



tears in his eyes when he had to quit. He didn't want to disappoint the crowd. "But they can last from a few days to a few months. I have respect for him - he beat me three times before tonight."Zverev, the 2017 champion, will be playing his fifth quarter-final in sevn Canadian appearance.Earlier, Popyrin saved a break point with his sixth ace against Rune as he served for victory in the final game, finishing the job with a lob winner which left Rune flat-footed."This win means a lot," the Aussie said. "I started the week not high on confidence but I knew my game was there. "I just let go of the pressure and it worked out for me," added Popyrin, who sid dropping the first set did not sit well. "I told myself to keep going and managed to play aggressive on the next break point that I got. From then on I felt much more comfortable."

Rohit bhai messaged me to keep playing: Jaiswal after his century on Day 3

LONDON. (Agency)

Despite a century in the opening Test at Leeds, India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal couldn't convert the starts he got in the following matches. He got two half-centuries but that one big knock, which he loves to play, was eluding him. The final Test at the Oval finally ended that drought as the Mumbai batter slammed a century, albeit with three reprieves he got from the England fielder, putting his team in command in the series decider.

"I think it's very important for all of us to keep pushing ourselves. This was our last innings here. Mentally, I was ready to keep pushing myself and try to get as much as I can," Yashasvi told journalists in the press conference on Saturday when asked about on his innings and how he prepared for it, especially after a few middling scores, He

threw light on how he went about it keeping the surface, which has a lot of assistance for the pacers, in mind. " Of course, seeing the wicket in the first innings, I was thinking what can be the best option to score runs. I was just trying to play like that and be positive. My intent was very good. I wanted to put pressure on the bowlers, where they are going to bowl and where I can score runs. My mentality is always like that. I think being positive and going for my shots depends on the situation. If the situation demands something else, I will enjoy that as well." The century was his sixth in Test cricket and he said he enjoyed it a lot. Former India captain Rohit Sharma also witnessed Jaiswal's ton from the stands. The southpaw said Rohit messaged him to keep playing. "I saw Rohit bhai and I said hi to him. He gave me the message to keep playing."



He admitted the surface played better after India opted for a heavy roller in the morning. Jaiswal, however, said the pitch still has enough for the pacers and if India bowlers bowl right line and length then they can extract movement off the wicket. "I think there is enough bounce. If we keep bowling in the channel, it will be amazing. There is always movement on the wicket. It's not that

easy to bat." Jaiswal said he works hard during practice sessions to make sure he gives his best whenever he goes out in the middle. "We all try to give our best. We improve as a person every single day. I think cricket is a game of consistency. We try to make sure that we work hard in the practice session. Whenever we go out there, the game becomes easy. We were practising very hard and we were enjoying the game very well. We know what shot we can play. I think it's just keep doing the same thing again and again consistently. That's very important."But he is not content with his latest show. "I think I wanted to do more. I wanted to make my innings bigger than that so I could have achieved something else. But it's okay. I was trying very hard for that and I was enjoying it. Whenever I go out there, I think as long as I can bat.

How 8th Pay Commission’s Salary Hike Could Impact Stock Markets

New Delhi.(Agency)

India’s 8th Pay Commission is going to give a big boost to government employees and pensioners. The government is expected to spend about Rs 3 lakh crore (3 trillion rupees) on the salary hike, starting in 2026. This is important news for people who invest in the stock market because it may change which companies do well.The 8th Pay Commission is a government panel that decides pay and pension increases for central government workers and retirees.About 1.12 crore (11.2 million) people—including 50 lakh current employees and 65–67 lakh pensioners—will get higher salaries or pensions.The new salaries are likely to start in January 2026.How much will salaries increase?The lowest government salary may rise from Rs 18,000 to Rs 32,000–Rs 41,000 per month.

Employees' Dearness Allowance (extra pay for inflation) will be added into the new basic pay.

Most people will get a raise of about 13 percent to 34 percent in their take-home pay.

How does this affect the stock market?

More Money to Spend: With higher pay, government employees may spend more on things like cars, home appliances, FMCG goods, and houses. Companies selling these products could see higher sales.

Higher Savings: Employees may also save more in banks, mutual funds, and stocks.

Sectors most likely to benefit: Companies making consumer goods, banks, finance companies, and real estate could see a short-term boost.

Temporary Effect: This spending boost is usually strongest in the first six months to a year after salaries go up.

hat should investors do?

Investors should keep an eye on sectors like autos, FMCG, electronics, and banking.

The effect may not last long, so investments in these areas might be best for the short term.

Mcap of 7 of top-10 valued firms drops by Rs 1.35 trn; TCS biggest laggard

New Delhi.(Agency)

The combined market valuation of seven of the 10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 1.35 lakh crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) taking the biggest hit. Last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 863.18 points or 1.05 per cent.

TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Bajaj Finance faced a combined erosion of Rs 1,35,349.93 crore from their market valuation last week. However, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and Hindustan Unilever saw an increase in their mcap. Together, these three firms added Rs 39,989.72 crore in market valuation. The valuation of TCS tumbled Rs 47,487.4 crore to Rs 10,86,547.86 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Bharti Airtel eroded by Rs 29,936.06 crore to Rs 10,74,903.87 crore.

Bajaj Finance’s valuation tanked Rs 22,806.44 crore to Rs 5,44,962.09 crore and that of Infosys dropped by Rs 18,694.23 crore to Rs 6,10,927.33 crore. The mcap of State Bank of India declined by Rs 11,584.43 crore to Rs 7,32,864.88 crore.

ICICI Bank faced an erosion of Rs 3,608 crore to Rs 10,50,215.14 crore from its market valuation while LIC lost Rs 1,233.37 crore to Rs 5,59,509.30 crore.However, Hindustan Unilever Ltd added Rs 32,013.18 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 5,99,462.97 crore. The mcap of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 5,946.67 crore to Rs 15,44,025.62 crore and that of Reliance Industries Ltd climbed Rs 2,029.87 crore to Rs 18,85,885.39 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, LIC and Bajaj Finance.

Even before Trump’s ‘penalty’ threat, Indian refiners began cutting down on Russian oil imports

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid increasing pressure on India from the US and other Western powers over the past couple of months, Indian refiners — led by public sector players — began cutting down on Russian oil imports, much before US President Donald Trump’s announcement earlier this week of an unspecified tariff “penalty” on New Delhi for its defence and energy imports from Moscow. Latest vessel tracking data shows that July deliveries of Russian crude — which would have been contracted May or early June — to Indian refiners fell significantly. Industry and trade sources also indicated that Indian public sector refiners have, for the time being, halted future contracting of Russian oil, the mainstay of India’s oil imports for the better part of the past three years. Trump has now said that he “heard” that India will no longer be buying oil from Russia, calling it a “good step”, but also added that he is not sure if the information is “right or not”. “Well, I understand India no longer is going to be buying oil from Russia. That’s what I heard. I don’t know if that’s right or not, but that’s a good step. We’ll see what happens,” Trump told reporters in the US on Friday.

Meanwhile, India — the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil with an import dependency level of over 85 per cent — continues to maintain that its oil purchases are commercial decisions. “We take decisions based on the price at which oil is available in the international market and depending on the global situation at that time,” Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Friday in response to a question on whether Indian refiners have stopped buying Russian oil over the past few days.

Number Of Jan Dhan Accounts Crosses 55 Crore, FM Sitharaman Tells Banks To Reach Out More

New Delhi.(Agency)

PMJDY is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and a target of opening another three crore such accounts has been fixed for the current year. The average bank balance per account in March 2015 was Rs 1,065, which has now increased to Rs 4,352. Around 80 per cent of the accounts are active, according to the official data.

The number of bank accounts for the poor under the Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana have crossed the 55 crore mark with “most of these accounts belonging to people who had never even seen the door of a bank”, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

In a post on X, the Finance Minister said, “With the scheme completing 10 years and KYC being mandatory for these accounts, I have urged banks to proactively reach out to people and simplify this process. In this regard, starting from July 1, 2025, banks have launched this campaign, under which approximately 1 lakh Gram Panchayats have been covered so far.”She urged all Jan Dhan account holders to come forward to participate in these camps and complete their KYC process. According to RBI data, 56 per cent of the Jan Dhan accounts belong to women, and the total amount in these deposits has surpassed Rs 2.5 lakh crore as of May 21.Speaking at a seminar on financial inclusion recently, RBI

Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao said the launch of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a watershed moment in India. The Jan Dhan Yojana --



Aadhaar–Mobile phone, which comprises the 'AM Trinity', has provided a quantum leap in the country’s endeavour to ensure access to banking services for all adults, making it the world's largest financial inclusion programme.

PMJDY is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and a target of opening

another three crore such accounts has been fixed for the current year. The average bank balance per account in March 2015 was Rs 1,065, which has now increased to Rs 4,352. Around 80 per cent of the accounts are active, according to the official data.As many as 66.6 per cent of Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, and 29.56 crore belong to women account holders. From MGNREGA salaries to Ujjwala Scheme subsidy and providing money to common people during Covid, this scheme has played a major role, accrding to a finance ministry statement.Today, 99.95 per cent of all inhabited villages have access to banking facilities within a 5-km radius through banking touch points (including bank branches, ATMs, banking correspondents (BCs), and Indian Post Payment Banks), the statement said.When the Modi government first came to power 11 years ago, it had set a target of providing financial and banking services to every citizen.

Will US tariffs and shrinking discounts force India to abandon Russian crude

New Delhi.(Agency)

In February 2021, India's crude oil import strategy underwent a significant shift as the country began substantially increasing imports from Russia. Within a few months, Russian Urals crude—which previously accounted for just 0.2% of India's total crude imports—emerged as a top supplier, surpassing Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Imports peaked at 2.15 million barrels per day (bpd) in May 2023 and have since fluctuated based on discounts and global market dynamics.This diversification coincided with the Russia–Ukraine conflict and was not well-received by Western nations, which accused India of indirectly supporting Russia’s war efforts by keeping its economy afloat. As Europe shunned Russian energy to weaken Moscow’s finances, Russia redirected its supply toward Asia. China emerged as the top importer, buying nearly half of Russia’s crude oil, followed by India, Turkey, and some European countries, including Hungary and Slovakia.India’s Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh

Puri has repeatedly asserted that India—the world’s third-largest oil consumer—has diversified its sources from 27 to 40 countries and will continue to buy crude from any source offering the best deal. Indeed, Russia remained India’s top crude supplier during the first half of 2025, with an average of 1.67 million bpd, marginally higher than the 1.66 million bpd during the same period last year.

However, the situation grew more complicated on July 30, 2025, when US President Donald Trump announced a 25% reciprocal tariff on Indian imports, along with additional penalties linked to purchases of Russian crude. This marked an escalation in Western efforts to pressure India to stop importing Russian oil, in hopes of further weakening Moscow’s energy-dependent economy. This raises a pressing question: Will India continue importing Russian Urals, or will it be forced to return to its traditional suppliers?Why India Needed Discounted Russian CrudeIndia is heavily reliant on crude oil, importing

about 88% of its total consumption. With a daily consumption of 5.8 million barrels in 2024, India ranks third globally, behind the US (20.3 million bpd) and China (16.5 million bpd).Importantly, India doesn’t just buy crude for domestic use but also processes and exports it. With the world’s fourth-largest refining capacity at 5.17 million bpd, India exported petroleum products worth \$60.07 billion in FY 2024–25 (April 2024 to March 2025). Key export destinations include the Netherlands, UAE, Singapore, and Australia. This makes access to cheaper crude critical for both domestic consumption and maintaining refining profitability.

Both public sector companies—Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL)—and private players like Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy have been major importers of Russian crude. Notably, Indian refiners have primarily sourced Russian oil through the spot market.

Trump’s 25% tariff, penalties raise alarm: Indian exporters fear order cancellations; urgent support sought from government

New Delhi.(Agency)

Businesses are expressing worry about potential order cancellations from American clients, given the 25% duty on Indian products, which exceeds rates for rival nations like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam, alongside an additional penalty causing uncertainty.During discussions with commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, various sector representatives, including textiles, steel, engineering and agriculture, reportedly requested swift implementation of an Export Promotion Mission, US market assistance, and interest equalisation for export credit.“Exporters spoke about the adverse effects of tariffs. They want support,” said an official, quoted by Economic Times.Since August 7, the US will be

implementing a uniform 25 per cent duty on all Indian goods, plus a penalty. This substantial duty could affect nearly 50% of India's US exports, which exceed \$85 billion.

A textile sector spokesperson highlighted that the 25% duty puts India at a disadvantage compared to competitors who face lower tariffs.

Industry representatives indicated that a 20% rate could have been shared amongst importers, exporters and consumers, but the current 25% necessitates fiscal support, such as enhanced benefits under the Rebate of States and Central Taxes and Levies scheme.

The textile sector warned about possible job losses, as America represents one-third of India's textile exports, with the higher duty potentially reducing business. "The

US market is price sensitive with lower design elements. The impact will be visible on core sport items like T-shirts and home textiles from September when the peak season for textiles starts," the textile industry representative said, as quoted by ET.America was India's primary export market in fiscal 2025, with exports worth \$87 billion, representing approximately 20% of the total \$437 billion."Had an insightful interaction today in Mumbai with leading industry captains from India's vibrant textiles sector. Discussed bold ideas to enhance global competitiveness, sustainability, innovation & value chain integration. Together, we're weaving India's rise as a global textiles powerhouse," Goyal wrote in a post on X.

Personal loan for wedding Why borrowing for the big day needs rethinking

Washington DC. (Agency)

A wedding is meant to be a once-in-a-lifetime celebration, but should it cost you your peace of mind for years to come? With the growing trend of personal loans funding grand ceremonies, many young couples are unknowingly stepping into long-term financial stress.While the dream of a picture-perfect day sounds alluring, financial experts urge caution before taking on debt for a single event.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ‘WEDDING LOANS’

Siddharth Maurya, Founder and Managing Director of Vibhavangal Anukulakara Private Limited, explains that so-called “wedding loans” are just personal loans in disguise.“People often don’t want to touch their long-term savings, so they take a loan instead. But this only makes sense if it’s done responsibly, with a clear repayment plan. Otherwise, it can lead to serious post-wedding financial trouble,” he warns.He points out some major risks of

using loans to pay for a wedding. You might end up stretching your budget beyond comfort, paying high interest rates, and getting stuck with EMIs that become hard to manage.

“EMIs limit your ability to invest and reduce your freedom to spend on important goals like buying a home, starting a family, or planning for retirement,” Maurya adds. Missed payments can damage your credit score, and the resulting financial strain can delay other key life milestones.

Manish Jasoria, Founder of FINTELS Financial Planning Advisory, agrees. “Weddings are over in a day, but the debt can last for years,” he says. Personal loans in India usually carry interest rates between 10% to 24% per annum, Jasoria added. That’s much lower than credit cards, but still higher than secured loans like those against gold or property.

“If you miss payments, it can hurt your credit score and make future borrowing harder,” Jasoria explains. “Financial strain can also lead to early tension in

marriage, and delay long-term goals like owning a home or building a safety net.”

INSTAGRAM PRESSURE MEETS EMI REALITY



Both experts agree that the younger generation, especially millennials and Gen Z, are more vulnerable to this trap. “They want to fund their own weddings and create standout moments, but they also feel a huge pressure to look good online,” says Maurya.Jasoria calls this a worrying shift. “Many young people don’t fully understand the long-term cost of borrowing for non-essential spending. A wedding should not come at

the cost of your future.”

SMARTER ALTERNATIVES TO WEDDING LOANS

Weddings may be magical, but the financial aftermath doesn’t have to be daunting. With thoughtful planning, couples can avoid the debt spiral. “Set a realistic budget, and stick to it,” says Jasoria. Smaller, meaningful ceremonies help keep the focus where it belongs, on the people, not the price tag.Maurya agrees, pointing out that couples should “prioritise budgets by cutting guest lists or costs that aren’t totally necessary.”Instead of borrowing, both recommend building up savings in advance. “Start saving early, consider opening a wedding-focused SIP,” Jasoria suggests. Maurya adds that “using personal savings, accepting contributions from family, or picking up a side hustle in the months before the wedding” are all great alternatives to loans.For modern-minded couples, crowdfunding is also gaining popularity.



Luxury Market Value: India’s luxury market hit \$17.67 billion in 2024 and is projected to surpass \$85 billion by 2030, growing at about 3.17 percent annually.Affordable Luxury: “Affordable luxury” products—premium brands within reach—are booming. Urban Gen Z and their peers in smaller towns are key drivers, as platforms like Tata Cliq Luxury, Nykaa, and Ajio Luxe expand high-end product access beyond the metros.

Digital Credit Tools Make It Happen

EMI and BNPL: Easy access to Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) and Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) has made it possible for young shoppers to own expensive gadgets, take luxury holidays, buy designer clothes, and invest in wellness experiences without paying the whole amount upfront.First-Time Borrowers: According to TransUnion CIBIL, 41 percent of all first-time borrowers in India are Gen Z. They are comfortable making purchases and managing payments through digital platforms.

E-Commerce, Influence, and Conscious Choices

E-commerce Reach: Online luxury retailers are tapping into smaller cities, where Gen Z is quickly becoming a significant customer group.



Avneet Kaur

Looks Like An '80s Diva In This Sexy, Flowing White Gown

There's no denying it—Avneet Kaur is that fashion girl! From street-chic fits to dreamy red carpet gowns, she always brings her A-game. And just when we thought she couldn't top her last look, she showed up looking like she just time-travelled from the most glamorous corner of the 1980s. In her latest photoshoot, Avneet slipped into a stunning white gown that's pure vintage fantasy with a sexy twist. The dress, with its deep sweetheart neckline and barely-there straps, hugged her just right before flaring out into a voluminous, flowing skirt. As for her hair, she styled it in a curly updo with just the right amount of bounce and mess. A few tendrils framed her face. Makeup-wise, she kept things fresh and radiant. Flushed cheeks, rosy lips, and that signature Avneet glow made sure all eyes were on her. Her brows were brushed up and bold, and her lashes fluttered



like a dream. Avneet Kaur started her journey in 2010 when she took part in Dance India Dance Li'l Masters. She later appeared on Dance Ke Superstars too. In 2012, she began acting with the TV show Meri Maa. After that, she was seen in shows like Tedhe Hain Par Tere Mere Hain and even joined Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, where she was the youngest contestant, paired with actor Darsheel Safary. In 2013, she played a princess in Savitri—Ek Prem Kahani and also acted in Ek Mutthi Aasmaan. She tried her hand at hosting with The Weekly Rap on ZeeQ. Her film debut came in 2014 with Mardaani, and that same year, she also appeared in Hamari Sister Didi. In 2016, Avneet acted in a short film called Dost, and in 2017, she played Rajkumari Charumati in the show Chandra Nandini. From 2018 to 2020, she won hearts as Princess Yasmine in Aladdin—Naam Toh Suna Hoga, but later quit the show due to health reasons. More recently, she's worked in films like Chidiakhana and Tiku Weds Sheru in 2023, and Luv Ki Arrange Marriage and Party Till I Die in 2024. Her next big project is Love in Vietnam, where she stars with Shantanu Maheshwari and Vietnamese actor Kha Ngan. The movie, directed by Rahhat Shah Kazmi, was announced at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival and is the first collaboration between India and Vietnam.



Raashii Khanna

Joins Farhan Akhtar In Action Drama 120 Bahadur

Raashii Khanna has officially signed on to star opposite Farhan Akhtar in the upcoming war drama 120 Bahadur, which is set against the backdrop of the 1962 Indo-China War. The film, directed by Shiv Rawail, is centred on the legendary Battle of Rezang La and will see Farhan essaying the role of Major Shaitan Singh, the heroic officer who was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra. Sources close to the project confirmed to Hindustan Times that the actress came on board after impressing the filmmakers with her recent performances. "Raashii has proved herself with The Sabarmati Report and Yodha, two completely different films and characters. The makers of 120 Bahadur felt that she would be able to hold her ground in a story which is so patriotic and hard-hitting, and bring added depth," said a source close to the production to the media house. While details about her character remain tightly guarded, her role is said to be crucial to the emotional arc of the narrative. The film is being positioned as a tribute to the valour of Indian soldiers, specifically the 120 soldiers of the 13 Kumaon regiment who fought under Major Singh's leadership in one of the most remembered last stands in Indian military history. Farhan Akhtar, who was last seen in Toofaan, had earlier expressed his excitement about returning to Ladakh after two decades. "I went back to Ladakh to shoot a full-fledged film, 20 years after last filming

Lakshya with Hrithik Roshan," he had told HT City. It is scheduled for release in November 2025. 120 Bahadur was shot in Ladakh in a spine chilling minus 10 degrees celsius. "The team shot at around 14,000 feet in Ladakh, and temperatures often dipped to minus 5, even minus 10 degrees on some days," an industry source had said earlier. The source added, "The aim was to honour the story with honesty, and Farhan really went all in — physically, mentally, emotionally." Farhan, who will be seen essaying the role of Major



Shaitan Singh Bhati (PVC), underwent a significant transformation for the film, including military-style training and acclimatisation at high altitude. "120 Bahadur" is directed by Razneesh 'Razy' Ghai and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar (Excel Entertainment), and Amit Chandra (Trigger Happy Studios).

'Melody Queen' Asha Bhosle With Granddaughter Zanai At Mumbai Airport



Melody Queen Asha Bhosle was once again spotted at the Mumbai airport, accompanied by her son Anand Bhosle and granddaughter Zanai Bhosle. The adorable and rare family moment instantly caught the paparazzi's attention, who couldn't resist capturing it through their lenses. In a video that's now doing the rounds online, the trio is seen stepping into the airport as Anand and Zanai lovingly guide Asha ji by her hands. The family paused to smile for the cameras, with Zanai even greeting the paparazzi with a cheerful "Bye, have a nice day."

Asha Bhosle's airport look
In this heartwarming airport moment, Asha Bhosle is seen draped in a pastel green floral saree, layered with a white shawl and completed her elegant look with a maroon bindi. The saree-clad legend once again proved that simplicity and charm never go out of style. All eyes, however, were also on Zanai Bhosle, the young singer and Asha Bhosle's granddaughter, who made a style statement in an all-white outfit. Her look featured a fitted blazer paired with ripped jeans and a black inner top. With open hair, minimal accessories and a sleek designer tote in hand, Zanai balanced her chic vibe with a touch of airport comfort. Walking beside them was Anand Bhosle, who kept it simple in a blue-striped shirt and relaxed blue trousers.

A Legendary Singer and The Next-Gen Star
It's not every day that fans get to witness the legendary Asha Bhosle in a public moment and her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle's presence made it even more heartwarming. The grandmother-granddaughter duo has earlier shared the stage during singing shows, and their bond continues to charm fans. Last year in December, Asha Bhosle, 91, released a new single song, Saiyaan Bina, as a soulful tribute to the music maestro and her late husband, RD Burman, fondly known as Pancham Da.

Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal's Latest Banter With Paps Will Make You ROFL



Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal, often hailed as one of the most endearing celebrity couples, are known for their playful chemistry and light-hearted exchanges. On Friday night, the duo stepped out to attend an event in the city, and their lively interaction with photographers at the venue once again charmed fans and caught the internet's attention.

Sonakshi Sinha And Zaheer Iqbal's Playful Banter

In a video surfacing on Instagram, Sonakshi and Zaheer are seen coming out of a building and striking a pose in front of the paparazzi. As it progresses, we see a paparazzi requesting the duo for a picture. To this, the Dabangg actress immediately agrees and says, "Yes, come."

But as the paparazzi moves ahead to stand between the couple for the picture, Sonakshi, jokingly, denies, saying "Beech mein nahi (not in the middle)," and asks him to stand on the side. She added, "Nahi humaaare beech koi nahi aa sakta (No one can come between us)," leaving all present at the location in stitches. Furthermore, the duo was seen heading towards their car.

Sonakshi Sinha And Zaheer Iqbal's Looks

For their latest appearance, the Rowdy Rathore actress opted for a white shirt paired with blue jeans and a denim jacket. Zaheer opted for an all-black look. He wore a shirt paired with matching pants.

Sonakshi Sinha And Zaheer Iqbal's Marriage

The duo got married in June 2024 in an intimate ceremony after dating each other for seven years. The couple registered their marriage at the actress' home, followed by a star-studded reception with industry friends.

Sonakshi Sinha And Zaheer Iqbal's Work Front

The actress was recently seen in the psychological thriller film Nikita Roy, co-starring Arjun Rampal and Paresh Rawal. Directed by Kush S Sinha, the film, despite getting positive reviews, failed to perform at the box office. This could be a result of its big box office clash with Mohit Suri's musical romantic drama, Saiyaara.

Up next, she will be seen in the Telugu thriller film Jatadhara opposite actor Sudheer Babu. Zaheer, on the other hand, was last seen in a special cameo role in Aayush Sharma's action thriller film, Ruslaan. He is yet to announce his next project.



8 Ways to stay happy at Work

Here are some simple tips to keep the negativity at bay. If you are employed, chances are you often spend more time at office than home. And so, it's very important that you are happy and relaxed when at work. But that's easier said than done. A tyrant boss, backstabbing colleagues, poor pay packages, office politics, unequal distribution of work, favouritism — there are countless reasons to put one off work. Job stress can take a huge toll on your mental and physical health. Changing jobs constantly is not a solution, especially in today's economic scenario. So, here's how to make the most of what you have. Eat out

Forget home-cooked food and that boring canteen fare. It's a great idea to step out for lunch with your colleagues. It will help you bond with them. If you hate going out, order take-away. And if you are the kind who always eats out, get a home-cooked dish sometimes. Good food will uplift your mood. Be optimistic Whatever the nature and number of problems you face at work, they're not going to disappear at the snap of your fingers. You need to be optimistic that the situation will improve slowly and steadily. Do not fall prey to negative thinking. If you find it tough to be optimistic, fake it. With time, your fake positivity will turn real. All you need is a little

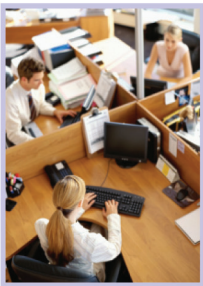
practice. Change your attitude Even if you hate your job, make the most of it. Analyse how you can improve yourself — make fewer mistakes and increase your efficiency. Whenever you leave a job, you should know that it has enhanced your skills, even if it is in a minor way. Be friendly with colleagues A friendly atmosphere makes a huge difference. If you're aloof, chances are you will feel left out at some point of time. We're not asking you to go shopping with them and share details of your personal life, but be cordial. Take a chill pill Slogging for 12 to 16 hours a day will leave anyone grumpy, stressed out and unable to concentrate. So, small 15-minute breaks are a must in between. Take a nap, read jokes or play games online, listen to music or chat with a friend. If napping and playing games online are prohibited, listen to some good music to pep up your mood. Be grateful Typing furiously on the keyboard, slamming the phone, and pushing the drawers of the cabinet forcefully may help you vent anger, but think about how lucky you are. In the current market scenario, there are many unemployed people who would love to be

in your shoes. Be assertive Nobody likes to be bullied and harassed at work. If your detractors are under the impression that you can't speak up for yourself, it encourages them to trouble you even more. So, stand up for yourself. Ask for feedback It's important to ask for a feedback from your boss. Good communication will give you a clear idea of what's expected of you.

Maintaining office Decorum

Be punctual: The first basic rule of any company would be that employees reach office on time. Unless you have a flexi-timing, going late to work is a strict no-no. Even if you have share a great rapport with your immediate boss/senior/team leader, it's best to stick to office timing. You never know this habit could affect your annual appraisals. **Respect others' privacy:** Your colleague may be close to you, but that doesn't mean you can peep into his desk whenever you want. For all you know, he may be checking some confidential mails or having an important phone conversation. It's best to give colleagues their space. **Speak in a low voice:** You may be a loud mouth at home. But remember once you enter office premises you may have to tone down your pitch and also the way you speak. Some offices are strict about addressing senior as 'sir' and 'ma'am' while some others allow you to call them by name. Learn the office rules soon as you land a job there. **Cell phone nuisance:** Yes, we all know mobile phones are as important as any part of our body. However, of late

it's become a nuisance. You may love to flaunt your ring tone and want the world to know what's on your mind, but not many think the same way. So, first and foremost, put your cell phone on silent mode or at least a beep mode. This will ensure the others aren't distracted by its sounds every time you get a call or an SMS. **Cleanliness on the desk :** You may have your spouse/sibling/maid/parent to clean up your dirty room every day. However, it is not so in the office. Keep your desk clutter-free. Don't leave coffee/tea cups, used plated, left over junk food or useless papers on the desk. Make good use of the dust bin and throw unused things there. Remember this is your office and you got to keep the company's image in mind too **Don't blast music :** You may be jobless or in a very good mood to enjoy music, but may not be the same for your colleagues. They may be preparing for an important presentation, they may be trying to focus on work where even little bit of distraction might hinder their progress. So it's best to use a head phone and enjoy your music.



How teens choose their pals

While it is a common perception that teenage friendships are formed by joining cliques, a new study has revealed that the courses students take have powerful effects on the friendships they make. The study led by a Michigan State University scholar indicated the pattern of course-taking is distinctive to each high school. In one school, for example, friendships may form among students taking woodshop, Spanish and European history, while in another it may be among students taking agricultural business management, advanced accounting and calculus. Kenneth Frank, professor in MSU's College of Education, said that their argument is

that the opportunities an adolescent has to choose friends are guided by the courses the adolescent takes and the other students who take the courses with them. Moreover, the pattern of opportunities differs from school to school. It was found that students were more likely to make friends in small classes, often electives, which set them off from the general student population. Students who take the same set of courses tend to get to know each other very well and focus less on social status, such as how "cool" someone is. They're also less likely to judge classmates on visible characteristics like race and gender.



Top 5 big lies about Marriage

I won't be lonely Being lonely or having company has nothing to do with getting married. Many loners remain so even after marriage. A long-suffering woman shared her woes, she said that though she was married, she was always lonely. "I never felt that we shared anything. When I spoke, he heard but never listened. On holidays, I never felt that we were together." Those who are lonely and feel that marriage will be a solution, need to analyse and identify what they are feeling. Anytime sex Sexual desire and frequency is dependent on libido, compatibility and the acceptance of the word 'sex' among both partners. Many partners, who have a deep-seated resentment for each

other and are constantly bickering, are not having enough sex. Maybe one of them thought that marriage would satisfy their sexual desires, but that didn't happen, and so, the blame-game continues in other spheres of life. I won't work This is quite an unrealistic thought, as increasingly, more couples realise that marriage does not mean financial security. Especially women realise that the lifestyle and aspirations one has calls for both spouses to generate income. Financial security is rare if you are not taking care of it yourself; there is no escape route. And if you have not

she may feel resentful of being considered a meal ticket. Big happy family Most of us are conditioned to win over the love and affection of the in-laws. We bend over backwards, expect to be loved immediately and are baffled when the feeling is not reciprocated. The biological imperative of birthing gives rise to a lot of unconditional love and acceptance which is hormonally absent in in-laws. So it is advised to give respect, love and attention, but don't

discussed this with your partner, he or expect much. Kids can fix it all Couples feel that unhappiness in a marriage will be sorted by parenthood. This is another misconception because if there is incompatibility, a child would actually come into an unwelcoming environment and may

Marriage is often seen as fix-all - dreamy singles think it will make them happy, restless men and women think it will make them feel complete. We take apart the five most popular cons that marriage.



Dogs show emotions just like us

For dog owners who always tell you that their pet is almost human, now there is hard evidence that they may be right.

In tests humans were able to accurately read a dog's emotions just by looking at his face. Fifty volunteers were shown pictures of a five-year-old Belgian Shepherd police dog called Mal as he went through a range of emotions, triggered by praise, reprimands, a jack-in-the-box and even nail trimmers which he particularly liked. 88 percent of the volunteers were able to spot happiness - shown by Mal looking straight at the camera with his ears up and tongue out, the Daily Express reported. Almost as easy to spot was anger - provoked by a man pretending to be a criminal - with 70 percent correctly interpret Mal's bared teeth. About 45 percent knew that Mal pricking his ears up and showing the whites of his eyes revealed fear while 37 percent knew that a mournful expression with downcast eyes showed sadness. Less easy to read were surprise - shown by a frown - and disgust - revealed by flattened ears. In the tests people with minimal experience of dogs were better at reading canine disgust and anger than dog owners. This suggests that understanding dogs may come naturally rather than being learned. "There is no doubt that humans have the ability to recognise emotional states in other humans and accurately read other humans' facial expressions," Researcher leader Dr Tina Bloom of Walden University in Minnesota said. "We have shown that humans are also able to accurately - if not perfectly - identify at least one dog's facial expressions," she said. Surrey-based animal psychologist Dr Roger Mugford said the faces of dogs are much easier to read than those of other animals such as cats or horses. He said tests have shown that even people from cultures which do not have pet dogs can correctly read their faces.

