

Can PM run office from jail?: Amit Shah blasts Opposition over criminal netas bill

Responding to concerns that the provision could be misused through politically motivated arrests, Shah said that courts would act responsibly and that bail would be granted before the 30-day period in such cases, leaving no scope for misuse.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday defended the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, which seeks the automatic removal of top elected officials held in custody for 30

Review Meeting of ACL Department and Various Academies Held under the Chairmanship of Kapil Mishra

The Sikh Times Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi, August 25, 2025: A high-level meeting was held yesterday under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Art, Culture and Language Kapil Mishra with secretaries of ACL and various language and art academies. Senior officials of Sahitya Kala Parishad, Hindi Academy, Urdu Academy, Sindhi Academy, Sanskrit Academy, Maithili-Bhojpuri Academy, Garhwali-Kumaoni-Jaunsari Academy, Dr. G.G.L.S. Prachya Vidya Prathisthanam and other institutions participated in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to review preparations for upcoming cultural, literary, and artistic programs and to develop a coordinated plan for the promotion of language and culture.

"BJP Made Mockery Of Democracy": Kejriwal Slams Lathi Charge On SSC Aspirants At Ramleela Maidan

Arvind Kejriwal alleged that BJP has made a mockery not just of democracy, but of the entire system.

PUNE. (Agency)

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday slammed the BJP government led by the Delhi Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta, over the lathi charge on the protesting Staff Selection Commission (SSC) aspirants at New Delhi's Ramleela Maidan. He accused the government of using force to silence the students and suppress their voices, who were protesting against irregularities in the SSC exam.

The students, who have been fighting for justice for months, were met with force in the darkness of the Saturday night, leaving many with injuries. Media personnel were also stopped from covering the news, sparking widespread outrage. In a post on social media X, Kejriwal alleged that BJP has made a mockery not just of democracy, but of the entire system. "See the BJP's dictatorship and thuggery... Open thuggery is rampant in the country. Those who question the BJP are silenced by ordering lathi charges against them. Anyone can be picked up and thrown into jail, any law can be changed whenever they want. If someone doesn't vote for the BJP, their vote is cut," he posted. The students are demanding a re-examination, cancellation of the current exam results, and action against those responsible for the irregularities.

"These students have been fighting for justice for months over the irregularities in the SSC exam. Instead of listening to their voices, they were beaten with batons in the darkness of the night. Imagine... the hands that should have been holding books yesterday now bear the marks of injuries. Media personnel were also stopped from covering the news," added Kejriwal. The SSC is a statutory body that conducts recruitment exams for various posts in ministries, departments, and other government organisations. The Phase 13 exam, conducted between July 24 and August 1 across 194 centres in 142 cities, was plagued by abrupt cancellations, software crashes, biometric verification failures, and erroneous centre allotments. During the test window, around 5 lakh candidates appeared for the examination.



programs will there be a rise in public consciousness about art, culture and language."

The status of government-run libraries in Delhi was also specially discussed in the

[Continued news page 2](#)

The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 25 August 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta stated that the foundation of India's democracy lies in sacrifice and struggle, and that the foremost duty of every people's representative must be to the nation. She emphasised that while diversity of opinion is the lifeblood of democracy, in matters of public welfare and national interest all political parties must stand united. Addressing the valedictory session of the All India Speakers' Conference in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister extended

a warm welcome to the Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Om Birla, Union Minister Mr Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Minister Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Speaker of the Delhi Assembly, Mr Vijender Gupta, along with other distinguished guests on the dais. She observed that the conference provided Speakers and Deputy Speakers from across the country an opportunity to reaffirm their duty and commitment, and described the participation of women Speakers and Deputy Speakers as particularly inspiring. On the historic occasion of 100 years since the establishment of India's first Central Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister observed that the moment when Indians



themselves presided over the Assembly marked the true beginning

The foundation of India's democracy lies in sacrifice and struggle: CM Rekha Gupta

After DK Shivakumar sang an RSS anthem in the Assembly, Kunigal Congress MLA Ranganath backed the move. He said the song itself had no fault, though Congress opposed BJP's divisive ideology.

Agency New Delhi.
After Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar surprised the Assembly by invoking the RSS anthem, Kunigal Ranganath backed the move, saying there was "nothing wrong" with the song itself. "Namaste Sada Vatsale, that song is very sweet. After DK Shivakumar Saheb sang it, I read it. It says: bow down to the land where you are born. I don't see any fault in that," Ranganath told reporters in Tumakuru. He maintained that the Congress remained a secular party but argued that good ideas should be appreciated, irrespective of political affiliations. "Whatever is good in any party or any person, we must accept it. There is nothing wrong with the song itself.

But the right-wing BJP is adamant about creating caste and religious divisions, and we strongly condemn that," he said.



Shivakumar's unexpected recital of the RSS anthem in the Assembly last Friday during a heated debate over the Chinnaswamy

of the nation's democratic journey. Paying homage to the sacrifices of freedom fighters, she underlined that today, with the privilege of leading an independent nation under the Constitution and democratic institutions, the greatest responsibility is to uphold and strengthen the dignity of that freedom. The Chief Minister made it clear that elected representatives must always act according to the principle of 'Nation First, Party Second, Self Last'. Referring to the legacy of freedom fighter Vitthalbhai Patel, she noted that he set enduring ideals of democracy and legislative conduct, even in the most adverse circumstances.

[Continued news page 2](#)

Nothing wrong: Karnataka Congress MLA backs DK Shivakumar's RSS anthem recital

Stadium stampede that left 11 people dead. BJP members welcomed Shivakumar's move with desk-thumping, while Congress benches remained silent. The Deputy Chief Minister later clarified that there was "no indirect or direct message" behind his act and reiterated his commitment to the Congress. However, the episode quickly went viral on social media, with users speculating whether Shivakumar was signalling his ambitions within the party. Ranganath, meanwhile, drew a sharper line between the song and the BJP's ideology. "At any cost, their ideology and our ideology can never match, there can be no compromise on that. But I ask, what is wrong if someone sings a song that is part of the RSS?" he said.

Front continued news

Review Meeting of ACL Department and Various Academies Held under the Chairmanship of Kapil Mishra

In November, the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji will be commemorated on a grand scale with a series of special programs, including religious, cultural and literary activities. Traditional festivals and celebrations closely linked to Delhi's cultural identity will also be celebrated widely. Chhath Puja will be organized in a grand manner, while the Diwali Fair will be jointly hosted by ACL and various academies in the collaboration with Delhi Tourism.

Likewise, in October and November, Delhi Statehood Day celebrations will be held, showcasing the capital's rich cultural traditions and arts. The Sanskrit Academy will organize a Gurukul Sports Competition to promote traditional games and Vedic life values. The Sahitya Kala Parishad will also host a Bhakti Utsav, featuring leading artists and devotional traditions from across India.

The meeting also decided to organize special programs marking the birth centenary year of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. These events will commemorate his extraordinary contribution to poetry, literature, and politics, serving as an inspiration for the younger generation.

The foundation of India's democracy lies in sacrifice and struggle: CM Rekha Gupta

She emphasised that debates and discussions in legislatures must always remain centred on public welfare and the dignity of democracy. She observed that when citizens watch their elected representatives in the chambers, they expect them to voice their concerns and take decisions in the national interest. Looking ahead to the centenary of India's Independence in 2047, the Chief Minister said that this is a time of renewed energy and fresh resolve for all people's representatives. Meeting the aspirations of the people, she declared, is the highest form of national duty. With this vision, she concluded, every representative must carry out their responsibilities with the nation's interest held above all else.

News box

High Court hikes land compensation for farmers in delayed cases across Noida

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Accusing a developer of cheating more than 3,000 homebuyers of a project in Sector 109, over 100 homebuyers staged a protest on Sunday.

Carrying placards and shouting slogans, homebuyers gathered outside Legend Society in Sector 57 to protest against builder Swaraj Singh Yadav, director of Ocean Seven Buildtech Pvt Ltd. "This is nothing short of fraud," a homebuyer of the stalled Expressway Towers said. They alleged that despite collecting full payments since the project's launch in Nov 2016 under the Affordable Housing Scheme (PMAY), construction has stalled at just 65%, leaving buyers in financial and emotional distress.

Meanwhile, the company's spokesperson said, "The commencement of OSB project started in 2018 and was to be completed in 2022 (including RERA extension), which was delayed due to buyer protests and non-payment of dues, leading to licence suspension and account freezing. Despite this, the developer has completed over 90% of the work. In a meeting held yesterday with buyers association members, the promoter assured homebuyers that possession would be delivered by March 2026. The agitation conducted today appears to have been a deliberate tactic intended to exert pressure on the company in order to secure undue advantage."

However, buyers alleged the builder, along with his wife and co-director Sunita Swaraj Yadav, diverted project funds to other ventures and refused to share financial details with investigating agencies. One protesting buyer said, "We invested our life savings and were promised homes by 2020, but we have been left paying rent and EMIs for nearly a decade."

3 years on, Ghaziabad forum orders Rs 3,000 cashback for TV buyer

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Three years on, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) has directed an electronics shop owner to pay Rs 3,000 — an amount that was promised as cashback on the purchase of a TV — to the customer. Additionally, the shop must pay a fine of Rs 2,000 towards litigation costs and mental agony.

On Aug 20, DCDRC directed Digi Smile Store to pay the amount within 45 days of the order, failing which it has to pay interest calculated at 6% per annum until the final payment is made. On June 13, 2023, Ghaziabad resident Pooja Devi filed an application at the DCDRC, seeking directions to proprietor of Digi Smile Store Atul Gupta and HDFC Finance manager for not paying the cashback as promised to her. The commission, comprising president Praveen Kumar Jain and members Shailja Sachan and RP Singh, dismissed the case against HDFC Finance Ltd and placed the onus on the shop that promised the Rs 3,000 cashback on the purchase of the television if financed through the bank. She had bought the 43-inch LG LED TV from Digi Smile Store on Oct 24, 2022, priced at Rs 39,000. "The shopkeeper told me that if I opted for finance from HDFC Bank and paid the amount in instalments, I would be paid Rs 3,000 as cashback soon after the third instalment is paid. I agreed to the proposal and made a downpayment of Rs 13,000 on Oct 24, 2022, but even after paying six out of a total of eight instalments, the cashback was not paid," she said. When she enquired about the delay or non-payment of cashback, the shop owner said that she was refused the cashback as the scheme of the bank expired by the time she purchased the TV.

113 crashes this year on eway, new cell to track parked vehicles, send alerts in Gurgaon

GHAZIABAD. (Agency)

Sixty-eight people lost their lives and 102 others were injured in 113 accidents on NH8 in the city till July. Delayed alerts on parked vehicles play a big role in road accidents, besides creating snarls. Now, if any vehicle remains stationary anywhere on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (NH8) for more than five seconds, police will receive an alert. Over three lakh vehicles use the expressway in the city daily. Considering the staggering numbers, traffic police have established a special monitoring cell for the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway to receive alerts within five seconds. Traffic police have set up the dedicated monitoring cell in Sector 28 traffic tower to specifically observe traffic on the expressway for a prompt response. A police officer said due to previously delayed alerts, a dedicated team has now been stationed in the cell to immediately inform the relevant traffic

in-charges or zonal officers, enabling them to remove defunct vehicles before they cause congestion or prolonged traffic snarls, which could choke traffic in Gurgaon and Delhi. Two police officers have been assigned to this cell to monitor the highway traffic in Gurgaon using advanced software, which sends an immediate alert to the control room if a vehicle is stationary on NH8 for over five seconds. In cases where commuters are found parking their vehicles incorrectly, they will receive a violation ticket from traffic police. Traffic police spokesperson (Gurgaon) Vikas Verma said, "We are making all the possible efforts to decongest the national highways in Gurgaon including NH8 and Dwarka Expressway and other busy roads in the city. With the latest technology and software, police will get an alert about the vehicle stationed for over five seconds on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, following

which police will coordinate immediately with the concerned authorities and get the vehicle removed." Shankar Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Panchgona, among others, are red spots or congestion points on the expressway. DCP (traffic) Rajesh Mohan said, "We are getting the technical analysis done of the red spots in Gurgaon and are working to decongest these points to ease traffic. The dedicated control room for NH8 can be really useful to avoid traffic jams by timely assistance or action by the cops." After an initiative helped avoid congestion near Rajokri-Sarhul border and streamline traffic at Shankar Chowk during kanwar yatra last month, traffic police are looking forward to carrying on with the idea. As thousands of kanwars reached Gurgaon through Delhi, causing congestion on the main carriageway of NH8, the DCP, after analysing the situation, requested the concerned

authorities to maintain the damaged and unmetalled road inside Dhanchari camp which is a govt land near the border. All the kanwars, for the first time after entering Gurgaon through this border, were diverted to Dhanchari entry gate to avoid any disturbance on the main carriageway. A traffic cop said, "After the road was cleaned and made suitable for pedestrians during kanwar yatra, they easily walked through the passage and after exiting the camp's internal road, kanwariyas used the service road of Ambience Mall and then used an underpass to not disturb traffic near Chowk. This arrangement turned out to be a huge success and no fatalities or law and order situations were reported anywhere this year due to many such intelligent steps. We are planning to get Dhanchari camp road properly maintained now to enable pedestrians to walk safely without disturbing NH8."

700 playschools in Gurgaon not registered, face shutdown

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The Women and Child Development Department (WCDD) is preparing to shut down more than 700 playschools operating in the city without official registration or compliance with prescribed safety norms. The move is part of a broader push to enforce regulatory standards and protect children in early learning environments. According to officials, these institutions have repeatedly ignored govt notices and continue to operate without approval, putting hundreds of children at risk.

District programme officer Dr Simran Sharma confirmed the impending action. "We have a meeting scheduled with the deputy commissioner regarding this matter. These schools will definitely be closed — there are no two ways about it. We have already



that connect forest patches, facilitating safe passage for species like the spotted deer and other wildlife. It will also aid in assessing the impact of recent habitat

restoration efforts, including demolition drives that cleared encroachments in the Aravallis. "Elaborating on the plan, Yadav said, "We will first carry out a survey to identify the total area where we will install camera traps. We will also conduct ground systematic surveys by walking transects, which are straight-line paths, through the landscape. At intervals along these transects, fixed-area plots (circular, radius pre-defined) will be used to record animal presence and also habitat

characteristics such as vegetation, human disturbance, tree density, water availability and more. We will also deploy drones to carry out the survey." By mapping these corridors, he said, it will strengthen conservation strategies, ensure the protection and growth of wildlife populations while maintaining ecological connectivity across this vital region. Chitals are herbivorous, feeding mainly on grasses, herbs, shrubs and fruits. They are social and alert animals, often responding to danger with a high-pitched bark and raising their tails to show a white underside when fleeing predators such as tigers and leopards.

The species is classified as "Least Concern" by the IUCN due to its wide distribution and stable populations.

According to the wildlife department physically, spotted deer have a reddish-brown coat adorned with distinctive white spots across their bodies, which gives them their name. Males are larger than females and uniquely possess three-pronged antlers that can regrow if damaged.



issued letters to over 700 institutions asking them to register on the Saral portal." Despite being served two notices, most schools have failed to comply, she added. Many of these schools function from cramped residential buildings, often lacking fire safety systems, CCTV surveillance, child-friendly toilets, or qualified staff. Yet, they charge between Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 per month for children aged three to six. Most have never been formally inspected and continue to operate without oversight. The urgency of enforcement has grown following a recent incident in Noida, where a child was injured at an unregulated playschool lacking basic safety infrastructure. Though unrelated to the Gurgaon action, the case has intensified concerns about similar risks across the region.

Only 29 of 281 industrial units in Gurgaon have nod to extract groundwater

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Just 17% — 48 of 281 industrial units in the city — have sought or obtained clearance to extract groundwater, an RTI reply has found, raising questions on how the remaining 233 units are meeting their water requirements. Activists say most industrial units in the city are engaged in manufacturing, construction, and commercial operations that draw heavily on groundwater. The units that haven't sought permission for extracting groundwater aren't on the civic authority's pipeline supply list — a likely sign of illegal use, officials said. "The data shows how casually industries are drawing groundwater in Gurgaon without even basic compliance. If authorities can't enforce their own rules in an over-exploited zone, this crisis will spiral out of control," said Varun Gulati, the

environmentalist who filed the right-to-information query. According to the Aug 18 RTI reply by the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HRWA), 29 industrial units in the city have permission to extract groundwater, and applications for 19 more are pending. HRWA, citing a 2021 govt order and provisions of the RTI Act, withheld the names of defaulting units, but confirmed that block-wise data was publicly available on its website.

On concerns about illegal extraction, a senior HWRA official said on Sunday, "We have been repeatedly urging industries to obtain clearances and switch to sustainable water sources. The over-exploited status of Gurgaon blocks is a serious concern, and we are stepping up monitoring and enforcement to curb illegal extraction." TOI reported in Feb that 43,262 hectare-metres (HAM) of

groundwater was extracted in Gurgaon last year, more than double the amount considered sustainable for the district. Most blocks within Gurgaon are already categorised as "over-exploited", with water tables in some areas sinking around a metre in just a year. "This is a classic case of weak enforcement. As long as industries keep drawing water unchecked and alternatives like rainwater harvesting or treated water reuse remain underused, the aquifers will keep collapsing," a senior hydrogeologist who works with the govt said. Experts say Gurgaon's water stress mirrors the larger crisis across Haryana, where 88 of 143 administrative blocks are over-exploited and 47% of villages are classified as water stressed. The state's overall extraction rate stands at 136% of its recharge capacity.

They are butchers, don't deserve to live': Noida dowry death victim's father alleges Vipin killed Nikki over his illicit affair

Noida (Agency)

"They are butchers. They don't deserve to live. I want an encounter," said Bhikhari Singh Payla, father of Nikki Bhati who died after being allegedly set on fire by her husband and in-laws over dowry demands. Hours later on Sunday morning, Nikki's husband, Vipin, was shot in the leg as he tried to "flee" while in custody. Additional DCP Sudhir Kumar said Vipin, who was arrested on Sunday itself, was being taken to the crime scene when he "snatched a pistol from an SI and opened fire" in a bid to escape. Threw kerosene on mom, set her on fire with lighter. The cops retaliated, hitting Vipin in the leg and leaving him injured. He was taken to a private hospital, where he was said to be stable. Kumar said Vipin was being taken to the scene of crime to recover the flammable substance used to set Nikki ablaze. Later in the afternoon, Nikki's mother-in-law, Daya, was also taken into custody. The police encounter came just hours after Nikki's father made an emotional plea for justice. "They don't deserve to live as they killed my innocent daughter. Daya poured kerosene and Vipin set fire to her. For long, they had been demanding money and a car from my daughter," Payla said. He made an appeal to chief minister Yogi Adityanath as well. "If Yogi Adityanath delivers justice to people, I want it in the form of

death for Vipin, his mother and everyone who is guilty. I want an encounter." Nikki, who died while being taken to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on Aug 21, had been married to Vipin since 2016. Her sister Kanchan also tied the knot with Vipin's brother, Rohit. Both weddings took place on Dec 9, 2016. According to Kanchan, there was no dowry exchanged between the families. Kanchan's complaint to police led to an FIR against Vipin, his mother Daya, father Satyaveer, and brother Rohit under charges of murder, voluntarily causing hurt and criminal conspiracy at Kasna police station. She recounted the harrowing events of Aug 21, when Nikki was brutally thrashed before being doused in kerosene and set on fire at their house in Kasna. "My mother-in-law gave a bottle of kerosene to Vipin and he poured it over Nikki. When I protested, I was beaten up as well. My husband and father-in-law were there but they did not intervene. After she was set on fire, I took my sister to Fortis Hospital in Greater Noida with the help of a neighbour. From there, she was referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, but didn't make it," she told TOI. The violence was captured in a series of disturbing videos recorded by Kanchan. In a five-second clip, Vipin can be seen dragging Nikki by the hair and taunting her to "make a video". Another three-second video

shows Nikki, engulfed in flames, stumbling down a staircase. A third, longer video shows Nikki sitting on the floor, her clothes tattered and badly burnt. Nikki and Vipin's five-year-old son also saw her mother being tortured. He described how something like a cloth was



stuffed into his mother's mouth before she was slapped several times, doused in kerosene, and set on fire. "Mumma ke upar kuchh dala, fir chaata mara, fir lighter se aag laga di," he said. Police said their investigation had so far revealed a pattern of domestic violence and harassment by Nikki's in-laws, but they were yet to find evidence of dowry demands.

"So far, we haven't found any evidence of dowry, but yes, there were incidents of domestic violence. Our investigation has also revealed that Nikki was in touch with other women as well. Even while writing

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Why restaurants charging Rs 100 for Rs 20 water bottle: Delhi HC

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The high court division Bench on Friday said restaurants were charging the visitor under three components – food items sold, providing ambience and serving. Photo: iStock When you are already charging more on MRP in the name of the experience, why are you then levying service charge, the Delhi High Court asked the restaurant association on Friday. A Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela posed the query to the counsel representing the associations for hotels and restaurants.



against a single judge's order. The single judge of the high court in March held restaurants cannot mandatorily levy service charge on food bills in a "camouflaged and coercive" manner as it is amounts to unfair trade practice. The high court division Bench on Friday said restaurants were charging the visitor under three components – food items sold, providing ambience and serving.

"You (restaurants) are charging more than MRPs, for the experience being enjoyed by the person visiting your restaurant. And you're also charging the service charges for the service rendered... providing an ambience for certain kind of experience will not include the services you're providing? This we don't understand," the bench said. This service charge should include that also, the Bench added. The Bench asked the counsel for the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation of Hotels and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) through an

example that when the restaurants were charging Rs 100 for a Rs 20 water bottle, why the customer will have to pay an addition charge for the services it provides? "And why are you quoting Rs 100 in your menu for Rs 20 rupee water bottle, without specifying that this 80 rupees extra is for the ambience you're providing? This we can't be like this. This is an issue... Providing the ambience will form part of the services being provided by you... Can you charge any amount over and above the MRP? And for service you're charging, what's that 80 rupees for?" the Bench asked. On March 28 the order said collection of service charge was a "double whammy" for consumers who were forced to pay Goods and Services Tax on top of the service tax. The court, while referring to consumer complaints and restaurant bills, said it was convinced that the

service charge was being arbitrarily collected and coercively enforced and in such a situation it couldn't be a mute spectator".

Delhi University confirms over 68,000 admissions in UG round 2

New Delhi: The University of Delhi has released the data for Undergraduate Admissions Upgrade Round 2, confirming a total of 68,116 admissions so far. The second upgrade round witnessed active participation from applicants, with 17,595 students applying for a change in their allotted course or college. Out of these, 7,685 students successfully secured an upgrade to a higher-preference choice, while the rest retained their existing seats.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O MURARI LAL AGGARWAL R/O WZ-3074/A F/F, MAHINDRA PARK SHAKUR BASTI NEW DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNIL KUMAR AGGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

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NEWS BOX

Typhoon Kajiki drenches southern China's Hainan island, heads toward Vietnam

BEIJING. (Agency)

Strong winds and heavy rain whipped southern China's Hainan island and nearby parts of Guangdong province on Sunday, as Typhoon Kajiki passed over open waters to the south and headed toward Vietnam's central coast. About 20,000 people were evacuated from potentially hazardous areas ahead of the storm, China's official Xinhua News Agency said. Fishing boats returned to port and more than 21,000 crew members came onshore.

A short video posted online by Guangdong Radio and Television showed winds snapping off tree branches and heavily rocking a docked boat and sending waves sliding over the pier. Kajiki gained strength as it moved west over the sea with maximum sustained winds of 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour, China's National Meteorological Center said. Rainfall of 25 to 35 centimeters (10 to 14 inches) was forecast for southern parts of Hainan island including Sanya, a popular beach resort. Sanya shut down businesses and scenic tourist areas and halted public transportation and shipping, Xinhua said. A social media post by the city urged residents not to go out unless necessary. Kajiki, which can mean spearfish or swordfish in Japanese, was expected to make landfall on Vietnam's coast on Monday afternoon. Farmers in the city of Hue were rushing to harvest their rice crops before the arrival of the storm, the official Vietnam News Agency said. Coastal provinces have banned ships from going out to sea starting Monday and were calling in those already out, the news agency said. Authorities have asked provinces and cities to reinforce dykes, reservoirs and irrigation systems.

At least 42 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza

GAZA CITY. (Agency)

At least 42 people were killed in Israeli attacks on Sunday in Gaza, as the Israeli army prepared for a new assault on the Palestinian territory's largest city. Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said there had been several air strikes around Gaza City, which the military is gearing up to capture including one in the Al-Sabra neighbourhood that killed eight people.

Attacks were also reported elsewhere across the territory, he said, with the "totally currently rising to 42 dead". The army did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the figure.

"The situation is extremely dangerous. Each day, each minute, there are bombings, martyrs, death and blood, we can't take it anymore," Al-Sabra resident Ibrahim Al-Shurafa told AFP, explaining strikes and shelling were ongoing. "We don't know where to go. Death follows us everywhere," he added. Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details provided by the civil defence agency or the Israeli military. Israel's offensive has killed at least 62,686 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to figures from the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza that the United Nations considers reliable.

Cambodian MPs pass law allowing stripping of citizenship for colluding with foreign countries

PHNOM PENH. (Agency)

Cambodian parliamentarians passed on Monday legislation allowing people who collude with foreign countries to be stripped of citizenship, a law rights groups fear will be used to banish dissent. All 120 lawmakers in attendance at the National Assembly session, including Prime Minister Hun Manet, voted unanimously to approve the bill. Rights monitors have long accused Cambodia's government of using draconian laws to stifle opposition and legitimate political debate. A coalition of 50 rights groups issued a statement on Sunday warning the law "will have a disastrously chilling effect on the freedom of speech of all Cambodian citizens". "The potential for abuse in the implementation of this vaguely worded law to target people on the basis of their ethnicity, political opinions, speech, and activism is simply too high to accept," it added. The government has many powers, but they should not have the power to arbitrarily decide who is and is not a Cambodian."

The legislation must still be passed by Cambodia's upper house before being enacted by the head of state, but both are considered rubber-stamp steps.

Determined by law, citizenship can be revoked on grounds of treason or disloyalty in 15 European Union countries, and only for naturalised citizens in eight of those, according to a European Parliament briefing in February. The unconditional right to citizenship was enshrined in Cambodia's constitution, but lawmakers last month amended it to say "receiving, losing and revoking Khmer nationality shall be determined by law". "If you betray the nation, the nation will not keep you," Justice Minister Koeut Rith told reporters after the amendment was passed. Last month, Amnesty International called the legislation a "heinous violation of international law". "It comes against a backdrop where the Cambodian authorities have completely failed to safeguard the independence and integrity of the country's courts," said regional research director Montse Ferrer. This has enabled the government's authoritarian practices to continue unchecked, such as its persecution of opposition leaders, activists and independent journalists."

Japanese PM Ishiba's poll ratings rebound, more respondents think he should 'remain' than 'resign'

The 'Yomiuri' put the recovery down to the recent trade deal with the United States and efforts by Ishiba's government to curb the recent meteoric rise in the price of rice.**JOHANNESBURG. (Agency)**

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's poll ratings have rebounded a month after disastrous election results left his premiership hanging by a thread, a clutch of surveys suggested Monday. Ishiba took the helm of the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last year and has since lost his majority in both houses of parliament, most recently in upper chamber elections in July. But the self-confessed defence policy "geek" and maker of model ships has defied calls to resign from within the party, which has governed Japan almost non-stop since the 1950s. According to one poll by the Yomiuri Shimbun daily published Monday, the approval rating for

Ishiba's cabinet was 39 percent, a remarkable 17 points higher than after the July 20 vote. It was the biggest jump for a government since the telephone survey began in 2008, except for after prime minister changes, the Yomiuri said. More respondents (50 percent) now think Ishiba should remain than resign (42 percent), the questionnaire showed, a reversal from July, when 54 percent said he should go and 35 percent stay. Another poll conducted by Kyodo News put support at 35.4 percent, up 12.5 points from last month after the upper house election, while the disapproval rating stood at 49.8 percent.

A third survey by the Mainichi Shimbun put backing at 33 percent, a rise of four points, the first time it has been over 30 percent since February. The Yomiuri put the recovery down to the recent trade deal with the United States and efforts by Ishiba's government to curb the recent meteoric rise in the price of rice. US President Donald Trump

announced a "massive" trade deal with Japan only two days after the upper house election, cutting threatened US tariffs to 15 percent from 25 percent, while lowering those on cars to the same level. Voter backing of Ishiba's handling of US trade negotiations rose to 42 percent, from 29 percent in June, while the disapproval rating was 48 percent, down from 56

shift policy toward increasing rice production, with just eight percent disagreeing. Rice prices have skyrocketed due to supply problems linked to a very hot summer in 2023 and panic-buying after a "megaquake" warning last year, amongst other factors. Ishiba has appointed a new farm minister -- the popular Shinjiro Koizumi, 44, a potential challenger -- and his government has released emergency stocks in an effort to bring prices down.

According to media reports, the LDP plans to conduct a review of last month's election, to be followed by a decision on whether to hold a party leadership election.

Ishiba, 68, said this month, after an LDP plenary meeting where some lawmakers reportedly urged him to step down, that he would "consider appropriately" the results of this investigation. "I'd like to deepen my thinking as various things are going on simultaneously," he said.



percent, the Yomiuri said. An overwhelming 86 percent said they approved of the government's decision to

India will buy oil where it gets 'best deal': Indian envoy to Russia

COLOMBO. (Agency)

MOSCOW: India will continue to buy oil from the most competitive sources to safeguard its energy security, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar has said, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to protecting its national interests amid mounting US pressure over its imports of Russian crude.

In an interview with Russia's state-run TASS news agency, Kumar emphasized that India's energy policy is driven by market dynamics and the needs of its 1.4 billion citizens. "Indian companies will continue buying from wherever they get the best deal. That's what the current situation is," he said.

His remarks come as the US steps up criticism of India's purchase of discounted Russian oil, alleging the revenue supports Russia's military operations in Ukraine, a claim New Delhi has repeatedly rejected. Ambassador Kumar underlined that India's energy cooperation with Russia, among other global partners, contributes to global oil market stability. "We have clearly

stated that our objective is energy security for 1.4 billion people. Our cooperation with Russia, like with several other countries, has played a role in ensuring that," he said. His

comments come in the backdrop of the Donald Trump administration doubling tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. The US has alleged that India's purchases of Russian crude oil are funding Moscow's war in Ukraine, a charge strongly rejected by India. Calling Washington's decision "unfair, unreasonable and unjustified", Kumar

said that the Indian government "will continue taking measures which will protect the national interest of the country". India has been maintaining that its energy procurement, including from Russia, is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

Kumar said that trade between India and Russia is based on mutual interests and market factors, and added that it is done with the "overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India". "There are other countries including the US itself and in Europe trading with Russia," he said. On Saturday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, responding to a question on the US criticism of India on the crude oil issue, said, "It's funny to have people who work for a pro-business American administration accusing other people of doing business. That's really curious. If you have a problem buying oil or refined products from India, don't buy it. Nobody forces you to buy it. But Europe buys, America buys, so you don't like it, don't buy it," he said.

explosions close to a closed military academy and the presidential palace. They saw plumes of smoke near Sabeen Square, a central gathering place in the capital.

"The sounds of explosions were very strong," said Hussein Mohamed, who lives close to the presidential palace. Ahmed al-Mekhlafy said he felt the sheer force of the strikes. "The house was rocked, and the windows were shattered," he told the AP by phone. The Houthis have launched missiles and drones toward Israel and targeted ships in the Red Sea for over 22 months, saying they are attacking in solidarity with Palestinians amid the war in Gaza. Nasraddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office, vowed to continue attacks on Israel, writing on social media that "our military operations supporting Gaza won't stop, God willing, unless the aggression is stopped, and the siege is lifted."

The Israeli strikes were the first to hit Yemen since a week ago, when Israel said it targeted energy infrastructure it believed was used by the rebels.

The latest strikes follow the Houthis' claim of launching a newly equipped missile toward Israel on Friday, targeting the country's largest airport, Ben Gurion. There was no reported damage or injuries. Israel's military said it fragmented mid-air after several interception attempts. An Israeli Air Force official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations, called Friday's projectile a new threat — a cluster munition, meant to detonate into multiple explosives on impact. The use of cluster bombs makes interception more difficult and represents additional technology provided to the Houthis by Iran, the official asserted. The official also said over 10 Israeli fighter jets carried out Sunday's strikes.



Rohingya refugees, even as fresh arrivals cross over from war-torn Myanmar and shrinking aid flows deepen the crisis. The meetings in Cox's Bazar are taking place ahead of a UN conference in New York on September 30. Both Bangladesh and the

UN want to provide stable conditions in Myanmar for the Rohingya to eventually return. That seems unlikely any time soon. "I consistently hear from Rohingya refugees that they want to return to their homes in

Donald Trump clashes with Democrats as he expands National Guard plans

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Donald Trump threatened to deploy National Guard troops Sunday to yet another Democratic stronghold, the Maryland city of Baltimore, as the US president seeks to expand his crackdown on crime and immigration. The Republican's latest online rant about an "out of control, crime-ridden" city comes as Democratic state leaders -- including Maryland Governor Wes Moore -- line up to berate Trump on a high-profile political stage.

Trump this month deployed the National Guard to the streets of Washington, in a widely criticized show of force the president said amounts to a federal takeover of US capital policing. The Guard began carrying weapons in Washington on Sunday, the military said. Previously, their weapons were available if needed but kept in the armory. In June Trump controversially ordered nearly 5,000 troops to Los Angeles -- ostensibly to quell protests against immigration enforcement raids -- triggering ferocious opposition from California Governor Gavin Newsom, widely seen as a potential 2028 presidential hopeful.

And US media is reporting that the Trump administration also is planning an unprecedented deployment of thousands of National Guard personnel to Chicago, the country's third-largest city, prompting vocal pushback from Democrats there.

As for Baltimore, "if Wes Moore needs help, like Gavin Newsom did in L.A., I will send in the 'troops,' which is being done in nearby DC, and quickly clean up the crime," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, using a derogatory nickname. Trump's feud with Moore appeared to escalate dramatically this week, with the governor assailing Trump's provocative suggestion of deploying troops in Maryland and Trump calling Moore "nasty" and threatening to revoke federal funds to help fix a collapsed bridge.

On Sunday, Moore told CNN he had invited Trump to walk the streets of Baltimore with him so the governor could counter "this blissful ignorance, these tropes and these 1980 scare tactics" used by the president.

"Hey Donald, we can get you a golf cart if that makes things easier," Moore needed the 79-year-old Trump on X. Trump for his part said he would "much prefer that he clean up this Crime disaster before I go there for a 'walk,'" as he cited Moore's "very bad" record on crime. Moore said Maryland's homicide rate has dropped more than 20 percent since he has been governor, "and the last time the homicide rate was this low in Baltimore City, I was not born yet." Moore, 46, is a US Army veteran, best-selling author, and the third African-American person elected governor of a US state. Chicago next! The Pentagon meanwhile refused to confirm reports that Chicago would soon receive troops. Trump had said Friday that Chicago and New York -- major Democratic-led cities -- would receive National Guard deployments similar to Washington.

Israeli airstrikes in Yemen's capital kill at least six, 86 injured

CAIRO. (Agency)

Israeli airstrikes hit Yemen's capital on Sunday, days after the Houthi rebels fired a missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the rebels had launched at it since 2023. The Iranian-backed Houthis said multiple areas across Sanaa were hit. The Huthi-run Saba news agency reported six people killed and 86 wounded in the Israeli raid, with more than 20 in critical condition, citing the health ministry.

The rebels' Al-Masirah satellite television reported a strike on an oil company, and video on social media showed a fireball erupting there. Israel's military said it struck the Asar and Hizb power plants, calling them "a significant electricity supply facility for military activities," along with a military site where the presidential palace is located. Sanaa residents told The Associated Press they heard

explosions close to a closed military academy and the presidential palace. They saw plumes of smoke near Sabeen Square, a central gathering place in the capital.

"The sounds of explosions were very strong," said Hussein Mohamed, who lives close to the presidential palace. Ahmed al-Mekhlafy said he felt the sheer force of the strikes. "The house was rocked, and the windows were shattered," he told the AP by phone. The Houthis have launched missiles and drones toward Israel and targeted ships in the Red Sea for over 22 months, saying they are attacking in solidarity with Palestinians amid the war in Gaza. Nasraddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office, vowed to continue attacks on Israel, writing on social media that "our military operations supporting Gaza won't stop, God willing, unless the aggression is stopped, and the siege is lifted."

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Bleak future for Rohingya refugees even as Bangladesh seeks to tackle crisis

COLOMBO. (Agency)

The rain was relentless the night Mohammad Kaisar fled for his life from his home in Myanmar's Maungdaw township. Barefoot and exhausted, he trudged with his parents and four siblings on mud paths until they reached the Naf River. On a flimsy boat, they crossed into Bangladesh, joining around a million of the largely Muslim Rohingya minority, fleeing a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state. That was in 2017. Eight years later, rain still lashes down on his simple shelter in the sprawling refugee camps of Cox's Bazar. But for the 28-year-old refugee, nothing has washed away his despair. "War is raging. Hundreds are waiting at the border to enter Bangladesh. Every day, a new family from Rakhine takes refuge," Kaisar told AFP by telephone, speaking outside his cramped hut in Balukhali camp. "How is it possible to return home? We were destined to stay in this crowded camp, sandwiched between small huts." Bangladesh on Monday is holding talks aimed at addressing the plight of

Myanmar, but only when it is safe to do so," Nicholas Koumjian, who heads the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, warned ahead of the meeting. "Ending the violence and atrocities against civilians from all communities in Rakhine is critical for the eventual safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of those that have been displaced." But Kaisar's old homeland of Rakhine is the site of intense fighting in Myanmar's civil war, triggered by the 2021 coup that ousted the democratic government.

Bangladesh has recorded a surge of refugees from Myanmar since early 2024, with 150,000 more Rohingya arriving. For Kaisar, life in Myanmar was a spacious home, running a small grocery shop. Today, in the grim camps, it's a battle for survival. Safety is fragile. Factional clashes have shaken the camp in recent months. "We had two armed groups fighting only a few months ago. It was like a hostage situation," he said. "Violence is common; children are the most vulnerable."

NEWS BOX

Tribal woman gangraped near Telangana border; hunt on for two suspects

KHAMMAM. A tribal woman was purportedly abducted and gangraped by unidentified persons near the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border in the early hours of Sunday. The unconscious victim was later abandoned near the Peddamma Talli temple in Palwancha. According to police, the woman alighted from a bus in Kunta, Chhattisgarh, around 2 am. She was en route from her husband's village to her parents' home in Bandirevu village, located in Andhra Pradesh's Yelapaka mandal. While she was waiting for transport, two men in a trolley auto offered her a ride, claiming they were headed in the same direction. The woman, believing them, boarded the vehicle. During the journey, the woman grew alarmed upon realising the men were intoxicated and were consuming liquor. She demanded they stop the auto and exited the vehicle. However, the perpetrators followed her, dragged her into a nearby forest and assaulted her. The victim reported that she was administered a sedative substance before being raped. She told police she lost consciousness shortly after and has no memory of the subsequent events.

She regained consciousness later near the Peddamma Talli temple in Palwancha mandal, where locals discovered her with injuries. They immediately shifted her to the Primary Health Centre and alerted the police. Childline project officials were informed and have since taken charge of the woman's care.

Childline Project Officer M Lakshmi Prasanna stated that the victim's condition is now stable and that all necessary support and facilities are being provided to her. Speaking to reporters, Kotagudem SP B Rohith Raju said, "We have registered an FIR and launched a thorough investigation. We are verifying CCTV footage from the area to identify the accused." The SP also confirmed that the woman's parents have been informed and are on their way to be with her.

BBMP software brings parastatal agencies under single home page to fix potholes

BENGALURU. After directions from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief commissioner on addressing the pothole issue across the city, and the IT corridor in particular, the BBMP Road Infrastructure Department has come up with in-house software that brings officials and other parastatal agencies under a single home page for monitoring and fixing potholes. The move comes after the Bengaluru Traffic Police filed a report identifying over 3,000 potholes across Bengaluru and their impact on the safety of motorists and smooth traffic. From the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Public Works Department (PWD) and Karnataka Road Development Corporation Ltd (KRDCL), every agency will come on a single home page aiming at fixing, monitoring and reporting potholes.

Enjoy backwater cruise rides in Kochi at discounted fares this Onam

KOCHI. Get ready to sail the scenic Kochi backwaters this Onam without burning a hole in your pockets. Both the Kerala State Water Transport Department (SWTD) and the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) are offering special chartered cruises at significantly reduced fares. Starting from August 28, the SWTD is launching extra cruise trips aboard its popular solar-electric ferry Indra for half the regular ticket price for a one-hour cruise. To make the experience even better, delicious food will be served on board, catered by a Kudumbashree unit, if you place your order a day in advance.

In addition to Indra, the SWTD is also making its standard diesel-run boats available for group rentals. This is a great option for larger parties looking to explore the backwaters at a low cost, at just Rs 5,000 per hour.

Indra, having a passenger capacity of 100, can be rented out for Rs 15,000 an hour, the same as that of Kochi Water Metro vessels. "We'll operate special one-hour cruise trips aboard Indra. While the normal fee is Rs 300 per head, we're offering tickets at half the price to cater to visitors coming in groups, based on demand. Normally, we operate two trips of Indra daily. The special trips will be operated in between. We are also planning to conduct an additional evening cruise trip from next week," SWTD director Shaji V Nair said.

Special rates for sea-going vessels: KSINC Not to be outdone, the KSINC is joining the fun, starting from September 1. They will be offering special reduced rates on their popular vessels, including Nefertiti, Kerala's first sea-going vessel, and mini sea-cruise vessels.

One in four rabies deaths in TN caused by pet dogs, show recent data

Of the 43 rabies deaths last year, 33 were due to stray dog attack, and remaining 10 were due to attack by pet dogs.

CHENNAI. With the recent Supreme Court judgments triggering intense and polarised debates on the issue of increasing stray dog population, dog bites and rabies cases, data show that of the 64 rabies deaths recorded in Tamil Nadu in the last 18 months (January 2024 to August 2025), 15 deaths (23.4%) were caused by pet dog bites and rest due to attack by stray dogs (76%).

According to the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine data accessed by TNIE, of the 43 rabies deaths recorded in 2024, 41 were due to partial or complete lack of vaccination, and two persons died even after completion of full vaccination schedule due to possible viral load. Experts said the data underscored the need for dog owners to get their pets mandatorily vaccinated once every year as the trend indicated that a large number of pet dogs may be unvaccinated.

Doctors also emphasised the need for people to take required doses of rabies vaccine (along with rabies immunoglobulin depending on the nature of the bite) as part of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) even if they are bitten by their vaccinated pet dogs.

Though the chance of getting infected could be minimal in case of vaccinated dogs, there is a remote possibility of infection if the victims skip PEP, experts said. Of the 43 rabies deaths last year, 33 were due to stray dog attack, and remaining 10 were due to attack by pet dogs.



attack is by vaccinated pet: Doctors While a person had suffered category I bite (licks on intact skin), four persons suffered category II bite (minor scratches, abrasions without bleeding), and five others suffered category III bite (scratches, bites or licks on broken skin).

The category of 33 cases was uncertain. As per the National Guidelines for Rabies Prophylaxis issued in 2019, "The history of rabies vaccination in an animal does not guarantee that the biting animal is not rabid... it cannot be presumed that a vaccinated dog is actually protected, given the variable efficacy of various anti-rabies vaccines in animals or health status of animals. Hence, irrespective of the vaccination status of the biting animal, the PEP should be given."

Dr A Somasundaram, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said, "People should understand that they cannot skip vaccines and that they are not safe just because they are bitten by pet dogs. Even if the dog has been vaccinated properly, one cannot be sure if the dog is 100% protected. Hence, people should get fully vaccinated." The data also showed that dog bite cases are on the rise in the state. While 4.81 lakh cases were reported in 2024, 3.83 lakh cases (80% of last year's) have already been recorded in the first eight months of 2025. Meanwhile, human rabies deaths seem to show signs of marginal decline as per the numbers reported so far, with 10 due to attack by pet dogs.

Gujarat HC refuses to believe witness who surfaced after 16 years

Ahmedabad. The Gujarat high court has set aside the life sentence awarded to a man in a 2001 murder case, doubting the conduct and version of the sole eyewitness in the case who surfaced to testify before the trial court 16 years after the crime. A division bench of Justice I J Vora and Justice P M Raval acquitted Ramji Ahir, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Sep 2024 for the fatal stabbing of Mukesh Baraiya, a resident of Kapodara in Surat, over a dispute concerning an illegal TV connection. The trial court's verdict hinged entirely on the testimony of Valabhai Sathiya alias Gopalbhai, who appeared as the lone eyewitness. Crucially, police never recorded Sathiya's statement during the investigation and he emerged only at the trial stage, 16 years later in 2017, after receiving a summons. His absence, he claimed, was because the police dispersed the crowd at the crime scene and he left for his native in Amreli district.

Defence counsels Naum and Shakeel Qureshi challenged the trial court verdict and questioned the credibility of Sathiya's testimony, citing over a dozen FIRs lodged against him, his dubious identity, and his unexplained disappearance for 16 years. They argued that such statement of such a witness could not be the basis of a conviction without corroboration. The high court agreed and observed: "The conduct of the witness PW.8 (Valabhai alias Gopalbhai) creates a doubt about his version of the incident and his presence at the place. Therefore, the unnatural conduct and unexplained circumstances, as referred to above, do not inspire confidence to believe the claim of PW.8 about seeing the incident. Therefore, without independent corroboration, such testimony cannot be acted upon." The bench gave seven reasons for discarding his deposition, including questions about his true identity, his sudden emergence as a witness after 16 years, and his unfamiliarity with legal procedures given his criminal background.

Hyderabad man kills pregnant wife, cuts up body, dumps parts into Musi river

HYDERABAD. A 20-month-old love marriage between a couple from different castes ended in tragedy on Saturday evening after the husband brutally murdered his five-months pregnant wife, dismembered her body, and dumped the parts in the Musi river at Boduppal. The accused, Samala Mahender Reddy (27), a cab driver who studied up to Intermediate, married B Swathi in January 2024 in spite of parental disapproval, and the couple later moved to Boduppal. Their marriage soon ran into trouble, with frequent quarrels and Mahender allegedly harassing Swathi for dowry. The disapproval of their families, who belonged to the same village, further strained the relationship. In April 2024, Swathi lodged a complaint with Vikarabad police alleging dowry harassment. A case was registered against Mahender under Section 498A of IPC and Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. Peace between couple

did not last long. However, after intervention by village elders, the couple reached a compromise. But peace did not last long — Swathi continued to face harassment and often returned to her parents' home, only to rejoin Mahender later. Malkajgiri DCP PV Padmaja said Mahender had pre-planned the murder. He purchased a hacksaw at Boduppal, kept it hidden in the house, and waited for the right opportunity. On Saturday, he left home at 11 am and returned at 4.30 pm. Soon after, he strangled Swathi to death. Later, around 8 pm, he sent a text message from her phone to her mother saying, "We had dinner."

Speaking to TNIE, Malkajgiri ACP S Chakrapani said Mahender then dismembered her body and made three trips over three-and-a-half hours to dump the parts in the Musi river at Prathapasingaram. His first trip was around 7 pm.

Suspicion and arrest

Later that night, Mahender called his sister and claimed Swathi was missing. Suspecting foul play, she informed their relative Govardhan Reddy, who advised Mahender to lodge a police complaint. Initially reluctant, Mahender finally accompanied Govardhan to the Uppal police station.

They were then directed to approach the Medipally police station under whose jurisdiction Mahender's house falls. Sensing inconsistencies in his behaviour, the Medipally police grilled Mahender, who confessed to the crime. When a police team reached his house, they found only Swathi's torso. He admitted to having dumped the remaining body parts into the Musi. Despite efforts by police, NDRF, and GHMC personnel, the remains could not be retrieved due to strong water currents and a depth of nearly 20 feet.

Ahmedabad records 19mm of rain; Sabarmati gets fresh inflow

Ahmedabad

Amdavadis experienced a rain-soaked Sunday, with 18mm recorded between noon and 2pm. By 6pm, it had touched the 19mm-mark on the rain gauge. The weatherman has forecast light to moderate showers for Monday as well for the city. Parts of the state may get heavy to very heavy rain over the next seven days, India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast says.

In an advisory which carries forward from Sunday, it has warned fishermen against venturing into the sea on Monday. Thirty-three people were rescued from Bakrol after waterlogging. Sunday was the third consecutive day when the city recorded below-normal maximum temperature, at 29.8 degrees Celsius, which was 2.8 degrees lower than normal. At 24.8

degrees, the minimum temperature was 0.3 degrees lower than normal. With good rainfall upstream, the Sabarmati received new waters, and levels increased significantly in the stretch flowing through the city, keeping Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services (AFES) on alert. Areas lashed by short, but heavy spells of rain experienced waterlogging for some time. Till Sunday morning, Gujarat had recorded receiving 82% of average normal seasonal rainfall. By 6pm, Sankheda in Chhota Udepur received the highest rainfall at 84mm, followed by 70mm in Dabhoi (Vadodara), 68mm in Danta (Banaskantha), 63mm in Idar (Sabarkantha), and 59mm each in Dhrangadhra (Surendranagar) and Umarpada (Surat). In all, 213 talukas out of 252 received.

Odisha government to spend Rs 150 crore for clean air programme in five years

BHUBANESWAR. The Odisha government has planned to spend Rs 150 crore under the new State Clean Air Programme (SCAP) and strive to achieve at least 40 per cent reduction in pollution level in urban areas in the next five years.

The details in this regard were discussed during the 10th meeting of the state Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) on Saturday. Chairing the AQMC meeting, ACS Forest Satyabrata Sahu reviewed the details of the SCAP, state's own clean air programme, launched by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on June 5. The state government has included 12 cities and towns - Sambalpur, Berhampur, Puri, Paradip, Keonjhar, Joda, Barbil, Bonai, Rajgangpur, Jharsuguda, Brajarajnagar and Belpahar - in this programme in the first phase.

The meeting was informed that Rs 150 crore will be spent for the programme in the next five years in which efforts will be made to bring down the levels of PM10 and

PM2.5, the most prominent pollutants in air, by around 40 per cent in these cities. The state government was taking up air quality improvement activities in seven cities - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Angul, Talcher, Kalinga Nagar and Balasore under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

However, since many other cities and towns with potential air pollution threats were not included in the programme, the SCAP was rolled out in June. The programme will be implemented by the Forest department based on the monitoring data of the last five years. "The proposal for grant of funds for SCAP has already been submitted to the Finance department and its approval is now being awaited," said a senior forest official, privy with the development. He said the meeting also reviewed the scores of different urban areas in the Swachh Vayu Survekshan for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

promotion of e-mobility.

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promotion of e-mobility.

Genetic body okays import of GM yeast for ethanol production

Hyderabad. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), which operates under the aegis of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF&CC), has cleared the import of genetically engineered (GM) yeast for ethanol production with city-based Danisco (India) Pvt. Ltd. among the applicants. The approval, covering the active dried yeast strain of 'Saccharomyces cerevisiae', comes with stringent biosafety conditions, including mandatory emergency response protocols to prevent accidental release into the environment.

Danisco has applied for permission to import and market 2,000 metric tonnes of Synergia Jade active dried yeast annually from the United States. The proposal was first examined during the 148th GEAC meeting, where the committee advised strict adherence to zero discharge of the yeast



strain during import, transport, storage, and handling. Firms intending to use the imported yeast were also directed to seek separate approvals for large-scale manufacturing under the 2017 Regulations and Guidelines for Recombinant DNA Research and Bio-containment.

Subsequent deliberations by GEAC and the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) focused on environmental safety. The 151st GEAC meeting called for a standard risk assessment and risk management plan (RARMP) covering storage, distribution, repackaging, disposal, and decontamination. The plan, finalised in late 2024 and reviewed by RCGM in early 2025, was later forwarded to GEAC for adoption. Acting on RCGM's recommendations, the committee endorsed Danisco's application recently with compliance conditions.

The approval requires Danisco to follow RARMP in full, with oversight by Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBSCs). The company must submit IBSC-approved

emergency action plans before importing the yeast and provide 16s and 18s RNA sequencing reports for the first five batches to detect adventitious microbial presence. The imported strain is restricted to ethanol production, and any alternate use would need fresh GEAC clearance. Access to the yeast must remain limited to trained personnel, with secure storage and inventory tracking in place. Packaging must include triple containment and withstand transport pressures, while consignments must be clearly labelled as genetically modified organisms. In case of accidental release, the applicant would be responsible for site decontamination and must notify IBSC within three days. Transport records must capture details of quantity, container numbers, expiry dates, and transporter information. Annual compliance reports have to be submitted to GEAC. The approval was granted for a limited period of four years under the 1989 Rules framed under the Environment Protection Act.

Universe: Decoding invisible hunger and fear

A prince named Siddhartha was told that wisdom comes by fasting. So he fasted until he fainted. Then a milkmaid called Sujata gave him some milk. He recovered and began meditating, contemplating on what transpired. He eventually understood how the world functioned, and was aware of what causes suffering. Food was the key. Hunger was the lock. This awareness played a key role in his transformation into the Buddha.

Buddha revealed: where there is life, there is desire, and where there is desire, there is suffering. He did not actually use the word 'desire'. That is an English translation. He used the Prakrit word for thirst (tanha). He used a physical feeling as a metaphor to explain a psychological state. He remembered how starvation, rather than granting knowledge, had caused him to faint and how food had enabled him to meditate. He observed how the growth of plants and movement of animals was driven by their 'thirst' for food and security.

What separated objects from organisms was this thirst, this hunger. Where there is pursuit of food, there is hunger. Where there is hunger, there is competition, collaboration, success and failure. Underlying the visible and measurable (sa-guna) parts of plants was something invisible and not measurable (nir-guna). Plants and roots reveal cravings; they want to eat. Bark and thorns reveal fear; they do not want to be eaten. Flowers and fruit reveal the awareness of mortality; they want to outwit death, so a part of them can live through



the next generation.

No plant wants its leaves and roots to be eaten, which is why it protects itself with bark and thorns. But plants do feed nectar to bees and fruits to birds, because they need the bees to pollinate and birds to disperse seeds. Plants collaborate with animals that help them and shun animals that consume them. Carnivores are allies of plants, as by eating herbivores, keeping the herbivorous population in check, they prevent overgrazing.

Every plant has a different strategy of survival, which is why different plants have different kinds of leaves. Some grow on earth, some turn into thorny bushes, some have bark on trunks, some have tall branches to keep their leaves far away from the reach of grazers. There are different kinds of flowers, and different kinds of fruits as every plant is competing for resources, for spaces to germinate, to access sunlight, water, and nutrients. Plants have rivals and allies too. And the same is true of the animal kingdom. Why does a tiger have claws and fangs? It is because it is hungry, and it needs to protect itself. Why does a deer or a buffalo have horns? To protect itself. Why do herbivorous animals form herds? Because as a group, they have a greater chance of survival from the predator. They keep the young in the centre of the herd. In response, the predators form packs, and collaborate during the hunt, which increases their chances of catching prey. Thus, we realise nature is a complex manifestation of invisible hunger and fear. Where there is life, there is hunger, and where there is hunger, there is fear. Where there is hunger and fear, there is success and failure. In the case of humans, this is amplified infinitely, as we have imagination.

No two people can be as different as these Indian cricket team coaches, yet there are underlying similarities

I start writing about the enigmatic Indian coach Gautam Gambhir and the image of Greg Chappell stalks me in the background. No two people can be as different in style, persona, image and achievements as these two, yet they are getting fused in my mind. The only apparent common thread is that like Gambhir is doing now, Greg too once coached the Indian team. Remember the star-saturated Indian team of 2004-05, the days of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, VVS Laxman, Anil Kumble and the appointment of the legendary Greg as the Indian coach. The grace and elegance with which the Australian batted matched his eloquence, technical knowledge of the game and the mesmeric attention he got from people he spoke to.

That euphoric beginning of his coaching stint ended a couple of years later in anguish and a divided team, insecure and suspicious of even their own shadows they once may have been in love with. Greg had joined the team with the intention of getting it purged of star culture; all he finally achieved was a humiliated team in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies and widespread confusion and chaos that hurt Indian

The ECI must know that trust is the currency of democratic institutions

When the Leader of Opposition in the world's largest democracy raises concerns about electoral integrity in Parliament, the response cannot be bureaucratic deflection and ultimatums

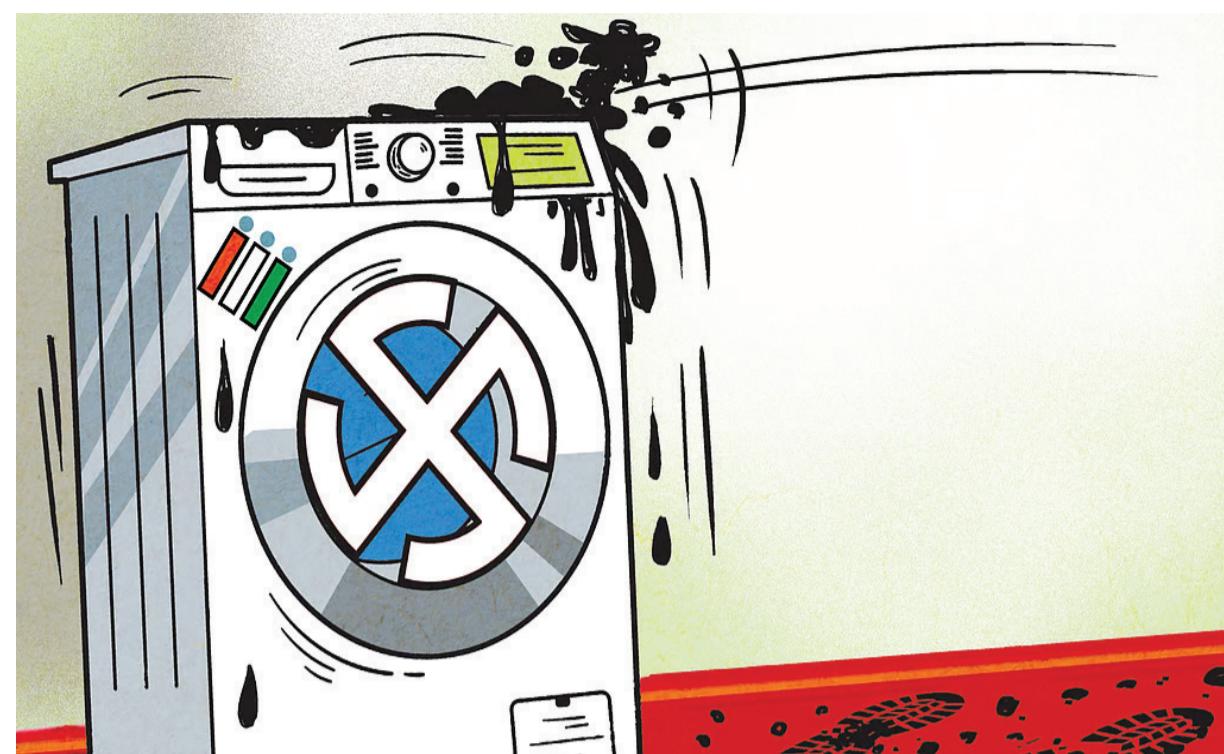
India's democratic fabric is once again under scrutiny, not from external forces but from within its sacred institutions. The recent allegations of "vote theft" by Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi have escalated into a full-blown crisis of credibility for the Election Commission of India (ECI)—an institution whose independence is fundamental to our democracy's survival.

The spectacle unfolding before us is troubling. On one side stands Rahul Gandhi, armed with constituency data from Mahadevapura, alleging voter list manipulation that may have cost his party dozens of seats. On the other side, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar demands an affidavit under oath or an apology within a week, standing behind procedural shields rather than a transparent investigation.

Let's be clear: the substance of Gandhi's allegations may or may not have merit. But when the Leader of Opposition in the world's largest democracy raises concerns about electoral integrity in Parliament, the response cannot be bureaucratic deflection and ultimatums.

The CEC's press conference was a masterclass in missing the point. His assertion that "vote theft cannot happen" because "a voter can press the button only once" conveniently sidesteps the actual allegation—manipulation of voter rolls. His bizarre argument that sharing voter data would compromise the privacy of "mothers, daughters-in-law, and daughters" reeks of desperate deflection rather than serious engagement. The most troubling aspect of the ECI's response has been its stubborn refusal to release machine-readable voter data. Their insistence on providing only barely legible PDF formats suggests an institution more concerned with controlling information than facilitating transparency. In a digital age where data analysis is fundamental to accountability, this stance seems deliberately obstructive. The Bihar electoral roll controversy further darkens this picture. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has removed a staggering 6.5 million names, including 2.2 million supposedly "dead" voters. Such massive purges just months before critical state elections demand extraordinary explanation and transparency, not defensive posturing. When the CEC claims that deletion of 22 lakh "dead" voters represents accumulated unreported deaths over 20 years (not six months), one must ask: Why the sudden urgency to purge these names? If these were known issues for two decades, why address them in such haste now?

The Commission's insistence that complainants follow rigid procedures and timelines appears calculated. By demanding affidavits and setting a deadline after which "no complaints will be entertained," the ECI seems to be creating technical escape hatches. This approach evokes the 45-day time limit for CCTV footage that conveniently expired before allegations could be thoroughly



investigated. The Supreme Court's observation that this appears to be "a case of trust deficit, nothing else" is a profound understatement. Trust is the currency of democratic institutions, and the ECI is hemorrhaging it rapidly. Election authorities exist not just to conduct free and fair elections, but to demonstrate convincingly that they are free and fair. When doubts arise—regardless of their source—the imperative is to address them substantively rather than procedurally. Democracy requires not just the fact of integrity but its transparent demonstration. The ECI's righteous indignation that they stand "like a rock" with voters rings hollow when accompanied by bureaucratic obstruction. A truly confident commission would welcome scrutiny.

If the allegations are baseless, then releasing machine-readable data would quickly expose them as such. If irregularities exist, the public deserves to know. Either way, opacity serves no democratic purpose.

The world watches as India, which prides itself as democracy's global standard-bearer, allows its electoral process to be questioned. International observers note the contradiction between our technological sophistication in many areas and our antiquated approach to electoral transparency.

Should the ECI continue this path of technical deflection,

the Supreme Court must intervene decisively. The court's preliminary observations in the Bihar case suggest judicial reluctance to engage deeply with these issues, but constitutional duty may soon demand otherwise. The integrity of our electoral process is too fundamental to leave to institutional self-regulation when that regulation appears compromised. The beauty of democracy lies in its self-correcting mechanisms—the capacity for institutions to be questioned and to respond with evidence rather than indignation. By hiding behind technicalities and deadlines, the ECI undermines these mechanisms and, consequently, democracy itself.

The Commission must understand that in matters of electoral integrity, the burden of proof lies with the institutions, not the citizens questioning them. Its primary obligation is not to political parties or even to procedure, but to the voter's right to absolute confidence in the electoral process.

The ECI claims to stand "like a rock" with Indian voters. But rocks can also be barriers—impenetrable, unyielding, and ultimately obstacles to the transparency that democracy demands. The people are watching, and history will judge whether our electoral guardians chose to be foundations of democracy or stumbling blocks in its path.

Balance security for and access to leaders

Open access reassures people that government is not a closed institution and that someone at the highest level is still willing to listen. However, public meetings cannot downplay the security factor

The attack on Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during a public interaction on Wednesday was unusual. However, it underlined the way citizens seek out their leaders when other channels fail. For many, reaching out to the CM is not the first step but the last resort, usually after exhausting avenues in the bureaucracy. That is why jan sunvai or public hearings matter, and why their structure must be carefully thought through. The immediate response from the police has been to strengthen security and propose restrictions on direct access to the CM during public hearings. Such caution is understandable, but if this impedes citizens' approach to their elected head of government, it risks undermining the very purpose of a jan sunvai. In a functioning democracy, the confidence of citizens often rests on their ability to reach the top leadership, however briefly. Open access reassures people that government is not a closed institution and that someone at the highest level is still willing to listen.

The challenge, therefore, is how to manage security. Public

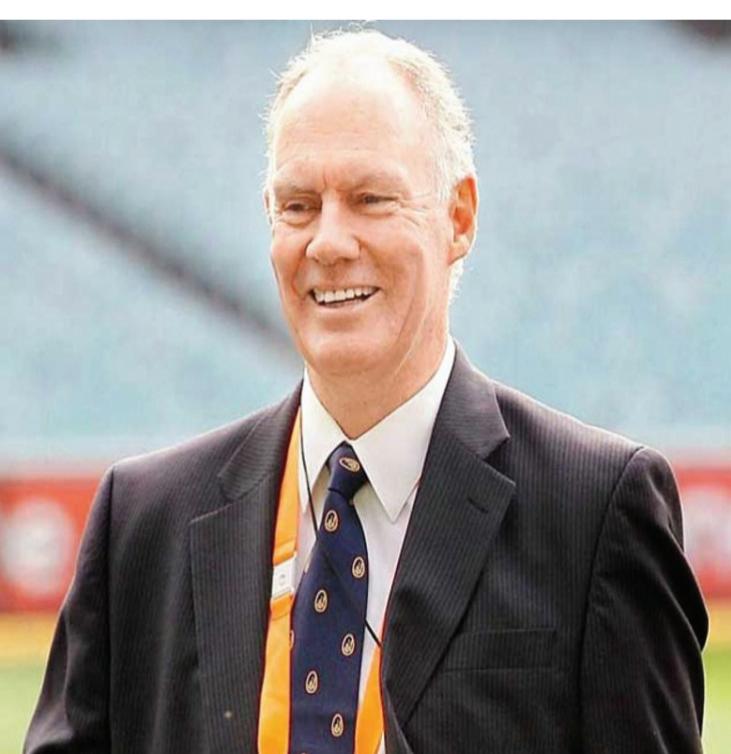


meetings cannot be left unstructured. They need a clear protocol: pre-registration of grievances, screening of attendees, and an orderly sequence of hearings. This reduces both disorder and risk without closing the door on citizens. A standard operating procedure, consistently applied, would serve both purposes—ensuring safety and

sustaining accessibility. Such meetings also serve another role. They give leaders a direct sense of how the government machinery is functioning. Through unfiltered conversations, leaders learn how deep administrative inefficiencies go, how far development reaches, and how responsive departments really are. They also get a measure of the public mood.

Equally important is what follows the meeting. A strong system of follow-up and feedback is needed so that citizens know whether action has been taken. People attend such meetings in the belief that their problems will not only be heard, but also acted upon. A strong feedback loop is essential. It would also reduce the tendency to view the CM's darbar as the only place where grievances are resolved. The lesson from the incident is clear. The response cannot be to close doors, but to manage them better. A balance between security and access is the only way to preserve both the office and the citizens' belief that their government listens.

Chappell then, Gambhir now



cricket badly. Greg was firm in his belief till the end that India's problem was not lack of talent, but the star culture that stymied the growth of newcomers and established a hierarchy that harmed team spirit and harmony. Greg may have diagnosed the problem, but his methods to solve them lacked sensitivity and a proper understanding of the Indian psyche that confuses servility as being respectful. His was an "outsider's" construct of a culture that loathes change, especially if it is sudden and swift. What probably let him down was the pulpit of a higher moral ground that he took, which blinded him to a world he could barely grasp and made no effort to understand. He did not have the instincts of the man he replaced, the New Zealander John Wright, who ushered in progressive changes without disturbing the status quo.

It took the sagacity of Garry Kirsten to calm the turbulence caused by Greg's ham-handed methods and the Indian team went on to win the 2011 World Cup. The last of foreign coaches was the Englishman Duncan Fletcher, who made no effort to hide the fact that he was an outsider and disinterested in following any method, Indian or foreign. Finally, the experienced Ravi Shastri reintroduced the team to the "Indian way", where cricketing acumen forges with native wisdom to sustain a culture of continuity with only those repairs done that don't threaten its foundations. In this culture of continuity and entrenched hierarchy, which gives primacy to stardom regardless of the strength of the team, Gambhir's stint as coach coincided with the declining prowess of its major stars, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. At 44 years of age and a history of behaviour that does not always conform to societal norms of being civil, Gambhir is an interesting case study. In a candid interview to ESPNcricinfo's Sidharth Monga in 2009, when he was an important

member of the Indian team, Gambhir bared his heart out, including his insecurities and impatient ways to deal with them. He said he was built that way, where he always felt he was not given his due despite having done very well. He had performed exceptionally well in under-14, under-19 and even in the Ranji Trophy, yet was not picked to play World Cups for India. His not being part of the 2007 World Cup shocked him. But he did not let his angry and impatient temperament interfere with his training and finally made it back to the team, playing a major role in India winning the

2007 T-20 and the 2011 one-day World Cups.

Gambhir understands the value of hard work and the despair of rejection while transforming his anger into a passion for doing well. Which he did, even if with moderate success, while playing for India and capping it up with leading the Kolkata Knight Riders to three IPL trophies, two as captain and the third as its mentor. Even then, it is hard to imagine him becoming the coach of the Indian team without his being a former BJP MP and the fact that the supreme leader of the Indian cricket administration is Home Minister Amit Shah's son, Jay Shah. These political connections give Gambhir power that would be the envy of past coaches. It is obvious that he wanted to shatter the star culture in the team, much like Chappell attempted in his two-year stint two decades ago. His discomfort with Virat, Rohit and Ashwin was often reported in the media and the outstanding success of a new, young team in England gives him the legitimacy that he lacked so far.

Unlike Greg, he is now in control of a new, young team that is still finding its feet and except for possibly Shubman Gill, none of them are anywhere near the stardom that Kohli or Rohit achieved. In his ESPN interview, Gambhir's honest confessions revealed a man aware of his weaknesses and how to work around them. Will he be a guide and mentor to restless, insecure, talented youngsters, scanning them with an unbiased eye so that they could achieve their maximum potential? Or will he turn into another Greg Chappell and stifle the desires of any emerging star that could destabilise the team? The next chapter of this story is teaming with possibilities.

NEWS BOX

Shocked by clearance to ONGC, parties want nod withdrawn

CHENNAI. Political parties, including allies of the ruling DMK, reacted with shock on Sunday after the Tamil Nadu State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) granted environmental clearance for drilling 20 onshore exploratory wells in Ramanathapuram. Later in the evening, Environment Minister Thangam Thennarasu clarified that the state would ask SEIAA to withdraw the clearance given to ONGC for the wells.

MDMK general secretary, Vaiko, in a statement, said the clearance given to ONGC will affect the livelihood of fishermen and also the environment. Hence, the TN government should review the clearance given and withdraw it. PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss said his party has already opposed such a clearance to ONGC, and despite that, the government had proceeded to grant it. The technology to be used for onshore exploratory wells would make the Ramanathapuram district a desert.

AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran said, contrary to the promise made by the DMK government that no permission would be granted for hydrocarbon exploration, the clearance has been given covertly. The expert committee headed by Professor Sultan Ismail submitted a detailed report on the adverse impacts of hydrocarbon wells already established in the Cauvery delta. He said the failure to release the report deepens the suspicions against the government. Manithaneya Makal Katchi president MH Jawahirullah said that already, Chief Minister MK Stalin had promised that he would not allow hydrocarbon wells anywhere in TN. But contrary to his promise, the clearance given to ONGC has come as a big shock to the farmers as well as environmentalists.

Odisha government in a bind as FCI stops lifting rice quota

BHUBANESWAR. Sitting over a surplus stockpile of 23 lakh tonne custom-milled rice (CMR), and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) not lifting its quota from the millers, the state government is left in a spot of bother. Faced with storage space constraints and low demand of Odisha's parboiled rice from major consuming states like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, FCI has stopped lifting CMR from July 30, the last date for offtake of its quota. "The state government has written to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for time extension to FCI for lifting of kharif CMR to the central pool as quickly as possible as the warehouses of the state and the rice millers are full to the brim. The central agency is waiting for an instruction from the ministry," sources in the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department said.

As per the standing agreement of FCI with the state government for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season, the central agency was to lift 50 lakh tonne CMR from the state to the central pool. The state has procured 93 lakh tonne of paddy (kharif+rabi) in the current KMS under minimum support price from the farmers which is equivalent to 62.54 lakh tonne of rice. The state's own requirement is 24 lakh tonne for distribution under different food security and supplementary nutrition schemes. FCI is bound by agreement to lift 26 lakh tonne of CMR but has taken just 15.18 lakh tonne as on date, leaving 11.36 lakh tonne in different godowns across the state. The millers have delivered 16.45 lakh tonne rice to the state government for distribution under various schematic programmes.

PWD's stopgap measures for fixing roads come under fire in Kochi

KOCHI. The stretch of the Aluva-Munnar road at Cochin Bank Junction remains in deplorable condition, despite the flood of complaints from residents and motorists. Albeit being the link to key locations including Kalamassery Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kinra Park, HMT, etc., the public works department (PWD), which manages the road, has failed to properly restore it.

According to Liji C K, president of Edathala grama panchayat, the local body has been writing to PWD officials, asking them to address issues such as potholes and cracks on the road. "We have been approaching PWD officials for around a year. This is a major route. However, the department has not taken any action yet. Even the work that was initiated a few months back has not been completed," she said. Bus operators and passengers have also been raising complaints about the poor condition of the road. Though TNIE tried to contact PWD officials, they were unreachable. The accused, K Shivakumar alias Ballari Shiva, 37, is from Doddahalhalli village in Huyamballi hobli of Kanakapura taluk in Ramanagara district. According to the complainant, the accused would take money from him, and threaten to kill him. He is also alleged to have been threatening a few others in the area to claim dominance, and nobody wanted to complain against him due to his criminal activities," said an officer.

Spl task force to tackle illegal constructions in Mumbai suburbs

Thane. In a decisive move against rampant illegal construction, municipal commissioner and administrator Saurabh Rao has ordered the formation of a special task force to tackle unauthorised buildings, particularly in the suburbs of Diva and Mumbra—areas that recently recorded the highest volume of such activity. The crackdown comes in the wake of sharp observations made by Bombay high court during a mid-June hearing of a land grab case by the mafia in Shil area. A subsequent civic assessment revealed nearly 40% of all unauthorised structures in Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) limits were concentrated in these two wards alone.

The ongoing survey identified 151 illegal structures across nine municipal wards—with Diva topping the list at 40, followed by Mumbra with 20," said a civic official. Rao has instructed the newly formed task force to maintain constant vigilance in these high-risk zones and recommend prompt action against ongoing or planned illegal constructions. He clarified that while demolition drives will continue, occupied structures will be temporarily spared until the conclusion of the



Ganesh festival. However, structures still under construction will face immediate action. "So far, we've taken action against 227 illegal buildings and filed 24 criminal cases against those responsible," Rao said.

The anti-encroachment department, led by Shankar Patole, will spearhead the enforcement, with each ward contributing deputy municipal commissioners and junior officials to the task force. The team is expected to begin on-ground action after the festival, given the need for adequate police presence to manage potential resistance from residents.

Meanwhile, activists and political leaders are demanding that accountability be extended to civic officials allegedly complicit in enabling these constructions.

Local politicians claim that a nexus between certain municipal staff and land mafia allows such buildings to come up with little resistance. In many cases, residents are reportedly allowed to move into lower floors of illegal buildings even as upper floors are still under construction—a tactic aimed at stalling demolition drives. "It seemed like a ploy to delay any action, and it worked for a while," said a resident of one of the illegal buildings in Shil that was razed in June following high court orders. Senior leaders, including NCP (SP) national spokesperson and MLA Jitendra Awhad and Congress Thane president Vikrant Chavan, have repeatedly called for action not just against builders but also against civic officials who allegedly turned a blind eye to the problem.

Chairman Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer Shri Satish Kumar visited Bairabi - Sairang New Line Railway Project

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 25th August: Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), visited the newly constructed 51.38 Km-long Bairabi - Sairang New Line Railway Project on 24th August, 2025, a crucial rail link set to connect Mizoram's capital, Aizawl, with the national railway network for the first time. Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N. F. Railway & Shri Arun Kumar Chaudhary, General Manager/N. F. Railway/Construction along with other Senior Railway & Construction officials accompanied him during the inspection. The visit of the Bairabi - Sairang New Line Railway Project by Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), holds immense significance as it marks a major step toward strengthening rail connectivity in the Northeast. During the



visit, he inspected key infrastructure including bridges, tunnels and stations along the route. Despite the challenging terrain, the Northeast Frontier Railway has accomplished remarkable work in extending rail connectivity to Aizawl, overcoming significant geographical and engineering challenges.



Tribal farmer in Kerala's Marayur turns innovator, uses physics to keep wild animals at bay

IDUKKI. Can a fourth-class dropout apply principles of energy conversion to protect his livelihood? In a remote tribal settlement inside the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, 47-year-old Sreeraman from Irukkalakkudy in Marayur has done exactly that: Creating simple, low-cost devices that keep wild animals at bay and help save his hard-earned crops. At a time when many in Kerala are giving up on farming due to relentless raids by wild elephants, bisons and boars, Sreeraman has become a grassroots innovator to protect his way of life. He has turned the flow of water into kinetic energy and then mechanical energy, creating a device that produces a constant sound to deter intruders. Speaking to TNIE, Sreeraman said he began experimenting about four years ago, when frequent raids by wild animals were destroying his vegetables, tubers, pepper and coffee. "Having attended school up to fourth grade, I don't possess the scientific or technical know-how of developing instruments. But I worked on an idea I had in mind and it yielded results," he said. The swinging torch, another one of Sreeraman's devices, which flashes light to keep wild animals at bay. The swinging torch, another one of Sreeraman's devices, which flashes light to keep wild animals at bay. One of his devices uses water from the stream that flows through the sanctuary. The water fills a plate, which tips over when full, making a wooden stick with an iron hook strike a metal plate. The sharp sound is produced round the clock, deceiving intruders into thinking humans are present on the field. "The biggest benefit is that I don't have to guard the farm all day and night," he said. In addition, Sreeraman has adopted a "hanging-torchlight technique," whereby a battery-powered torch is fixed to a cardboard sheet and hung over the farm. required is the occasional change of batteries.

Mumbai. Police have arrested Narayan Ghayal (35) from Dahisar involved in seven cases of stealing 17 manhole lids and two safety nets since June. The arrest was facilitated by Google timeline data and the vehicle number 77 of an auto rickshaw captured by a single CCTV camera in Dahisar. The MHB Colony police recovered all the stolen lids, which Ghayal had sold for Rs 1000 to Rs 1200 each, although they originally cost Rs 6000 apiece.

Authorities are searching for Ghayal's aide who assisted him in stealing manhole lids from localities without CCTV coverage. "Ghayal used to work during the daytime running the rickshaw while he used to steal the manhole lid early morning. He did it to party with his friend. The theft was taken seriously after we received seven complaints from the BMC and fearing the thief could have endangered the lives of people who could have fallen in the open manhole," said a police officer of the MHB Colony police station.

The latest manhole theft case was registered on Aug 13 following a

Auto driver arrested for series of manhole lid thefts in Mumbai



complaint from Devendra Vaidya (52), who noticed a missing manhole lid on Veer Hanuman Nagar Road in Dahisar's Kandarpada locality. Based on the seven complaints, DCP Sandeep Jadhav supervised the team—Senior Inspector Harish Gawli, Inspector Atul Avhad, Sub-Inspector Sandeep Gorade and staff—who first managed to obtain the CCTV footage. "The accused used to target the locality where there is no CCTV. However, he got caught in one camera on the stretch. But the footage

was grainy and only we managed to retrieve '77' of the first two-digit of the rickshaw," said a police officer. The team then intensified patrolling between 4.30 am and 6 am and identified all the rickshaws that ply during this time. "Finally, we tracked Ghayal after we found out his role when he checked the Google real-time location tracking. Ghayal's location was found at all the 17 places from where he stole the manhole lids since June," said Sub-Inspector Gorade.

50 per cent traffic fine rebate will make roads unsafe in Karnataka: Experts

BENGALURU. The Karnataka government's recent decision to offer a 50% discount on traffic e-challan fines has sparked a debate. While one section has hailed the move, a few opine that the government is making roads unsafe by offering such a rebate. Experts feel that the government is sending out a message to violators to "wait for discounts" instead of implementing strict measures to ensure road safety. This is not the first time that the State Government is offering such a discount. In 2023, the government had announced such concessions on two occasions.

Speaking to TNIE, traffic expert Prof MN Shreehari said the 50% rebate is a "wrong signal" from the government. "Instead of collecting fines, the government is giving offers to violators, which is unlawful. The law clearly states that anyone who violates the law should be penalised, not offered discounts. Such measures will only encourage more violations and reduce the

fear of law and rules. Instead of offering discounts, the government should focus on educating violators about road safety," he said, adding that by offering a blanket discount, the government risks diluting the deterrent effect of fines, which are meant to discourage reckless driving and ensure road safety. "Motorists may assume that penalties can always be negotiated later, encouraging repeated violations. Meanwhile, others who paid their fines promptly at full rates may feel penalised for their comA senior traffic police officer told TNIE that while the move may not be good in the long run, it does help many citizens, especially those struggling with accumulated fines, by providing financial relief. "Traffic rules must be followed for one's own safety. With such offers, many delivery personnel, auto-rickshaw drivers, and cab drivers—who are



often in a hurry for work—are among the most frequent violators. They break rules, pay only 50% of the fine, and then repeat the offence. These violations sometimes lead to injuries and fatalities for other road users and pedestrians. Violations such as signal jumping, riding without helmets, or driving

without seat belts are not minor lapses but serious safety risks. People may view them simply as traffic violations, but in reality, they are essential safety measures that protect lives," he said. Another officer said that the government must ensure this remains a one-time measure to recover dues, not a recurring practice. "Otherwise, the message to motorists may shift from 'follow the rules' to 'wait for the next discount,'" the officer said. While the scheme serves as a short-term revenue boost and helps reduce administrative backlog, its long-term impact on traffic behaviour is questionable. If such concessions become frequent, they may normalise violations rather than curb them," he said.

New cargo terminal at Ahmedabad airport grabs 70% of international freight in first month

Ahmedabad. Barely a month after becoming operational, the new Integrated Cargo Terminal (ICT) at the Ahmedabad airport has captured nearly 70% of the city's international cargo traffic, handling about 5,000 metric tonnes along with a similar volume of domestic freight, according to sources familiar with the development.

Spread across 21,000 sq m, with provision for future expansion capacity up to 33,000 sq m, the facility is already seeing a major shift from airlines. Air India, Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Singapore Airlines have moved their freight operations to the new hub, while Blue Dart and SpiceJet are set to commence services next week. The city airport's cargo facilities handled roughly 60,000 MT cargo including domestic and international imports and exports in FY25. From April to July this fiscal, the volume was 20,000 MT of air cargo including domestic and international cargo. "The response from cargo carriers has been phenomenal. We're witnessing a significant

Top court pauses FIRs against political analyst on deleted Maharashtra poll tweet

During today's hearing, Lokniti-CSDS co-director Sanjay Kumar's counsel argued that his client was a "person with impeccable integrity." "30 years of conscientious service to the nation and to the world. He's highly respected. It was a mistake. He apologised. He deleted and apologised publicly," Kumar's counsel said.

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed FIRs against psephologist and Lokniti-CSDS co-director Sanjay Kumar, after his now-deleted tweets on voter discrepancies in the 2024 Maharashtra polls triggered Opposition attacks on the Election Commission, with allegations of collusion

with the BJP. Deleting the tweets, citing data error, Kumar wrote, "I sincerely apologise for the tweets posted regarding Maharashtra elections. Error occurred while comparing data of 2024 LS and 2024 AS. The data in row was misread by our Data team. The tweet has since been removed. I had no intention of dispersing any form of misinformation." In his deleted post, Kumar claimed that two constituencies in Maharashtra witnessed a significant drop in voters between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections held in 2024. During today's hearing, Kumar's counsel argued that his client was a "person with impeccable integrity."

"30 years of conscientious service to the nation and to the world. He's highly respected. It was a mistake. He apologised. He deleted and apologised publicly," Kumar's counsel said. On August 17, Kumar posted on X that while voter turnout



in Ramtek and Devlali fell by 36-38 per cent between the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, it rose by 47 per cent in Nashik West and 43 per cent in Hingna.

Following his apology on August 19, two FIRs were filed against Kumar — one in Nashik and another in Nagpur — on charges including making false statements about a candidate during an election, spreading misinformation, and defamation. Kumar's deleted post drew criticism from BJP leaders, who alleged that his tweet

fuelled the Opposition's misinformation campaign against the Election Commission.

Kumar's deleted post drew criticism from BJP leaders, who alleged that his tweet fuelled the Opposition's misinformation campaign against the Election Commission.

Sharing the screenshot of Sanjay Kumar's old and new posts, Shanti Kumar, BJP Telangana state treasurer, called it an attempt to spread "fake news."

"It gave Congress a weapon to attack election officials, and now you silently want to slip away with an apology. Sorry, but your sorry won't repair the damage!" BJP leader Shanti Kumar posted on X. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "Sanjay Kumar of CSDS admits his data on Maharashtra was fake. Based on this fake, the Congress ecosystem attacked the ECI. Will the Congress apologise for insulting Maharashtra and its great people?"

INS Udaygiri, Himgiri: The Stealth Frigates To Be Commissioned Today

Agency New Delhi.

The Indian Navy is set to commission two Nilgiri-class stealth guided-missile frigates — INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri — simultaneously on August 26 at Vishakhapatnam, the Ministry of Defence said. The two made-in-India warships are a part of the Project 17 Alpha (P-17A) under which the lead vessel, INS Nilgiri, was commissioned earlier this year.

This is the first time that the two major surface combatants from two prestigious Indian Shipyards are being commissioned at the same time. With this, India will have a three-frigate squadron demonstrating the country's industrial-technological capability and regional power balance by indigenous capability.

According to the Centre, the two missiles represent a generational leap over earlier designs. Displacing about 6,700 tons, the P-17A frigates are roughly five per cent larger than their predecessor Shivalik-class frigates and yet incorporate a sleeker form, with a reduced radar cross-section.

They are powered by Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion plants using diesel engines and gas turbines that drive controllable-pitch propellers and are managed through an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS). The weapon suite includes supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, a 76 mm MR Gun, and a combination of 30 mm and 12.7 mm close-in weapon systems, and anti-submarine/underwater weapon systems, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. It further mentioned that both ships are the result of an industrial ecosystem spanning over 200 MSMEs, supporting approximately 4,000 direct jobs and more than 10,000 indirect jobs.

Pregnant Woman Found Dead In Delhi, Family Alleges Dowry Harassment

Agency New Delhi.

A 22-year-old woman was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Delhi's Dwarka on Monday — four months after her marriage, with her family alleging it to be a case of dowry death. The woman, identified as Komal alias Varsha, was also two months pregnant, officials said. On August 21, the woman's father received information about his daughter being admitted to a hospital in an unconscious state — where the doctors declared her dead. It is not yet clear how she died.

According to the woman's family, her husband, Aman, and in-laws used to harass her over dowry demands. They also alleged that her husband used to beat her up regularly. The couple got married on April 16 and were living in Delhi's Badu Sarai area.

A case of dowry harassment has been registered based on the woman's family's complaint.

Police have also recorded statements of the woman's family and neighbours.

Many cases of deaths due to dowry harassment have come to light in recent times. Last week, a man in Greater Noida allegedly set his wife, Nikki, on fire over dowry — nine years after their marriage. Horrifying videos showed Nikki being assaulted by Vipin at her in-laws' house in Greater Noida — with her blood stains visible on the accused's body. Another disturbing video showed Nikki ablaze and limping down the stairs of the building, and later sitting on the floor with severe burn injuries on her body.

She was taken to Delhi's Safdarjung hospital for treatment, where she died of her injuries.

ED raids Trinamool MLA's home, he scales wall and tries to flee; arrested

Trinamool MLA, upon learning of the raid, reportedly tried to flee by scaling the boundary wall of his house but was apprehended by ED officers in a nearby agricultural field, covered in mud.

Agency New Delhi.

A Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Jibin Krishna Saha was reportedly caught attempting to flee his residence on Monday while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at multiple locations linked to him in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. According to officials, the searches are part of the agency's ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in school recruitment process in West Bengal. ED teams are currently searching the Burwan residence of TMC leader Jibin Krishna Saha, as well as properties belonging to his in-laws in Raghunathganj.

Upon learning of the raid, the MLA reportedly tried to flee by scaling the boundary wall of his house but was apprehended by ED officers and central forces in a nearby agricultural

field, covered in mud.

According to news agency PTI, Saha is said to have thrown his mobile phone into a pond near his home in a bid to



destroy potential evidence. However, officials claim both his phones were recovered and will undergo forensic analysis.

Additionally, searches were also conducted at the home of the TMC leader's personal assistant in Birbhum district.

As per the PTI report, the raids were initiated after the ED received information about a financial transaction linked to a person from Birbhum, who later accompanied the team during the operation.

Saha's wife had previously been questioned by the agency in connection with the scam. The MLA himself was arrested by the CBI in April 2023 over the same issue and was granted bail in May 2025. While the CBI is probing the criminal aspects of the school recruitment scam, the ED is investigating its money laundering angle. The TMC leader will be taken to Kolkata, where he is expected to be produced before a special ED court.

Apologise to persons with disabilities: Supreme Court warns comedians of fines

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday asked five comedians — Samay Raina, Vipin Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar, and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar — to publicly apologise for making insensitive jokes mocking persons with disabilities (PWDs) and warned that financial penalties may be imposed for their remarks during an episode of 'India's Got Latent'. The top court's order came based on a plea filed by the Cure SMA Foundation, which accused the comedians of mocking persons with disabilities. The top court also asked influencers to file an affidavit detailing the steps they can take to use their platforms to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities.

"Influencers of today should realise that



commercialising speech comes with responsibility. The community at large should not be used to hurt certain sections of society," the court observed.

The bench directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to prepare comprehensive guidelines for the language to be used on social media platforms, aimed at protecting the dignity of all persons, including those

with disabilities. The court emphasised that these guidelines should not be a knee-jerk reaction to a single incident but must be broad-based, taking into account challenges posed by technological advancements.

The Ministry has been asked to consult the National Board for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities (NBDSA) and other stakeholders while framing the rules.

Comedian Samay Raina has been accused of mocking persons with disabilities. A complaint filed against him accuses him of ridiculing the treatment of patients suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in two of his videos, and making insensitive remarks about blind and cross-eyed individuals.

Top court pauses case against Ashoka University professor over Op Sindoor post

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed seditious proceedings against Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad of Ashoka University in connection with his social media posts on Operation Sindoor, directing that no cognisance be taken of the chargesheet filed against him in one of the FIRs, while noting that a closure report had already been filed in another FIR. The bench, comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, also granted time to the professor's counsel to respond to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report submitted in the matter.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Mahmudabad, argued that it was "unfortunate" that the Haryana Police invoked Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with offences prejudicial to the sovereignty of the nation, in relation to Mahmudabad's social media comments.

Sibal added that the Supreme Court is currently examining the constitutionality

of Section 152 BNS. He further contended that the SIT had gone beyond the scope of its mandate, probing unrelated matters including the professor's foreign trips over the past decade, despite having been directed by the court on May 28 to confine its investigation to the contents of the posts.

The Haryana Police informed the court that a closure report had been filed in one FIR against Mahmudabad, while a chargesheet had been filed in another FIR. The bench quashed the FIR for which the closure report had been submitted and passed an interim order barring the Magistrate from taking cognisance of the other FIR's chargesheet. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju appeared for the Haryana Police. The Supreme Court noted that Mahmudabad had fully cooperated with the investigation, including surrendering his digital devices, and directed that he should not be summoned again. "You don't require him, you require a dictionary," Justice Surya Kant



remarked, underscoring that the SIT's probe should remain limited to the two FIRs lodged against the professor. The court instructed that the SIT conclude its investigation within four weeks. Mahmudabad was arrested on May 18 following an FIR lodged by the Haryana Police over his social media posts and remained in custody until May 21, when the Supreme Court granted interim bail.

As part of the bail conditions, the Court

restrained Mahmudabad from writing posts or articles related to the subject FIRs or expressing any opinions on the terrorist attack on Indian soil or India's counter-response. He was also directed to

surrender his passport and cooperate fully with the investigation.

The bench further told the Haryana government to ensure that no further FIRs were registered on the same issue.

During the hearing, the bench questioned the SIT's widening scope of investigation. "The SIT was formed specifically to investigate the two social media posts. Why is the scope being expanded?" the court asked, echoing Sibal's concerns that the SIT was misdirecting itself.

The bench emphasised that access to Mahmudabad's digital devices beyond what had already been surrendered was not permitted. The court also sought the Haryana government's response to the National Human Rights Commission's cognisance of the manner of FIR registration.

NEWS BOX

Shakib Al Hasan becomes first Bangladesh player to reach 500 T20 wickets

New Delhi. (Agency) Shakib Al Hasan carved his name into cricketing history on Sunday, becoming the first Bangladeshi to reach 500 wickets in T20 cricket. The landmark came in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) as the 38-year-old all-rounder turned out for Antigua and Barbuda Falcons against St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. Shakib entered the match needing just one wicket to reach the milestone. Introduced into the attack in the 15th over, he thought he had it straight away when Jayden Seales completed a fine catch on the boundary, only for replays to show the fielder had stepped on the cushion. The wait, however, was short-lived. Moments later, Shakib held on to a sharp return catch to dismiss Mohammad Rizwan, sealing his place among the game's elite.

The left-arm spinner went on to make the evening more memorable, striking twice more in his next over to finish with figures of 3 for 11 in just two overs. By the end of the



night, his overall tally in the format had risen to 502. In reaching the landmark, Shakib became only the fifth bowler in T20 history to take 500 wickets. He joined Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, who leads the list with 660 scalps, West Indies stalwarts Dwayne Bravo (631) and Sunil Narine (590), along with South Africa's Imran Tahir (554). For Bangladesh, it was another proud moment delivered by their greatest cricketer. Since his T20 debut in 2006, Shakib has been a constant presence in franchise leagues across the globe. In the Indian Premier League, he was part of Kolkata Knight Riders' title-winning squads in 2012 and 2014, playing key roles in both campaigns. In the Bangladesh Premier League, he has been even more dominant, standing as the competition's leading wicket-taker with 149 dismissals and two titles, including one as captain in 2016. His contributions to the CPL have been significant as well, dating back to his debut season in 2013 when he finished as the tournament's second-highest wicket-taker.

Women's World Cup 2025: Uncapped batter Eyman Fatima named in Pakistan's squad

New Delhi. (Agency) Pakistan have named uncapped batter Eyman Fatima in their squad for the Women's World Cup 2025. Fatima recently made her international debut in the T20I series against Ireland, where she scored 27 runs from two innings with a highest score of 23.

The right-handed batter recently impressed in Pakistan's National T20 tournament. The 15-member squad features several players, who will be making their first appearance at the grand stage of the Women's World Cup, namely Natalia Parvaiz, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar and Syeda Aroob Shah.

Fatima Sana will continue to lead the side as Pakistan aim to win their maiden ICC trophy. The Women in Green will begin their campaign against Bangladesh on October 2 followed by the blockbuster fixture against India on October 5. They will play all of their



group stage matches at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo. Pakistan earned qualification for the World Cup through the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier held in April 2024. The side finished in the pole position, after winning all their games, including victories against West Indies and Bangladesh. The Fatima Sana-led side finished on top after winning all five of their matches, including victories against West Indies and Bangladesh. Pakistan will warm up for the World Cup with a three-match ODI series against South Africa, scheduled to be played in Lahore between 16-22 September. They will take part in a 14-day camp prior to the South Africa series from Friday, 29 August.

Pakistan Squad: Fatima Sana (c), Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (vc), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Eyman Fatima, Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz, Syeda Aroob Shah.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and fantasy sports platform Dream11 to end their sponsorship deals following the passage of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, which imposes a blanket ban on fantasy and real-money gaming platforms.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Dream11 are set to part ways after the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, was passed by both houses of Parliament on Thursday. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed the development, stating that the Indian cricket board "will not indulge with any such organisations" in the future. "Looking at the current situation and keeping in mind that



bill has become an Act, it would be really difficult for BCCI to continue with Dream11. So, the association with Dream11 is over and BCCI will look for a future course of action, including a new sponsor," Saikia told Aaj Tak. Dream11 and My11Circle together contribute approximately Rs 1,000 crore to the BCCI through title sponsorships of the Indian cricket team and the Indian Premier

League. Dream11, in particular, signed a contract worth USD 44 million (Rs 358 crore) for the 2023-2026 cycle as Team India's title sponsor. However, the passage of the government bill which clearly states that "no person shall offer any, aid, abet, induce, indulge, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or indirectly

promotes any person to play any online money game" has dealt a major blow to the revenue streams of all major fantasy sports companies in India. In addition to Team India, Dream11 is also the official fantasy partner of the Indian Super League (ISL).

Dream11 will not face any penalties as the existing contract includes a clause safeguarding the sponsor if its primary business faces a government ban. As a result, Dream11 has no obligation to make any further payments to the BCCI for the remainder of the contract.

In a statement issued after the law was passed in the Upper House of Parliament, Dream11 said: "We have always been a law-abiding company and have always conducted our business in compliance with the law. While we believe that progressive legislation would have been the way forward, we will respect the law and fully comply with the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025." Meanwhile, endorsements of such fantasy gaming apps by individual cricketers are also expected to take a major hit.

Winless Manchester United need to 'grow up', says Amorim

United captain Fernandes is normally a clinical penalty taker and Amorim said his Portuguese compatriot let the 38th minute miss affect him for the rest of the game.

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believes his side need to show more maturity after blowing the lead to draw 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday and remain without a win this season. The Red Devils were made to pay for not making more of a dominant first 45 minutes, during which Bruno Fernandes blazed a penalty over the bar. Amorim, though, was more concerned by what he saw after United took the lead thanks to Rodrigo Muniz's own goal on the hour mark. Fulham hit back to level through Emile Smith Rowe 17 minutes from time and ended the game on top. "I think we

scored the goal and then we forgot about how we play," said Amorim, who has won just seven of his 29 Premier League games in charge. "We want to win so badly, and that is a good feeling, that we scored a goal and everyone on the pitch was thinking, 'Let's hold onto the advantage and try to win the game'. For me that is the moment that we have to enjoy more and push the opponent. "We have to grow up a lot as a team. For me the most important thing is that during the week they were working really hard, today we worked really hard, and we are going to improve. The moment that changed the game was our goal." United captain

Fernandes is normally a clinical penalty taker and Amorim said his Portuguese compatriot let the 38th minute miss affect him for the rest of the game. "You have to put that in the past during the game," added Amorim. "He is our leader and he has so much responsibility. I felt that he missed the penalty and he was thinking about it during the game. We need to move forward and to play the game." Fulham were left furious at two major decisions that went in United's favour. The visitors' penalty came after a VAR intervention when Calvin Bassey and Mason Mount were grappling from a corner. Yet, when Bassey appeared to be pushed by Lenny Yoro in the move that led to United's goal, the video assistant officials did not get involved. "I cannot understand. I would like to explain everything to you from the first whistle until the last but it is not my job," said Fulham boss Marco Silva.

"I don't want to go in this direction. Everybody in the world saw what happened this afternoon at Craven Cottage."

straight first round exit in the Grand Slams this season. He only cleared the first round in the first slam of the year - the Australian Open, where he was knocked out in the



second round by Learner Tien in 5 sets.

US Open 2025: Medvedev vs Bonzi

The match was not easy for Benjamin Bonzi either. Through no fault of his own, Bonzi was jeered by the crowd at the end of the third set. The incident occurred when Bonzi was serving for the match in the third set. A photographer walked into the playing area during his first serve, which resulted in a

fault. The umpire ruled that the point had been interrupted due to external interference and allowed Bonzi to retake his first serve. This decision sparked a furious reaction from Medvedev, who argued that Bonzi should be made to hit a second serve instead. Medvedev's outburst incited the crowd, who turned against both Bonzi and the chair umpire. As a result, play was halted for nearly 10 minutes during the third set. Bonzi, visibly flustered, lost his game, and eventually the third and the fourth set. After winning the match, Bonzi stated that he had never experienced anything like this in tennis in his entire career. "I never experienced something like that. I don't know. Maybe we waited 5 minutes before the match point. Then it was so difficult to play. So noisy. All the time during the points, between the points it was a very wild atmosphere. I tried to stay calm, stay in the match. It was not easy. At the end, I gave all my heart on the court and I have the win today."

Djokovic improves to 19-0 in the first round of the US Open, wins his first match since Wimbledon

But the 38-year-old acknowledged concern after laboring through the middle of his first match since Wimbledon.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

Novak Djokovic looked tired. He looked hurt. And at times Sunday night, he just looked old. Djokovic overcame all that and improved to 19-0 in the first round of the U.S. Open, battling through some leg troubles to beat Learner Tien 6-1, 7-6 (3), 6-2. But the 38-year-old acknowledged concern after laboring through the middle of his first match since Wimbledon. "I don't know. I don't have any injury or anything. I just struggled a lot to stay in long exchanges and recover after points," Djokovic

said. Djokovic had his hands on his knees multiple times in the second set and received treatment for a blister on his right big toe after it. But after having his serve broken in the first game of the third set, he won the next five games to regain control. It was the 24-time Grand Slam champion's first match since falling to Jannik Sinner in the Wimbledon semifinals, when he struggled with an upper left leg injury, and one that made it tough to tell if he remains a real contender to win a fifth title in Flushing Meadows. He rolled through the first set in just 24 minutes, then looked weary in a second set that took nearly an hour longer.

I started great. Just over 20 minutes, first set, I felt really good," Djokovic said. "Then some long games to start the second set, and then I started to feel really — I don't know why. I really was surprised how bad I was feeling in the second physically." The No. 7-seeded



Djokovic has made a career of wearing down his opponents, but he looked like the one who was feeling it physically in the second set against an opponent from California who was half his age. "To be quite honest with you, I wish I had Learner Tien's age but that's not possible," Djokovic said in his post-

match interview. His face reddened and he was huffing and puffing so much by the time the tiebreaker arrived that he received his second time violation of the match during it, costing him a first serve. Tien won the point on Djokovic's second serve to tie it at 3-all, before Djokovic won the next four points. He was then visited by the trainer at his seat. Djokovic had appeared to be bothered by his lower left leg late in the set, but it was his right foot that received treatment during the medical timeout. Djokovic felt better in the third set, pulling away for his 75th consecutive first-round win at a Grand Slam tournament. He hasn't won one of them since his win at the U.S. Open in 2023. Djokovic opted to skip all the hard-court tournaments leading into this year's last major of the season, which perhaps contributed to him looking winded Sunday.



with Muhammed Shauq (39 off 28). Following their dismissals, Muhammed Ashik played a whirlwind knock of 45* (18), comprising of three fours and five sixes to take his team over the line. He gave a thrilling finish to the game as he managed to get the six runs required off the last ball by depositing Sharafuddin for a maximum over long on. Meanwhile, Samson's innings comes amid talks of his shift to the middle order in the Indian T20I side. With Shubman Gill's return to the squad, there have been speculations that Samson might be pushed down the order to accommodate the vice-captain into the team. Samson had a prolific run after being promoted to open the innings by captain Suryakumar Yadav in the series against Bangladesh in October 2024. The right-handed batter has slammed three centuries from 12 innings since then, scoring 417 runs at an average of 37.90 with three centuries to his name. However, with Shubman Gill's return, it remains to be seen if Samson has to sacrifice his opening slot, after getting the much-deserved but delayed backing by the team management.

GST reforms likely before Diwali, rollout may start by late September

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The government is moving quickly on its plan to overhaul the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the much anticipated rate cuts could come sooner than expected. Instead of waiting until Diwali, reports suggest the rollout may happen around late September, timed with the start of the Navratri festive season. According to industry sources, any delay in implementation could hurt the markets, as many people have already deferred purchases. The move to advance the rollout is therefore in line with industry expectations. The reform, often referred to as "GST 2.0," will be one of the biggest changes since the tax was introduced in 2017. The key idea is to simplify the structure by reducing the current four tax slabs (5%, 12%, 18% and 28%) into two main ones—5% for essentials and 18% for most goods and services. A higher 40% rate will stay only for luxury and sin goods. This change is expected to make everyday items cheaper. Almost all products in the 12% category could move to 5%, and most in the 28% category may drop to 18%. That means consumers will feel the difference during festive shopping, with goods ranging from home appliances to packaged foods likely to cost less. According to reports, the GST Council will meet on September 3–4, earlier than the previously announced timeline at the end of September, to finalise the details. If approved, the new rates could be notified quickly and come into effect by September 22, just in time for Navratri.

Economists say the reforms could give a strong boost to consumption and add nearly 0.6 percentage points to GDP growth in the coming year. But the move will also hit government revenues by almost \$20 billion annually. The Centre hopes this loss will be partly offset by higher spending and better compliance.

Most states have welcomed the plan, though some have asked for compensation to make up for their expected revenue shortfall. Meanwhile, the government is also considering exempting health and life insurance premiums from GST, which could ease costs for policyholders.

Indian equities trade higher on Fed rate cut optimism

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian equity markets were trading higher on Monday morning, supported by strong global cues and optimism around an expected U.S. Federal Reserve rate cut. The Nifty 50 was hovering around 24,955, up nearly 0.3%, while the Sensex stood close to 81,571, also gaining about 0.3%. Broader markets were in line, with midcap and smallcap indices rising between 0.3–0.4%. The standout performer of the day was the IT sector, with the Nifty IT index jumping 2.5%. Shares of Infosys, TCS, Wipro, HCL Tech and Mphasis were among the biggest gainers, reflecting stronger U.S. revenue prospects. Banking and financial stocks also saw selective buying, while some investors booked profits in FMCG and metals. Yes Bank rose after receiving regulatory approval for a stake purchase by Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui.

Sentiment was lifted by Fed Chair Jerome Powell's remarks, which strengthened expectations of a rate cut in September. Analysts said the Nifty has strong support around 24,700, with resistance levels near 25,150–25,300. A decisive move above that could trigger further upside, while a dip below 24,800 might drag the index lower.

March of silver: Rs 2 lakh summit new target, indicate experts

Kolkata.(Agency)

On June 17 this year, silver futures breached the Rs 1 lakh/kg price level on MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange), state reports. Less than 10 weeks later, investment experts have started speaking of a price level of Rs 2 lakh a kg. We know that silver, which always played second fiddle to gold, is now riding the crest of demand not only as a safe-haven metal, but also as an essential raw material in new age industries such as hig-end electronics, renewable energy etc. In India, there is an additional demand of silver in the form of jewellery, utensils and material for decorative pieces, statuettes etc. Interestingly, the demand for silver has also risen after the abnormal rise in the price of gold due to geopolitical and trade related uncertainties in the past two years. As a result, investors are also increasingly shifting focus on silver.

Rs 2 lakh/kg level closer than one thinks

Nitin Kaushik, a chartered accountant and investment strategist, has written on social media that the upward pressure on silver is so significant that the price level of Rs 2 lakh/kg could be closer than one might think. "Silver has already jumped roughly 30% in 2025, touching an all-time high of 21.11 lakh per kilogram in India," he notes. "If the current rally sustains, 22 lakh per kilogram is not just possible—it's probable," he mentioned.

However, Kaushik is not the first one to mention the hitherto unthinkable price level of the white metal. "It would not be unrealistic for silver to retest levels around Rs 1,20,000/kg in the short term and potentially reach Rs 2,00,000/kg by 2026, given the bullish industrial momentum, favourable macro conditions, and sustained investor interest," Renisha Chainani, head of research at Augmont, one of the country's prominent gold and silver refinery, was quoted as saying.

How can one invest in silver

Silver has been a popular medium of investment for many in India. However, it was traditionally in the form of coins, bars and silverware. However, the instruments have increased in number, offering more avenues to the modern investor seeking inflation-beating returns from the white metal. These are silver ETFs and silver futures on the commodity exchanges.

Common empanelment explained: Why big private hospitals and insurers are at odds

A review of company results by business writers show listed companies, for the April-June quarter, witnessed only single-digit growth in revenue; and that is the story for 9 consecutive quarters.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's private hospital chains and health insurers are reportedly engaged in a standoff over a regulatory reform that could significantly reshape the country's healthcare landscape. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), working with the General Insurance Council, has rolled out the concept of common empanelment. The move is designed to create a unified, nationwide cashless hospital network for policyholders and hospitals alike. Empanelment in health insurance

refers to a system where select hospitals are officially approved to provide cashless or insured medical treatment to policyholders. Traditionally, each insurer has formed its own, separate networks through individual agreements, resulting in patchy coverage, varying package rates, and differences in processing and approvals.

WHAT IS COMMON EMpanelment?

Common empanelment changes this by requiring all general insurers to jointly onboard hospitals using the same agreement, terms, and standardised package rates. Effectively, if a hospital is empanelled by one insurer, it will be available to all. This initiative is built on the momentum of earlier initiatives like "Cashless Everywhere," which in 2024 began allowing policyholders to access cashless care in a wider network of hospitals. Now, the new plan aims to make such convenience the norm for health insurance across India, promising to end the confusion of insurer-specific networks, reduce the paperwork requirements for both patients and



hospitals, and ensure that policyholders can access cashless treatment at almost any participating private hospital.

INSURERS VS BIG PRIVATE HOSPITALS

For insurers, common empanelment represents a step toward standardisation, transparency, and disciplined pricing in a market that has long faced criticism for opaque billing, unpredictably high costs, and bureaucratic hurdles. The centralisation of processes is designed to simplify administration, streamline cashless requests and claim submissions, and eliminate the redundancy of hospitals having to interact separately with multiple insurance companies. Hospitals, however, see this reform in a different

light. One of their strongest objections is about the tariffs or fixed package rates for medical procedures. Under the current plan, these rates are often anchored to the lowest historical prices or benchmarked to government schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). Many hospital groups argue that these rates have hardly been revised even as costs of medical equipment, staff, and supplies have risen steadily. They fear that applying outdated tariffs across the entire network would make advanced and tertiary care financially unsustainable, especially in large urban centers, and could even threaten the viability of smaller or rural hospitals. Another major concern among private hospitals relates to operational efficiency. Delays in claim settlements, unexplained deductions, and mismatched reimbursements have long been issues within the cashless insurance system. Hospitals believe that if these challenges are not addressed, layering a unified network on top of existing inefficiencies could make the problem worse rather than solving it.

Mangal Electrical IPO allotment out: Check your status, possible listing gains

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Allotment of shares for the Mangal Electrical IPO was finalised on Monday, August 25, after the public listing received strong demand from investors during its three-day bidding process. Mangal Electrical IPO opened for subscription on August 20, 2025, and closed on August 22, 2025. By the end of bidding, the IPO was subscribed 9.95 times. Within categories, the retail portion was subscribed 5.09 times, Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB, excluding anchor investors) subscribed 11.09 times, while the Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portion was subscribed 19.78 times, as per exchange data updated on August 22, 2025, at 5:04 PM. The issue size of Mangal Electrical IPO stood at Rs 400 crore. It was a book-built issue and consisted entirely of a fresh issue of 0.71 crore shares. HOW TO CHECK IPO ALLOTMENT STATUS Investors who applied for the Mangal Electrical IPO can check their allotment status through two official platforms, the BSE website and the IPO registrar, Bigshare Services Pvt Ltd. Steps to check allotment via BSE:



Visit the BSE website. Under the "Issue Type" section, select Equity. From the drop-down, select Mangal Electrical Limited. Enter your application number and PAN details. Confirm the captcha and click on Search to view your allotment status.

Steps to check allotment via Bigshare Services Pvt Ltd: Visit the Bigshare Services Pvt Ltd website. From the dropdown, select Mangal Electrical Limited (this becomes active once allotment is finalised). Choose one of the three options — Application Number, Beneficiary ID, or PAN. Enter the required details. Complete the captcha verification and click Search to view your status. EXPECTED LISTING GAINS

As per market observers, the grey market premium (GMP) for Mangal Electrical IPO stood at Rs 14 as of August 25, 2025, at 9:36 AM.

Will ITR filing deadline be extended again after delayed rollout of utilities

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has now rolled out all income tax return (ITR) forms for the Assessment Year 2025–26, covering individuals, firms, companies and trusts. While the forms are finally in place, taxpayers are still waiting to see if the government will agree to another extension of the filing deadline.

FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL CATEGORIES

The return filing process for this year began with ITR-1 (Sahaj) and ITR-4 (Sugam), which were notified on April 29, 2025. ITR-7, meant for charitable trusts, political parties and certain institutions, was notified in May, though its utility only became available on August 8. The other forms, including ITR-2, ITR-3, ITR-5 and ITR-6, followed later in phases through July and August. This staggered rollout left many taxpayers and professionals struggling with the

filings process. Among the changes, ITR-1 now allows salaried taxpayers to report capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh from listed shares or mutual funds, though it does not permit carrying forward of losses. ITR-2 and ITR-3 continue to cater to individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) with more complex income sources such as capital gains, foreign assets or business income. Companies, LLPs and other entities fall under ITR-5 and ITR-6.

CURRENT DEADLINES AND EXTENSIONS SO FAR

For this assessment year, the deadline for individuals and HUFs not subject to audit has already been pushed to September 15, 2025. Taxpayers who need to get their accounts audited have until October 31, while those with transfer pricing reports must file by November 30. The last date to file a belated or revised return remains December 31, 2025. CALLS FOR

ANOTHER EXTENSION

Despite the extra time already granted, industry bodies say more relief is needed. Many experts have urged the government to extend the non-audit filing deadline further to October 30. Their argument is that the late release of updated utilities, issues with Excel validation and the time required to adapt to revised schema restrictions have created unnecessary hurdles for taxpayers.

WILL CBDT AGREE?

So far, there has been no official word from the CBDT about another extension. However, pressure is building from tax professionals and trade bodies who argue that many small businesses and individuals are not ready to meet the current September 15 deadline. With barely three weeks left, all eyes are now on whether the government will bend to these demands or hold firm to the existing timeline.

50% US Tariffs Unlikely To Significantly Impact India's Growth: Analysts

New Delhi.(Agency)

As the August 27 deadline for US secondary tariffs of 25 per cent falls this week over Russian oil purchase, analysts and global reports say that a total of 50 per cent tariff is unlikely to significantly impact India's growth due to a robust domestic demand.

While labour-intensive textiles and gems and jewellery segment are expected to see a moderate impact, pharmaceuticals, smartphones and steel are currently relatively insulated because of exemptions, existing tariffs and strong domestic demand. According to S&P Global Ratings, the macroeconomic impact of the hike in tariffs would be cushioned by the large size of the India's domestic market. However, capital goods, chemicals, automobiles, and food and beverage exports would face the toughest adjustment, the report stated.



gained market share in the US at the expense of China, growing from 6 per cent to 9 per cent, while China's fell from 38 per cent to 25 per cent. The US relies on India and has established

supply-chain arrangements. (Also Read: Finance Your LIC Policy For 2 Years Via EPFO) According to market watchers, domestic-consumption segments like financials, telecom, aviation, hotels, cement and segments of capital goods are better placed to withstand the adverse headwinds.

India is the "best placed country in Asia," amid the global uncertainty triggered by US President Donald Trump's threat to jack up tariffs, because of the nation's low goods exports to GDP ratio, according to a latest Morgan Stanley report. "While India is exposed to direct tariff

risks, we believe on balance India is less exposed to global goods trade slowdown considering that it has the lowest goods exports to GDP ratio in the region," the report stated.

Things freelancers should keep in mind while filing I-T returns

Professionals earning consultancy or freelancing income are required to file ITR Form 3. Those opting for the presumptive taxation scheme under Section 44ADA must file ITR Form 4 (Sugam)

New Delhi.(Agency)

Consultants and freelancers face a slightly different set of rules while filing their income tax returns (ITR) compared to salaried employees. Here are some key points to ensure error-free and compliant filing.

Choosing the right ITR form

Professionals earning consultancy or freelancing income are required to file ITR Form 3. Those opting for the presumptive taxation scheme under Section 44ADA must file ITR Form 4 (Sugam). Under ITR 3, taxpayers must prepare a profit and loss account as well as a balance sheet. Filing an incorrect form

can render the return defective or invalid. ITR 4 cannot be used where income exceeds ₹50 lakh, losses are carried forward, foreign-sourced income is reported, or the taxpayer qualifies as a non-resident. In such cases, ITR 3 must be filed. For FY25, the deadline for filing ITR is 15 September 2025. If a tax audit under Section 44AB is applicable, the due date extends to 31 October 2025, with the audit report to be filed by 30 September 2025.

Presumptive taxation scheme

Section 44ADA allows notified professionals—such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, technical consultants, and interior designers—to declare 50% of gross receipts as taxable income. However, those with income above ₹75 lakh per annum cannot avail this benefit. No deductions against business expenses are permitted when opting for this scheme.

Tax regime considerations

Consultants have limited flexibility when switching tax regimes. Once the new regime is chosen, a switch back to the old regime is allowed only once in a lifetime. After reverting, opting for the new regime

again is not permitted. From FY24, the new regime has become the default, though taxpayers can opt out of it.



While tax slabs are the same as for salaried employees, freelancers cannot claim the standard deduction of ₹50,000. They may, however, claim deductions under Chapter VI-A (such as 80C, 80D, and 80E), but only under the old tax regime.

Maintaining records and documents

Freelancers should maintain proper records of receipts and payments, bank statements, asset and liability details, capital gains, and expenses. Form 26AS, which captures TDS, must be reconciled with actual income and bank entries. For example, if receipts show ₹10 lakh but Form 26AS reflects ₹8 lakh, the

discrepancy must be resolved to avoid rejection of returns and loss of refunds.

Reporting other income sources

Earnings from shares, securities, or virtual digital assets must be accurately disclosed. Non-disclosure or under-reporting could invite scrutiny and penalties.

Beware of Section 69 exposure

According to Gaurav Makhijani, senior tax advisor at Roedl & Partner, even under the presumptive scheme—where detailed books of accounts are not mandatory—freelancers remain exposed to Section 69 (unexplained investments). If investments or expenditures appear disproportionate to declared income and remain unexplained, the tax authorities may treat them as undisclosed income. Such income is taxable at a penal rate of 60% plus surcharge and cess under Section 115BBB, with no deductions or set-offs allowed. Makhijani further pointed out that disclosures in ITR-4—including high-value transactions reflected in AIS/26AS or assets reported in Schedule AL, where applicable—must align with presumptive income declared.

Daisy Shah

Says Ex-BF 'From The Industry' Got Upset After She Was Asked To Dance At Party

Daisy Shah has never been one to sugar-coat her truth, and now the actor is speaking candidly about her personal life — from walking away from toxic partners to her decision to freeze her eggs. In a chat with *Hauterfly*, the *Jai Ho* star admitted she has only been in two serious relationships, both of which tested her patience. One of her former partners, she revealed, even had issues with her working with male colleagues despite being in the same industry himself. "I put up with a lot of rubbish," Daisy said, adding that she tolerated more than she should have at the time because she didn't value herself enough. But in the end, she confirmed she was the one who ended both relationships when things turned unhealthy.

Daisy recounted a party incident where someone pulled her hand from behind to dance. "I was constantly questioned about where I was going, and who I was working with. The irony is, he was from the same industry. At a party once, someone pulled my hand to dance, and he got upset. But when the same thing happened to him, he expected me to be understanding."

No hurry for marriage: Daisy Shah

The 39-year-old made it clear that marriage is not on her agenda. She explained that observing relationships around her has only reinforced her belief that many men still struggle to accept strong, independent women. For now, she is in no rush to tie the knot.

Choosing on her own terms

While motherhood isn't something she is considering right now, Daisy revealed she has already taken the step of freezing her eggs. The decision came after a close friend suggested it as an option — something she now sees as taking control of her own timeline.

Daisy Shah's Work Front

The actress kicked off her career as an assistant

choreographer for Ganesh Acharya. Daisy Shah then made her acting debut as a lead with the 2011 Kannada film *Bhadra*. But her big break came from the 2014 Bollywood film *Jai Ho*, headlined by Salman Khan. The Sohail Khan directorial failed to impress viewers and tanked at the box office. She was last seen in the 2023 film *Mystery of the Tattoo* and the web series *Red Room*, which premiered on the Hungama OTT platform in October 2024.



Janhvi Kapoor

Sidharth Malhotra Visit Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar Temple Ahead Of Param Sundari Release

Bollywood stars Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra are gearing up for the release of their film 'Param Sundari'. With just a few days to go for the film's release, the actors have been promoting the film in full swing. Amid the promotions, they visited the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain to offer prayers. Photos and videos of the Param Sundari actors from their visit to Mahakaleshwar Temple have surfaced on social media. A video shared by IANS shows Janhvi in a traditional orange saree, sitting on the temple floor to offer her prayers. Sidharth, beside her, is dressed simply in an off-white kurta and pyjama, participating in the prayer ceremony. Post-prayers, the actors interacted with the temple committee members. Check out the video below!

Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra have been visiting different cities, including Delhi and Lucknow, to promote *Param Sundari*. On Friday, the duo visited Delhi, where they sought blessings at the historic Gurdwara Bangla Sahib. Pictures from their spiritual visit were shared on the official page of Maddock Films, capturing the actors deeply engrossed in prayer for the film's success. Meanwhile, during their visit to Lucknow, they were seen relishing chaat at the city's famed Royal Café. Meanwhile, Janhvi recently spoke about her character in *Param Sundari*. "I am not Malayali, nor was my mother. But my character is half Tamilian and half Malayali, in the movie," she said.

"I myself, more than as an actor, but as a member of the audience, was dying to do a rom-com — a light, feel-good romantic movie where you have a smile on your face," Janhvi said while expressing her long-standing desire to watch the romantic comedies back on the screen. Now when she is a part of a rom-com she said "Finally, I've done the kind of story that takes me back to my roots."

About Param Sundari

Tushar Jalota, best known for his work on *Dasvi*,



returns to direct *Param Sundari*, a lovely cross-cultural romance. The film follows the lives of a North Indian boy and a South Indian girl, delving into the enchantment and difficulties that develop when two opposing worlds collide. *Param Sundari*, which stars Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor, combines modern love with Maddock Films' signature charm and visual flair. It is set to release on August 29.

Govinda, Sunita Ahuja's Daughter Tina BREAKS Silence On Parents' Divorce Rumours: 'Kya Bolun Main?'



Govinda and Sunita Ahuja are once again making headlines for their divorce rumours. While the couple has yet to make an official statement, the actor's manager has dismissed the speculations, calling them rumours. And now, we finally have a reaction from within the family. Govinda and Sunita's daughter Tina Ahuja, too, has thrashed her parents' divorce rumours and claimed that they are very much together. In conversation with *Hindustan Times*, Tina Ahuja dismissed ongoing speculations about her parents, Govinda and Sunita Ahuja, calling reports of their divorce baseless. Responding to the rumours, she said, "It's all rumours." When asked how she reacts to such stories resurfacing online, Tina added, "I don't pay attention to these rumours."

On being questioned about how her parents handle the constant chatter, she replied, "Kya bolun main? He is not even in the country." Expressing gratitude, Tina further shared, "I feel blessed to have a beautiful family and I am really grateful for all the concern, love, and support we have been receiving from the media, fans, and loved ones."

Sunita Ahuja addresses divorce during her YouTube vlog

In her recent vlog, Sunita Ahuja was seen addressing her divorce rumours with Govinda. She visited a temple where, while speaking to the priest, she said that she has been visiting Mahalaxmi Mandir since her childhood. She was seen breaking down in tears, while stating, "When I met Govinda, I prayed to the Goddess that I should get married to him and have a good life. The Goddess fulfilled all my wishes — she even blessed me with two children. But not every truth in life is easy; there are always ups and downs. Still, I have so much faith in the Goddess that whatever I am witnessing today, I know that whoever tries to break my home, Maa Kaali is there."

All you need to know about Govinda, Sunita Ahuja's divorce rumours

According to documents cited by *Hauterfly*, Sunita Ahuja filed for divorce in the Bandra Family Court on December 5, 2024, under Section 13 (1) (I), (ia), (ib) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, citing adultery, cruelty, and desertion as grounds.

Shraddha Kapoor Says LinkedIn Mistook Her Verified Account For Fake: 'No One Can See It'



Shraddha Kapoor, who is also an entrepreneur alongside being an actor, recently shared her frustration on social media after running into unexpected trouble with her LinkedIn account. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Shraddha revealed that despite creating a premium and verified account, LinkedIn had flagged it as fake, preventing her from using it. Addressing the platform directly, Shraddha Kapoor wrote, "Dear LinkedIn, I'm not being able to use my own account because LinkedIn thinks it's fake. Can someone please help me? Account is made and ready and premium and verified but no one can see it."

The actor, who has expressed interest in documenting her entrepreneurial journey, added humour to the situation, quipping that "getting an account going has itself become a journey." Here is her post:

Shraddha Kapoor's Aashiqui 2 director Mohit Suri called her stardom 'insane'

Speaking to Siddharth Kannan in a recent interview, Mohit Suri didn't mince words as he clapped back at Shraddha Kapoor and Aditya Roy Kapur's *Aashiqui 2* comparisons with Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor's *Brahmastra*. "I think Shraddha has seen some level of stardom."

I don't know what does that mean but Shraddha's stardom is insane. Even till today if she goes somewhere, people start shouting Aarohi (her character's name from *Aashiqui 2*), and it doesn't matter how many films she does," Suri remarked. He further added, "I don't pretend to say that I know what it takes to become a star but I know what is right for my film and I do that."

What's on Shraddha Kapoor's work front?

Shraddha Kapoor was recently spotted outside Maddock Films' office in Mumbai, sparking speculation among fans about her next project. Buzz suggests that the actress was there for a creative discussion with producer Dinesh Vijan, hinting at an exciting collaboration on the horizon. Reports indicate that the upcoming film may be adapted from a popular Marathi novel and will feature Shraddha in a culturally rich and rooted character. Kapoor was last seen in *Street 2* (2024), the horror-comedy directed by Amar Kaushik. Starring alongside Rajkummar Rao, Abhishek Banerjee, Aparshakti Khurana, and Pankaj Tripathi, the actress witnessed yet another box office triumph as the film emerged as a massive hit.



Technology these days are connected to every field somewhere. So one has to be tech savvy, but the biggest challenge of maintaining strong technically itself. You can only get success in job when you're technically strong. Regularly inhaas keep the technical skills required. Technically personal development is also being developed, so how to create technically advance themselves...

Develop the Reading Habit

To continuously develop your technical skills as the great way to put Habit of reading technical books. Well read

technical books whose content is quite rich. This can take the help of internet. Available online today everything is so much that can be learned at home. Technical Magins subscribe. It will also benefit.

TechOnline Adwaij

Social media resides on a virtual world. If you are on social networking sites, Related Experienced and expert in your field looking people can contact them. Problems Related to the technical field and get him on the field to discuss about new Challenges will also find quite

Information. Online tutorials are also given these days, where experts will answer to your Kwashchans.

Technical Friends

The study period than those in jobs or try to friendship, who are tech savvy. Kligs that will be in contact with you or friends, then the negotiated terms are also quite a few technical things or will know.

Each round man himself and have tried to differentiate their home. The Human Nature after some time due to the new concept of interior designing - New Challenges keep coming. See also the time where people are in their homes Poyrity to pop stylist tiles. Recognizing the demand for new tiles Manufacturer Companies - bringing to market new designer tiles. Given the market situation of people's thinking and can easily say, tile designing today is a popular career, the scope will remain constant.

Idea of the game

The idea is based on the concept of designing. Something like designing with tiles. Most people's choice - are separated from each other. Keeping this in mind, a designer has to completing your design. The tiles then the situation is even more typical, because it matters plainly Choice connected with us and is a status symbol. A good tile designer has to keep this fact in mind. New patterns should be Atraktiv her designs, as well as the needs of Sobrnes always has to be maintained.

Salary

After tile designing course work with a trainee by a Reputed firm could earn 15 to 20 thousand rupees every month. Experience in this field - with growing leaves you with a salary.

Skills

Creativity is the most important for this field. Students who want to get into this sector, the colors, designs, patterns, Photoshop, Corel Draw should have knowledge of. Better quality tile designer to understand the customer's feedback is extremely important. Use of social networking sites also should come to him.

Challenging jobs

Tile design is challenging jobs. You have to constantly work on new Concepts.

Upgrade Your Technical Skills



Attend Seminars

Seminars to promote new technologies by companies to tell people about technology. Newspaper of such Information Seminars will get you. Whatever your town or around the event so be sure to share it. New Information will then, as well as skills will also be developed.

Make Online Profile

Competitio in the round, you have to own your marketing. Appears, it sells, it always remember. Make your online profiles to promote themselves. Provide details about their technical work in which you handled the project. Related many people in your own field - B - itself will be added to

you. Also, you can Arnig online via your blog.

Feel Kanfrtebl With Technology

Confidence comes from having Comptient. Technically sound you are, what front you have any technical problem, it will be handled with confidence. Easy to Agiaparl portable MP3 player via the audio book will acquire Uglful Information. Digital cameras in the house would not mind having you take the picture. The technical experience you have, the more you'll Friendly Technology. If Khinpice, it will not take long to come forward. Google, search websites such as Wikipedia and Vikihau Information Today everyone can gain the favor. If the benefit is to keep yourself updated, so why not make it good.

Expert Opinion

People who keep their technical skills develop, the time of their jobs better than others Pformes persists. The Benefit Life, a little belated, but are guaranteed. To develop technical skills or professionals, students first have to be friendly technology. More and more technology to interact with it.

Work is in Uniknes

1. To be different

We do all the work. Has its own mission and its plans under the same, but always in mind that you are going to, it is not the routine type. If your work will be modest, if not the world will love. It always has done, everyone saw that whatever is good and varied, the people's uprising. I am connected to the world of music, so that is what I try to do the work, do different and tuneful, then the world will like. In each round you will see it. Every year thousands get to hear the song, but the lyrics are few long-term memory.

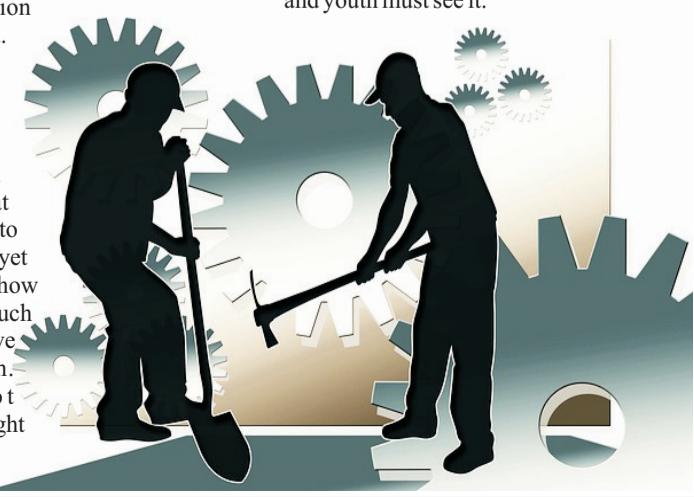
2. Good thinking

If you think well, you can easily take the decision. Your task is daunting and often times easier to roll big is your thinking at this time. Right thinking and planning to work immediately comes to mind is easy. The time is too short. Your thinking will be good, then you will begin to do something without any delay. Thinking is good, then the mind starts to work and also get success. Confusion always stops you.

It takes him to work and live in doubt.

3. Goals

We are still studying or that many people go to find a partner, yet studies which show that is going on. Such people always live with skepticism. They are not moving in the right direction for the future.



Spark Your Imagination Tile

Designing

Every Day Is Different

Tile Designer is Different From day every day. Some days are passing a new concept that has come before. The final design before she shows her expert. Does it change depending on their Adwaij.

Entry in Field

After completing senior secondary courses related to it can. Fine graduated from Orts,



ceramic engineering, textile engineering courses can also be used.

Men Institutes

- Orts College, Delhi
- National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad
- Mr. JJ Ort School, Mumbai
- National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi

