

Op Sindoor, Trump tariffs: A year into Modi 3.0, find out the Mood of the Nation

>Is PM Modi still the unparalleled choice of the nation if elections are held today, or has the opposition gained ground? All these questions and more will be answered this evening as we present the findings of the India Today Group's Mood of the Nation (MOTN) survey.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Narendra Modi-led NDA government is 14 months into its third term -- a turbulent period that saw India clash with Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack and its ties with the US hitting a rough patch amid Trump's

tariffs. Is the Prime Minister still the unparalleled choice of the nation if elections are held today, or has the opposition gained ground? These questions, as well as several others about PM Modi's performance as well as his foreign policy outlook, will be answered in the India Today Group's bi-annual Mood of the Nation (MOTN) survey. The findings of the MOTN survey, India's leading opinion poll that has always given an accurate picture of the views of citizens on the most pressing topics of the day, will be released on Thursday (August 28) from 7 pm. The Mod of the Nation findings that will be released on Thursday will reveal India's mood on the overall national picture, PM Modi's performance, the opposition's impact, and the steep tariffs imposed by Donald Trump. Stay tuned to India Today Live TV to get the findings in real-time. Another segment, which will air on August 29 from 8-10

pm on , will give a picture of what India felt about Operation Sindoor, PM Modi's foreign policy amid a geopolitical churn, and the impact of



the special intensive revision (SIR) in Bihar. The India Today Magazine issue that comes out this weekend will provide a deep analysis of the country's mood. So make sure to subscribe and get your physical or digital copy for sharp takes from the survey.

WHAT INDIA FEELS ON PM'S

PERFORMANCE, OPSINDOOR
At the centre of the biannual survey will be PM Modi's personal performance. Now, in his 11th year as Prime Minister, Modi has so far shown the ability to withstand setbacks and come out from difficult situations unscathed. However, his third term has started on a rather challenging note. After the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 25 tourists dead, India launched its biggest counter-terror operation, Sindoor, deep inside Pakistan, destroying key terror camps. It fuelled three days of hostilities, which eventually ended in a cessation of hostilities after Pakistan dialled India as the Indian armed forces targeted 11 vital military bases. The development gave PM Modi's 'ghar mein ghuske marenge' image a big boost. **TRUMPTARIFFS A CHALLENGE**
However, not all has gone well on the Western front. Apart from a hostile neighbour, PM Modi has also had to deal with a hostile Trump and his tariffs.

Assam Government Approves SOP For Inter Religious Land Transfer

Agency Dispur.
The Assam government on Wednesday approved a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for inter-religious land transfer in the state. Briefing over the decision Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that "all such transfers will come to the government". "In a sensitive state like Assam, land transfer needs to be carefully handed over. All such transfers will come to the government and we will scrutinise all the transfers. We will look at the source of funds of the person who is buying, whether that land sale will affect the social fabrics of that locality, whether any national security threat is involved in certain cases, accordingly the District Commissioner will take the final decision" Mr Sarma said. "The designated Nodal Officer within that Department would then transmit it to the Special Branch of the Assam Police. The Special Branch of the Assam Police will examine the proposal to identify any elements of fraud, coercion, or illegality, verify the source of funds used for the purchase, assess potential implications for social cohesion, and safeguard national security. Thereafter, the proposal would be returned to the government, with the District Commissioner taking the final decision," he added. This decision is seen as yet another bold step by Assam government to check transfer of land from indigenous communities to illegal settlers. NGOs outside Assam sought land to establish insitutions, we will examine similar land sale prospects for national security purpose, no such procedure for local NGOs" the chief minister added.

Delhi plans 170-crore hub-and-spoke overhaul to modernise 15 ITIs with AI

The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma
New Delhi, 28 August 2025: The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi yesterday announced a 170-crore programme to transform fifteen Government Industrial Training Institutes into technology-rich Centres of Excellence, aligned with the Union Government's 60,000 crore National Scheme for ITI Upgradation. The announcement was made by Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa during the Regional Conference of Skill Ministers hosted by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in Chandigarh. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for 'Skill, Scale, Speed and Samman' is our guiding compass. Delhi's upgraded ITIs will equip our youth with 21st-

century competencies so that they graduate as job-creators, not just job-seekers. Under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's effective guidance, we are marrying world-class infrastructure with same-day approvals and digital transparency," Shri Sirsa said. The Minister informed that the Department of Training and Technical Education (DTTE) headed by the Hon'ble minister Higher Education, Training & Technical Education, Ashish Sood, will act as the nodal agency for implementation. He also noted, "Previous governments deliberately delayed central government's welfare schemes, due to which the people of Delhi threw them out of power and trusted the Modi Model of Governance." "By integrating EV, AI, Robotics and Green Energy modules into ITI curriculum, we are creating the launchpad for our youth to



make Delhi and Bharat future-ready," he added. **Hub-and-Spoke Architecture**

- ITI Pusa (Central Delhi), ITI Shahdara (East Delhi) and ITI Mangolpuri (North-West Delhi) will serve as hub institutes, each guiding up to four spoke ITIs on infrastructure, faculty development and industry linkages.
- Special Purpose Vehicles will pool contributions from the Centre, GNCTD and anchor-

industry partners, ensuring transparent, milestone-based fund release.

- Smart classrooms, simulation labs and blended-learning content will be introduced alongside mandatory internships and apprenticeship-enabled diploma pathways.

Alongside ITI transformation, Delhi is building an ecosystem of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) at ITIs in Dheerpur, Mayapuri, and Pusa, where students are being trained in Industrial Automation, Robotics and Advanced Welding. Under PM Vishwakarma Yojana, over 1,300 artisans have already received verified training across Delhi ITIs, while outreach programmes like Jan Shiksha Sansthan in Jahangirpuri have benefited 1,000+ women at the doorstep level.

Continued news page 2

"Won't Let Anyone Take Away People's Voting Rights": Mamata Banerjee

Agency Kolkata.
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said she would not let anyone take away people's voting rights, alleging that the BJP was unleashing "linguistic terror" on Bengalis. Addressing a rally of the TMC's students' wing in Kolkata, Ms Banerjee claimed that the BJP has deployed over 500 teams from across the country in West Bengal to conduct surveys aimed at deleting names of voters from the electoral rolls. "You must yourself check whether your names are still there or have been struck off from the voters' list... You must ensure you have Aadhar cards," she told the rally. "I will not let anyone take away people's voting rights till I am alive," she added. Ms Banerjee alleged that the Election Commission was intimidating state government officers. "The EC is threatening our officers. Its jurisdiction is only for the three months during elections, not throughout the year," she claimed. Ms Banerjee alleged that the BJP was trying to make people forget the role played by Bengalis during the freedom movement. "If there is no Bengali language, then in which language are the national anthem and national song written? They want people to forget the

historical role played by Bengalis in the freedom movement. We will not tolerate this linguistic terror," she said. "Their predecessors were agents of the British who gave undertakings to get out of jails," she claimed. Ms Banerjee claimed that while her



administration has undertaken several social welfare initiatives, the BJP government at the Centre indulged in corruption in the name of development. "We have brought the 'Lakshmir Bhandar' scheme for women, while the BJP has 'corruption bhandar' and nepotism. They are looting the nation, while we are empowering women," she alleged. She also hit out at the CPI(M)-led Left, accusing it of "joining hands" with the BJP to take on her.

"India Will Move Forward With Swadeshi": Shivraj Singh Chouhan On US Tariffs

Shivraj Singh Chouhan said India is brimming with confidence and will be at the forefront in the world on the strength of its 144 crore people.

Bhopal. (Agency)
Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has raised the pitch for swadeshi goods on a day the additional tariffs imposed by the US on Indian merchandise came into force. "Whatever may be the circumstances, we will take our country forward", he told reporters after consecrating an idol of Lord Ganesh at his residence in Bhopal. The reciprocal tariffs of 25 per cent on India came into effect on August 7 following an announcement by US President Donald Trump, when tariffs on about 70 other nations also kicked in. On the same day, Trump announced doubling the tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent for India's purchases of Russian crude oil. The additional tariffs came into effect on Wednesday. "We should adopt swadeshi goods. Buy things of daily life which are manufactured in our country, which have the fragrance of our soil and sweat of the poor - the very essence of India", Mr Chouhan added. He said India is brimming with confidence and will be at the forefront in the world on the strength of its 144 crore people. "Our food reserves are full. We have the capability to feed not only our people but also the world if needed. Powered by the capacity of our scientists, farmers, entrepreneurs, businessmen, and youth, we will take our country forward irrespective of circumstances," Mr Chouhan added.



The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 28 August 2025
Immersed in memories of her student life and the struggles of university politics, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta visited Daulat Ram College this morning. With deep emotion, she interacted with the students and warmly greeted members of the old faculty. The Chief Minister said this moment had reopened a page from her past that had shaped both her personality and her career. Yesterday , the Chief Minister flagged off the University Special (U-Special)

buses at the Sports Complex of Delhi University's North Campus. She spent a considerable amount of time there. The Chief Minister suddenly boarded a U-Special bus and instructed her staff, "Let's go to Daulat Ram College." The Chief Minister had studied at this very college. This visit, notably, was not part of her official schedule. When the surprised staff and officials learned that Ma'am wished to visit her alma mater, Daulat Ram College, they began to smile. Music started playing on the bus, students began singing, and the Chief Minister joined in, humming along. Meanwhile, the news of her arrival quickly reached the college. Excited students gathered at the gates



to welcome their former fellow student, now the Chief Minister of Delhi. As soon as she alighted, she was surrounded by students. Engaging with them informally, she said with a smile, "Think of me as your elder sister, here

DK Shivakumar's 'Not Exclusive To Hindus' Remark Gets Royal Condemnation

>The statement was made earlier this week in response to opposition criticism over the government's decision to invite Booker Prize-winning writer Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the 2025 Mysuru Dasara celebrations.

Agency Bengaluru.
Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has found himself at the centre of a controversy after his remark that Chamundi Hill, home to the famous Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru, "is not the exclusive property of Hindus." he statement, made earlier this week in response to opposition criticism over the government's decision to invite Booker Prize-winning writer Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the 2025 Mysuru Dasara celebrations, has provoked condemnation from the Mysuru royal family and a barrage of attacks from the BJP. **The Royal Response**
Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, widow of the Maharaja Sri Kantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family, issued a statement describing Mr



Shivakumar's comments as "insensitive" and "unnecessary." "I write this with deep dismay over the way this year's Dasara celebrations proposed to be conducted by the Government of Karnataka have unfolded, especially with politics finding its way around the sacred Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills," she said. Her son, Yaduveer

Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, a BJP MP, called the Deputy Chief Minister's words "a painful and ridiculous statement" that "hurts the sentiments of Hindus." "Yes, everyone can enter the temple, but just because everyone is allowed, you cannot impose the boundaries of the modern constitution's secularism on it. Chamundi Hill belongs to Hindus and it is the property of Hindus. There is no doubt about it. The Deputy Chief Minister's statement cannot change things," he said. **DK Shivakumar Defends Statement**
Mr Shivakumar lashed back on Thursday after criticism. "You see, people don't tolerate when I speak some facts, be it Pramoda Devi (member of the Mysuru royal family), Yaduveer Krishnadatta Wadiyar or inside the Assembly," he said.

Gurgaon records 2nd 'good' air day in a row; AQI at 35

Gurgaon. (Agency)

For the second straight day on Wednesday, the city breathed 'good' air, with the air quality index (AQI) staying low at 35. It was recorded at a rare 30, the first 'good' air quality day in nearly a year, on Tuesday. The low readings this week, however, come with a caveat — they are based on data from Gwalpahari only, one of the city's four continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations. The other three — located in Sector 51, Vikas Sadan, and Teri Gram — have been non-operational for months because the state pollution board is yet to appoint an agency to manage them.

Experts say these brief spells of clean air highlight the need for consistent, year-round pollution mitigation efforts.



"The recent good air quality days in Gurgaon need to be seen with some caution, as only one of the city's four monitoring stations is currently operational. With limited data, AQI may not fully capture conditions across

the city and could reflect cleaner pockets rather than overall air quality. However, the improvement can, to some extent, also be attributed to the recent rainfall," said Manoj Kumar, an analyst at Centre for

Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). On Wednesday, 33mm of rainfall and winds up to 10kmph were responsible for dispersing some pollutants, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"Think of the recent rains as a temporary curtain drawn over a stage where the set is still broken. The fundamental systems of transport, waste, and industry continue to produce high levels of pollution. Once the winter stillness sets in and the curtain of rainfall lifts, we will be left staring at the same dangerous reality. We must use this intermission to fundamentally change the production—not just the presentation—of our air quality through decisive, coordinated action," said Sunil Dahiya,

founder and lead analyst at Envirocatalysts.

In Gurgaon, where AQI typically stays in the 'moderate' to 'poor' range and spikes to 'severe' levels during winter, data shows that in 2023, the city did not record a single 'good' air day. The last time that the city's AQI was 'good' was on Aug 27 in 2024, when it was clocked at 35. Moreover, the last time AQI was below 30 in the city was nearly three years ago — on Oct 10, 2022, when it was 29.

Meanwhile, a 2021 study by Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago estimated that Gurgaon residents lose 9.9 years of life expectancy due to prolonged exposure to toxic air, with Haryana ranking fourth nationally in pollution-related life expectancy loss at 8.4 years.

Delhi plans 170-crore hub-and-spoke overhaul to modernise 15 ITIs with AI

Delhi's Model Career Centre at Pusa has registered more than 7,000 youth, with 2,122 already placed through partnerships with companies such as PVR, JBM, Tata Electronics, Lemon Tree Hotels and L&T Constructions. Reiterating the government's commitment, Sirsa said: "Delhi's Skill Roadmap 2.0 is designed as an open-source blueprint. Any state can copy, customise, and empower its youth. From integrating skill credits in school curricula to setting up incubation and seed-fund cells in every hub ITI — Delhi is demonstrating that skill development is the real turbo-charger of Viksit Bharat @2047."

CM Rekha Gupta Revisits Daulat Ram College

Reflecting on her journey, the Chief Minister recalled how a daughter from a modest family had entered the college with no idea that her path would one day lead to the Delhi Secretariat and the office of the Chief Minister. "This journey is proof that with hard work, struggle, and self-confidence, any goal can be achieved," she said. Encouraging the students, she added: "You are fortunate to be part of such a prestigious institution as Delhi University. 'The sky is the limit' think high, aim high, never stop, never give up, and never lose hope. You never know which destination life is preparing for you."

Uneven showers Gurgaon records 33mm rain, Farrukhnagar leads with 59mm

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The city received an average of 33mm of rainfall in 24 hours until 5pm on Wednesday, with sharp variations across different tehsils. According to the district administration's rainfall report, Farrukhnagar recorded the highest rainfall at 59mm, followed by Manesar with 55mm. Wazirabad received 34mm, while Kadipur and Harsaru logged 3mm each. The main city area recorded 27mm. Sohna saw lighter showers at 17mm, and Badshapur reported the lowest in the district with just 10mm. No major waterlogging and traffic congestion were witnessed in the city as the rain stopped was continuous but not heavy. It stopped completely around 1pm.

Gurgaon's minimum temperature on Wednesday was 25.6 degrees Celsius, which was 0.8 degrees lower than the previous day. The maximum temperature was 28.8 degrees Celsius, which was 0.4 degrees lower than Tuesday's. Officials said such uneven distribution of rain is typical during this phase of the monsoon. "The showers have brought some relief from the heat, and more light to moderate rainfall is likely over the next two days," said an official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Light to moderate rain is likely at a few places in Haryana on Aug 28, while heavy rain is likely at isolated places on Aug 29 to Sept 2. A yellow alert for heavy rain is in effect until Sept 2. The spell is also expected to help improve air quality and ease dust levels across the city. Dr Vishwas Chitale, CEEW, said, "In recent years, Delhi has been experiencing highly erratic rainfall patterns, as we are witnessing once again this season. Last year, after enduring months of severe heat waves, the city received more than half of its June rainfall on the very first day of the monsoon onset. Furthermore, from June to now, the city has already experienced 38% excess rainfall compared to the normal as per the IMD.

From homes to streets: Govt to kick off 11-week safai marathon in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A mega cleanliness drive will be held on Sept 7 under the ongoing Haryana Shahri Swachhta Abhiyan. The campaign will be conducted for 11 weeks across the city till Nov 7. Chairing a meeting at the mini-secretariat on Wednesday, deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar said the initiative is not limited to improving sanitation systems but also aims at

spreading awareness and making cleanliness a part of citizens' daily behaviour. The mega drive will see participation from CM Nayab Singh Saini, multiple govt departments, voluntary organisations, school and college students, social groups, and residents. Besides cleaning city roads, markets, public spaces, and residential areas, people will also be administered

the pledge of 'Swachhta Meri Zimmedari'. "The govt has been taking concrete steps to build a clean and healthy Haryana. The objective of this drive is not only to strengthen solid waste management but also to take the message of cleanliness to every household, every neighbourhood, and every citizen," Kumar said. The DC also had a meeting with representatives of RWAs,

NGOs, and social organisations. He said partnerships between the administration and civil society are crucial to turning the campaign into a mass movement. Suggestions from NGOs have also been invited to bring improvements to the city's sanitation system. The DC emphasised that the success of the drive depends on coordination between govt departments and public

participation. "Visible change must be seen in the coming weeks. All officers should start the campaign from their own offices and extend it across the city to make the city cleaner and healthier. The administration believes that with collective efforts and active public participation, Gurgaon can emerge as a model not only for the state but for the entire country," he added.

Gurgaon ASI loses Rs1.4 lakh to cyber fraudsters

Gurgaon. (Agency)

An ASI lost Rs 1.4 lakh to cyber fraudsters after his account was hacked.

ASI Shakti Singh, who lives in police lines, said in his complaint that he was on duty on Aug 19 when he received multiple deduction messages from the bank. "I was at my workplace when I started receiving the messages on my mobile phone about withdrawals from my HDFC bank account. Before I could understand the situation, a total of Rs 1,43,433 was withdrawn from my account by an unknown person," ASI said in his complaint. He immediately notified the cyber police helpline, and a cheating case was registered at the Cyber West Police Station. Police have yet to trace the accused. In another case, cyber fraudsters cheated the daughter of a cop residing in the Bhondsi police lines of Rs 2.2 lakh.

Nuh cops step up heat on cyber cons: 147 FIRs, 204 arrests in 4 months

Gurgaon. (Agency)

In a crackdown against online fraudsters, the Nuh cybercrime unit has intensified its operations, registering 147 FIRs and arresting 204 cyber fraudsters over the last four months. Acting under the directives of SP Rajesh Kumar, the team nabbed 10 more accused on Tuesday, in connection with eight separate cases, recovering crucial evidence related to online fraud.

A police spokesperson stated that between May and August 24, the unit not only made arrests but also refunded nearly Rs 11 lakh to victims of digital fraud. Those arrested on Tuesday include Ansar, Janshed (alias Jamma), Rashid, Javed, Abid, Mohammad Nasir, Sahil, Arman, Mohammad Shakir and Mausim. During the raids, cops seized mobile phones, fake SIM cards, debit cards, and vehicles used in fraudulent operations. Following their arrest, the accused were produced in court and were sent to 14-day judicial custody. Cops are currently analysing technical evidence, such as CDRs, IPDRs, and banks. In recent years, Nuh has reported several cases of cyber fraud with gangs operating sophisticated scams ranging from KYC scams, phishing calls, and fake job or investment offers to lottery.

5 shooters held for Fazilpuria plot, property dealer's murder

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Five shooters linked to firing at rapper Rahul Fazilpuria's car and the murder of his friend and property dealer Rohit Shaheen were arrested in a joint operation by STF and crime branch teams early on Wednesday in the city.

Cops received a tip-off that members of the gangs led by Deepak Nandal and Sunil Sardhanian were in the city, plotting a strike at the rapper again. Acting on the intelligence, the police set up a trap in Wazirpur along Gurgaon-Pataudi Road to nab Shubham alias Kala, Ashish alias Ashu, Vinod alias Pehlwan, Padam alias Raja and Gautam alias Gogi, who were travelling in an Innova.

When cops attempted to intercept the Innova, which didn't have a number plate around 12.15am, gangsters opened fire at the police team. In the retaliatory firing by cops,



four of the criminals were shot in the legs, while one was caught on the spot. A total of 18 rounds were fired, 11 by the gangsters and seven by police, an officer said. Gautam was arrested immediately, while the four others will be taken into custody once they are discharged from the hospital. Police spokesperson ASI Sandeep Kumar said, "On Aug 26, inspector Anand Kumar — the in-charge of crime branch unit in Sector 31 — received specific information about the movement of criminals. Inspector Kumar informed inspector Narendra Kumar of

crime branch's Sector 43 unit and SI Lalit Kumar of Manesar unit. "Police teams spotted the Innova speeding from Wazirpur towards Pataudi Road. Though they asked the car occupants to stop, they sped away, leading to a high-speed chase. Criminals then fired at the police cars, and after being surrounded, they attempted to flee on foot, abandoning the SUV. " Police said inspector Anand Kumar and SI Lalit survived the attack as they had bulletproof jackets. Despite warnings and aerial shots by cops, the criminals continued firing, prompting retaliatory action by cops. Four criminals were shot in their legs," ASI Kumar said. Cops recovered a cache of weapons from the gang, including two foreign-made firearms, three country-made pistols, 18 empty cartridges, six live cartridges and the car. Criminal records of the suspects, police said, revealed a history of serious

Nuh cops step up heat on cyber cons: 147 FIRs, 204 arrests in 4 months

Gurgaon. (Agency)

In a crackdown against online fraudsters, the Nuh cybercrime unit has intensified its operations, registering 147 FIRs and arresting 204 cyber fraudsters over the last four months. Acting under the directives of SP Rajesh Kumar, the team nabbed 10 more accused on Tuesday, in connection with eight separate cases, recovering crucial evidence related to online fraud.

A police spokesperson stated that between May and August 24, the unit not only made arrests but also refunded nearly Rs 11 lakh to victims of digital fraud. Those arrested on Tuesday include Ansar, Janshed (alias Jamma), Rashid, Javed, Abid, Mohammad Nasir, Sahil, Arman, Mohammad Shakir and Mausim. During the raids, cops seized mobile phones, fake SIM cards, debit cards, and vehicles used in fraudulent operations. Following their arrest, the accused were produced in court and were sent to 14-day judicial custody. Cops are currently analysing technical evidence, such as CDRs, IPDRs, and banks. In recent years, Nuh has reported several cases of cyber fraud with gangs operating sophisticated scams ranging from KYC scams, phishing calls, and fake job or investment offers to lottery.

Brahmaputra makeover gives Noida a market revamp template



Noida. (Agency)

From cobbled seating areas, symmetrical shops with signage, organised food hubs, decorative lights, planters, fountains, benches and granite flooring to improved pedestrian spaces, the commercial markets of three residential sectors — including 29, 37 and 110 — are undergoing a facelift.

The first among these, which was completed in Feb 2024, is Brahmaputra Market in Sector 29, popularly called BP Market. The other two markets — Godavari Shopping Complex in Sector 37 and the Sector 110 market — are also expected to be completed soon, possibly Dec. With over 40 to 80 shops offering daily essentials, medical supplies, salons, as well as footwear, accessories, electronics, food hubs and restaurants, these markets cater to a daily footfall of over 1,000 to 2,000 visitors, with numbers rising over the weekends.

made matters worse. With online orders, bike delivery boys were creating mayhem, leading to heavy vehicular congestion. "Residents would often complain about encroachments, unsafe cooking conditions and poor sanitation before Noida Authority took over the work of redevelopment of the market in July 2023 and work was completed around Feb 2024 at a cost of Rs 2 crore. Noida Authority deputy general manager (civil) Vijay Rawal told TOI, "Major works included building.

Realtor to mortgage mall to clear Rs 315 crore dues for registry of over 2,000 flats

Noida. (Agency)

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has granted in-principle approval to a proposal from Gaursons Group to mortgage a portion of its Gaur City Mall in Greater Noida West as security against additional farmer compensation dues. This move will allow for the execution of nearly 2,100 long-pending sub-lease deeds in three of the developer's housing projects, bringing relief for residents who have possession of their flats but have been unable to secure legal ownership. Without sub-lease deeds, residents remain in legal limbo despite having paid for and taken possession of their flats in these three projects.

In the case of Gaursons Promoters' plot in Sector 16C, in Gaur City 2, out of 11,354 sanctioned units whose completion was obtained, sub-leases were executed for only 9,655 units, leaving 1,699 pending. In the Gaursons Realty project in Tech Zone-IV, Gaur Saundaryam, 2,068 units were sanctioned and completed, with 1,881 sub-leases executed and 187 still pending. For Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure's project in Sector 4, Gaur City 1, 11,742 units were sanctioned, of which 7,412 are complete and 7,209 have been registered, while 203 sub-leases remain pending.

In July this year, the GNIDA board gave its in-principle nod to the proposal after reviewing the affidavit and supporting documents. However, additional CEO Saumya Srivastava further clarified that before any sub-leases are executed, an independent valuation of the mall property will be carried out to confirm that its security value is adequate to cover the disputed dues. Once the mortgage is formally created, the registries will be allowed to proceed. Independent valuation exercise will be conducted in the coming weeks, after which GNIDA is expected to clear the way for registration of around 2,100 flats across the three projects.

For many homebuyers who have waited years, this could finally deliver the ownership documents that have remained out of reach. The approval follows Allahabad High Court directions and an application by Gaursons.

Hi-Tech Infrastructure, which built the mall, in July, through which the company sought GNIDA's permission to mortgage up to the fifth floor of Gaur City Mall to cover outstanding liabilities arising from additional farmer compensation. This issue has been the subject of litigation between GNIDA and several Gaursons entities before the Allahabad High Court.

The cases pertaining to farmer compensations date as far back as 2018. GNIDA raised farmers' compensation demands totalling Rs 315 crore against three Gaursons companies: Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure (Rs 186 crore), Gaursons Promoters (Rs 110 crore), and Gaursons Realty (Rs 19 crore). These demands were challenged through separate writ petitions filed in the High Court. In Sept 2024, the court passed interim orders in two of the petitions filed that year, pertaining to Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure and Gaursons Promoters, directing the companies to deposit the amount proposed by the developer towards the farmers' compensation and secure the remaining 25% of the total compensation amount through a charge on immovable assets. The High Court stated that in compliance with the govt's order for the rehabilitation of stalled projects, the developer would be able to avail the benefits of the policy and obtain completion certificates for the two projects. GNIDA was directed to issue the completion certificates and allow the execution of tripartite sub-lease deeds in favour of the allottees once the developer deposited the required amount. In response, Gaursons deposited Rs 37 crore with GNIDA.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Quami Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhimes.in
Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Commuters feel pinch as Metro travel gets costlier after eight yrs

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: It is 9 am at the Rajiv Chowk Metro station and the rush is no different from any other weekday. Trains pull in every two minutes, spilling out a stream of hurried commuters while an equally restless crowd of passengers pushes its way inside. For lakhs of Delhiites, the Metro remains the lifeline that connects distant corners of the NCR, from Dwarka to Noida and Saket to Gurugram. But Monday morning carried a different mood — the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) first fare hike in eight years came into effect, and while the increase is marginal, ranging from Re 1 to Rs 4, many passengers say it matters. "I already live so far from my college, making Metro my only mode of commute. With limited budget to go about my day,

even a single rupee change counts," said Sujata Saha, a student from Bengaluru who has recently moved to Vasant Kunj and travels daily to Noida. For her, the added cost is not just about a one-time journey but the cumulative burden of repeated trips. For office-goers, the pinch is similar. Abhishek, a Noida resident who commutes to Gurugram every day, calculated the impact in minutes. "My one-way trip costs me more than an hour in travel time and around Rs 60 in fares. Now, I'll be paying even more every month. People say it's just Re 1 or Rs 4, but multiply that by 50-60 trips a month, and it adds up. The hike may seem minor on paper, but for those travelling long distances daily, it digs deeper into already tight budgets. Vinod, who works in Saket and lives in Tilak Nagar, said: "By the

end of the month, it's already tough to manage household expenses. Now,

Students feel particularly singled out. Aakansha, a North Campus student

student discounts, it matters. The money I get from home each month is fixed

promised free Metro rides for students, but instead we are getting increased rates." Swara, another young commuter, said, "These charges may seem nominal if we look at them as a one-time thing, but for people who travel daily and spend hours in the Metro, it is heavy on the wallet." Not everyone, however, is critical. Some commuters see the revision as inevitable. Pranav, who travels weekly from Dwarka to Greater Noida, said, "The price increase isn't that much, plus the change has come after a long time. It is okay." Another commuter, Samyukta, echoed similar views, "If the extra money goes into maintaining and improving the Metro, then it is worth it. After all, the

system has changed the way Delhi travels." The DMRC, anticipating criticism, explained that the revision was long overdue. "The 4th Fare Fixation Committee had recommended a revision of the fares through an automatic fare revision formula. This revision has now been done in line with statutory provisions," the corporation said in a statement. It cited multiple financial strains — heavy losses during the Covid-19 period, repayment obligations to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the rising costs of refurbishing trains, maintaining civil assets and paying salaries. "Without any increase in passenger fares in the last eight years, the financial condition of the corporation was under considerable strain," the

DMRC said. As per the new fare structure, passengers will now pay Rs 11 for 0-2 km, Rs 21 for 2-5 km, Rs 32 for 5-12 km, Rs 43 for 12-21 km, Rs 54 for 21-32 km, and Rs 64 for journeys beyond 32 km. On Sundays and national holidays, a discounted slab will apply, with the maximum fare capped at Rs 54. Smart card users will continue to get a 10 per cent discount on every trip and an additional 10 per cent discount during off-peak hours — before 8 am, between 12-5 pm, and after 9 pm. The DMRC hopes this will encourage staggered travel and ease peak hour congestion.

Gang posing as CBI officials robs businessman of Rs 2.5 cr

New Delhi: In a case straight out of the Bollywood thriller "Special 26", the Delhi's Vivek Vihar police cracked a high-profile robbery involving a fake Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) gang that looted nearly Rs 2.5 crore from a businessman under the guise of a raid. The police have arrested three key members of the gang and recovered Rs 1.25 crore in cash, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam. The incident took place on August 19 when four persons posing as CBI officers targeted Manpreet Singh, a Ghaziabad-based businessman engaged in finance, property dealing and construction. According to the complaint, Manpreet asked his friend Ravi Shankar to collect Rs 1.10 crore from the house where they keep the money. As Shankar stepped out with the cash, he was confronted by four individuals, including a woman, who flashed fake IDs with government logos, carried walkie-talkies and claimed to be CBI personnel. They snatched the bag and later stormed into the house where they assaulted Singh's employee, Deepak Maheshwari, before seizing more cash. The gang bundled both victims into a vehicle, threatened them with dire consequences, if they reported the matter, and later abandoned them at two different locations — Chintamani Underpass and Nigambodh Ghat. Sensing the gravity of the crime, a special team was formed that scanned over 100 CCTV cameras. The team identified two cars used in the crime and traced them to Faridabad, where their drivers revealed that the vehicles had been hired by an NGO named "Crime Bureau of Investigation", operating out of Saidulajab near the Saket Metro station, the cop added. When the police raided the NGO's office, they apprehended Papori Baruah (30), secretary of the NGO, and Deepak (32), a resident of Tughlaqabad, recovering Rs 1.08 crore from their possession. Later, Ram Singh Meena (62), Director of the NGO, was also arrested. The DCP mentioned that the gang comprised four women and several male accomplices who executed the heist with meticulous planning, imitating official raids.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, MAHENDRA SINGH RAWAT S/O BAG SINGH RAWAT R/O 3/353, Khidpur, Kalyanpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as MAHENDER SINGH and MADHU in my minor daughter namely KANISHKA RAWAT aged 13 years in her school record. The actual name of mine and my wife are MAHENDRA SINGH RAWAT and MADHU RAWAT Respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Babita Kadan Alias Babita Sharma D/O Pirthi Singh Kadan R/O C-504 Third Floor, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Babita Kadan.

NAME CHANGE
I, Raj Kumar Javed Naaz Khan D/O Om Prakash W/O Javed Khan R/O E-203, Gali No-16, Tughlaqabad Extension, Delhi-110019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raj Kumari. I have changed only my name not my religion.

NAME CHANGE
I, YASHVIR SINGH, R/O X-4121, GALI NO-13, SHANTI MOHALLA, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, have changed my minor son name from Aaryavir Singh Tomar to Aaryavir singh for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHID JAVED R/O A-130/6, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-2, JAMIA NAGAR, DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUHAMMAD ISHAAN. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection

NAME CHANGE
I, POOJA D/O SHRI ASHOK SHARMA R/O C-3, NEELKANTH APARTMENT PART-2, OPPOSITE BANK OF BARODA, BURARI, DELHI-110084 Declare that in some documents my name is mentioned as POOJA SHARMA and in some documents as POOJA but actual name is POOJA. That POOJA and POOJA SHARMA, are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Deepshikha Bhardwaj D/o Sh. Chander Mohan Bhardwaj R/O 2788, Gali No.246, Hansa Puri, Tri Nagar, New Delhi-110035 have changed my name from Deepshikha Kaushik to Deepshikha Bhardwaj for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Faris Qureshi S/O Mohammad Arif Qureshi R/O -1596 3rd floor Gali Noor Khan Pataudi House Darya Ganj Delhi -110002, have changed my minor child name from FAAZ TO FAAZ QURESHI for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Md Parveen W/O Saddam R/O H-310, Aman Vihar, Madina Masjid, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi 110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAHID PARVEEN.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as ST SAMER MAITY Alias SAMIRAN MAITY S/O NANDA KUMAR MAITY R/O 368, AMBEDKAR MARG, MANDAWALI, VTC: MANDAWALI, FAZALPUR, PO: LAXMI NAGAR, DIST: EAST DELHI, DELHI-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMER MAITY.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I Yash Kumar Meena S/O Gokal Chand Meena R/O 119-120 third floor, Block C pocket-4, Sector 11 Rohini, Rohini Sec-11, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110085, declare that name of mine, my father and my mother have been wrongly written as Yash Kumar, Gokal Chand and Lalita in my 12 class educational document. The actual name of mine and my mother are YASH KUMAR MEENA, GOKAL CHAND MEENA and LALITA MEENA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dinesh Chandra S/O Bachchu Singh, R/O village sultanpur, Dhadoli, Hattaras, Uttar Pradesh - 281307, Have changed the name of my minor son named Aditya aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known HARSH DIWAKAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, No.15692381N Rank- L/HAV NAME-DHARMENDRA KUMAR residing at-VPO-GHOGRHI, TEHSIL-AMARWARA, DISTT-CHHINDWARA, MP-4800221, have changed my mother's name from RAMKANTI SURYAWANSHI to RAMA BAI SURYAWANSHI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No.15730743W, Rank-NK Name-YADAV BABLU SHRISHYAM SINGH Residing at-H. NO-21/B, SHIVSAMBHWA SOCIETY, AMRAIWADI, AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT-380026, have changed my wife's name from SADANA YADAV to SADHANA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Bharti Bhasin w/o Sarvesh Kumar Chadha R/O WZ-52A/J-42 Upper Ground floor Beri wala Bagh Hari Nagar New Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Bharti Chadha for all Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, KAPIL AGHI S/O HARISH AGHI R/O A-2/78, SECOND FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI 110027, declare that name of my daughter name has been wrongly written as SAMYA AGHI. That my minor daughter name is SAMMYA AGHI aged 14 years in her Birth Certificate & Adhar Card. The actual name of my daughter name is SAMMYA AGHI.



I'll have to set aside more money just for travel. It's a burden, even if small."

who commutes from Uttam Nagar, voiced her frustration, saying, "Without any

for Metro travel. Now, I'll need to ask my parents for more. The government had

NAME CHANGE
I, TETARI is legally mother of No.281553W Rank-HAV Name-YADAV RADHESHYAM SUBHAS, Ro VILL-BIRPURA, POST-BIRPURA, TEH-RASRA, DIST-BALLIA, STATE-UTTAR PRADESH, PIN-221709, have changed my name from TETARI to TETARI DEVI and aged 14 years in his school record. The actual name of mine is TETARI DEVI for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23.08.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ABHISHEK TYAGI S/O VINOD TYAGI R/O Flat No. 3, Sector-17 E, Pippal Apartment, Dwarka Sector 19, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110075 declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as SIDHANT TYAGI in my minor son namely SIDHANT TYAGI aged 14 years in his school record. The actual name of my minor son is SIDHANT TYAGI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hitherto Known as KRISHAN KUMAR, S/O Tek Chand, R/O House No. 427-59/148, Street No. 41-B, Sach Nagar, Palam Colony, Palam Village, PO: Palam Village, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi- 110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MONU.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to general public that my clients Sh. Chamak Lal S/o Sh. Kalu Singh & Smt. Parvati Devi W/o Sh. Chamak Lal both residents of House No-D-81, Gali No-3, Harsh Vihar Hari Nagar, Part-3, Near Tanki Road Cosmos School, Jait Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have deposed and disinherited their sons namely Pankaj Kumar (Sanjay No. 70524100367) and Anjan Singh (Aadhar No. 35432760832), their wives and their children from all their movable and immovable properties and severed all relations from them because they have become disobedient and they are not under the control of my clients and other family members as well as relatives will not be responsible for any type of financial irregularities, criminal act, liabilities, & any acts, deeds done by them in future.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAJ KUMAR KANOJIA S/O KAN-HAIYA LAL, resident of H NO-2-925, GROUND FLOOR TYPE-2, NO.84/E, Opp. Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to RAJ KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I VINOD KUMAR KARIR S/O RAM PRAKASH KARIR R/O H NO-1 FIRST FLOOR RAJINDORA PARK NEW RAJINDER NAGAR NEW DELHI 110060 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME VINOD KARIR

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MAHESH KUMAR S/O HEMRAJ TALREJA R/O A-28, PRIYADARSHINI VIHAR, LAXMI NAGAR, DELHI-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHESH KUMAR TALREJA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection

NAME CHANGE
I, Omprakash Sharma S/o Ram Prakash Sharma R/O RZF-43, 2nd Floor, Back Side, Street No. 3, Kh No.84/6, Opp- Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Om Prakash Sharma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ramprakash Sharma S/o Late Pyare Lal Sharma R/O RZF-43, 2nd Floor, Back Side, Street No. 3, Kh No.84/6, Opp- Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir Enclave-1, Palam, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Ram Prakash Sharma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHD SITAB ALI CHAUDHARY S/O ZULFEQAR ALI CHAUDHARY R/O FLAT NO.1, FIRST FLOOR, A-12, OKHLA VIHAR JAMIA NAGAR DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD SITAB ALI CHAUDHARY FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I MUSKAN D/O MALKHAN SINGH R/O 2897 OLD BUS STAND ROAD, TRI NAGAR DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO MUSKAN KHARI FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MRITYUNJAY VATS alias MRITYUNJAY VATS S/O RAMESH DUTT R/O 251-D, POCKET- JAND K, DILSHAD GARDEN, DELHI, DIST: EAST DELHI, DELHI - 110095 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RISHI VATS.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as Prince alias Prince Prajapati S/o Sh. Raju Prajapati R/O 494/1, Gali No-8, Mahavir Block, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prince Prajapati.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pratim Singh S/O Kishor Singh R/O 270/18, T.Huls, Pandara Road, Lodhi Road H.O. Dist: South Delhi, Delhi - 110033, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bheesham Singh

NAME CHANGE
I, SULOCHANA KUTTAPPAN Wife of Mr V KUTTAPPAN and Mother of VINOY KUTTAPPAN Presently residing at 114/9, 7TH AVENUE HARRINGTON ROAD CHETPETT CHENNAI-600031, have changed my name from SULOCHANA KUTTAPPAN to SULOCHANA P vide Affidavit dated 28/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Raj Kumar Singh R/O House No. 95 - B-6, KJH No. 39/18, Rajendra Park Extension, Nanjoli, PO: Nanjoli, Dist: West Delhi, Delhi -110041, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Raj Kumar and Jai Bhagwan in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my father are Raj Kumar Singhal and Jai Bhagwan Singhal

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as AMAN DEEP KAUR W/o HARDEEP SINGH residing at 555, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANDEEP KAUR.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as TARUN KUMAR S/O VINOD KUMAR residing at WP - 412, Ground Floor, Wazirpur Village, Wazirpur, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TARUN.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as HARDEEP SINGH S/O GAJENDER SINGH residing at WZ-957, Third Floor, Near Gurudwara, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARDEEP SINGH.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, BIRKHA BAHADUR KAMI S/O BARKHA BDR KAMI Permanent R/O 39 (B), UPPER LASSO, UPPER LASSO, SINEK, WEST SIKKIM, SIKKIM -737111 and Present R/O CHUMUS, NO-6697, SAMEHAV BABU COLONY JONAPUR, JONA PUR, DIST SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110047 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as BIRKHA BDR KAMI in my 10th class educational documents and Pan Card No. IWQPK1929C, and haar card No. 61477888 2701 and name of my mother has been wrongly written as BISNU MAYA KAMI in my 12th class educational documents The actual name of mine and my mother are BIRKHA BAHADUR KAMI and BISNU MAYA KAMI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, ANJALI CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR, AYUSH and ANNU DEVI in my minor son namely AYUSH CHAURASIYA aged 11 years in his school record. The actual name of mine, my minor son and my wife have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, ANJALI CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine, my minor son and my wife have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR, AYUSH and ANNU DEVI in my minor son namely AYUSH CHAURASIYA aged 11 years in his school record. The actual name of mine, my minor son and my wife are DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA, AYUSH CHAURASIYA and ANNU respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, RANJEETA SINGH D/O MADAN SINGH R/O 214/D1, 6 BN RPSF, DAYA BASTI, SARAI ROHILLA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RANJITA SINGH in SC/9/92/54025/42/2008/41295. The actual name of mine is RANJEETA MY SC Caste Certificate No. SINGH which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, RANJEETA SINGH D/O MADAN SINGH R/O 214/D1, 6 BN RPSF, DAYA BASTI, SARAI ROHILLA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RANJITA SINGH in SC/9/92/54025/42/2008/41295. The actual name of mine is RANJEETA MY SC Caste Certificate No. SINGH which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PREMWATI W/o GAUTAM R/O G-307, T-Huls, Jahangirpuri, N.S. Mandi, PO: N.S. Mandi, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SONIA in my minor son KRISHNA aged 16 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is PREMWATI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as KUMARI BHAAGY LAKSHMI CHAUHAN D/O RAJU SINGH CHAUHAN, R/O N-228, R K Puram Sect-8, Dist: South West Delhi, Delhi-110022, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHETNA CHAUHAN, for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Anjali Aggarwal W/O Rajeev Aggarwal R/O 26/1A, Gali No. 2, Ambedkar Nagar, Hader Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Anjali in my minor daughter namely Palak Aggarwal aged 14 years in her school record. The actual name of mine is Anjali Aggarwal

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, RAJNI DEVI W/O UDAY SINGH RAJAWATI R/O 1425, DDA Flats Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJNI RAWATI in my minor daughter namely SHAKSHI RAWAT aged 14 years in her school record. The actual name of mine is RAJNI DEVI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, UMA SHANKAR SHARMA S/O SUKHARI SHARMA R/O 706/A, Gali No-8, ACTIVE PEOPLE ACADEMY, SADARPUR COLONY, SECTOR-45, Noida Sector-37, PO Noida Sector-37, DIST GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201303 declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor son have been wrongly written as UMA SHANKAR ASHA and KARTIK KUMAR in my minor son namely KARTIK KUMAR SHARMA aged 16 years in his school record. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor son are UMA SHANKAR ANJALI CHAURASIYA and KARTIK KUMAR SHARMA, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, DHURENDRA KUMAR CHAURASIYA S/O JAGDISH BHAGAT R/O A-535/1, INDIRA COLONY CAMP, ROHTAK ROAD, TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110035 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as DHURENDER KUMAR and ANJALI in my minor daughter namely DHURENDER KUMAR CHAURASIYA and ANJALI CHAURASIYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUBHAS is legally father of No.2801553W Rank-HAV Name-YADAV RADHESHYAM SUBHAS, R/VILL-BIRPURA, POST-BIRPURA, TEH-RASRA, DIST-BALLIA, STATE-UTTAR PRADESH, PIN-221709, have changed my name from SUBHAS to SUBHAS YADAV and date of birth from 23/11/1956 to 01/07/1951 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23.08.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ajit Singh S/O Gyanendra Singh R/O Flat No -172, Pocket-1, Sector -A-6, D. D. A. Flat, Narela , North West Delhi, Delhi -110040, have changed the name of my minor daughter Dipanshi aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Dipanshi Dahiya

NAME CHANGE
I, GAUTAM KUMAR S/O RAM PRASAD SAHU Permanent R/O CHAKMURTAZ PARGA, SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR-848114 and Present R/O A-123, NEW ASHOK NAGAR, DELHI-110096 have changed the name of my minor daughter ANVI ENA alias AVISKA aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as AVISHKA SAH.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, MAHESH CHANDRA PANDEY S/O DAYA KISHAN PANDEY R/O H No. 943, DDA LIG Flats, Block-B, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Vasundhara Enclave, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi-110096, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MAHESH PANDEY in my minor son DEEPANSHU PANDEY, aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is MAHESH CHANDRA PANDEY which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, SHIV RAJ S/O MAHINDER SINGH R/O House No-8, Village Paprawat, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi 110043, have changed the name of my minor son MOKSH alias MOKSH SINNGH aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as MOKSH SINNGH.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SATISH KUMAR CHORASIYA S/O SUBODH PRASAD R/O H No. 29, Gali No. 5, Railway Fatak, Saboli Village, Mandoli, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110093, declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as SATISH KUMAR, RUPA DEVI and SANJANA KUMARI in my minor daughter namely SANJANA KUMARI aged 16 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife and my minor daughter are SATISH KUMAR CHORASIYA , ROOPA DEVI and SANJANA KUMARI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SAKSHI KUMARI D/O SATISH KUMAR CHORASIYA R/O H No. 29, Gali No. 5, Railway Fatak, Saboli Village, Mandoli, PO: NandNagar, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi 110093, declare that name of my Father and my Mother has been wrongly written as SATISH KUMAR and RUPA DEVI in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father and my Mother are SATISH KUMAR CHORASIYA and ROOPA DEVI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA S/O GIAN CHAND SHARMA, Permanent R/o H. No. 10124, Street No. 32, Janta Nagar, Janta Nagar, PO: Janta Nagar, Dist: Ludhiana, Punjab - 141003, and Present R/o PS KN Katju Marg Rohini, North West Delh, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJEEV KUMAR SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as SANJIV KUMAR alias SANJ

Pope demands end to 'collective punishment' and forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza

ROME. (Agency)
Pope Leo XIV demanded Wednesday that Israel stop the “collective punishment” and forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza as he pleaded for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the besieged territory amid preparations by Israel for a new military offensive.Leo was interrupted twice by applause as he read aloud his latest appeal for an end to the 22-month war during his weekly general audience attended by thousands of people in the Vatican’s auditorium.History’s first American pope also called for the release of hostages taken by Hamas in southern Israel, 50 of them remain in Gaza and for both sides and international powers to end the war “which has caused so much terror, destruction and death.”“I beg for a permanent ceasefire to be reached, the safe entry of humanitarian aid to be facilitated and humanitarian law to be fully respected,” Leo said. He cited international law requiring the obligation to protect civilians and “the prohibition of collective punishment, indiscriminate use of force and the forced displacement of the population.”Palestinians in Gaza are bracing for an expanded offensive promised by Israel in some of the territory's most populated areas



including Gaza City, where famine has been documented and declared.Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will launch its Gaza City offensive while simultaneously pursuing a ceasefire, though Israel has yet to send a negotiating team to discuss a proposal on the table. He has said the offensive is the best way to weaken Hamas and return hostages, but hostages' families and their supporters have pushed back, saying it will further endanger them.Hamas took 251 hostages on Oct. 7, 2023, in the attack that also killed about 1,200 people. Most hostages have been released during previous ceasefires or other deals. Israel has rescued eight hostages alive. Of the 50 still in Gaza, Israeli officials believe around 20 are still alive. Leo drew attention to a joint

statement by the Latin and Greek Orthodox patriarchs of Jerusalem, who announced that the priests and nuns in the two Christian churches in Gaza City would stay put, despite Israeli evacuation orders ahead of the Gaza City offensive. They said

the people sheltering in the churches were too weak and malnourished to move and that doing so would be a “death sentence.” The Holy Family Catholic church and the Saint Porphyrius Orthodox church have sheltered hundreds of Palestinian civilians during the war, including elderly people, women and children as well as people with disabilities. Pope Francis, even during his final days in the hospital, stayed in daily touch with the parish priest of Holy Family to offer his solidarity and support to the people there, cared for by the nuns of Mother Teresa’s Sisters of Charity religious order. In their joint statement, Catholic Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Orthodox

Patriarch Theophilos III noted that just last weekend, Leo issued a strong statement about the rights of people to remain in their homelands and not be forced to move.“All peoples, even the smallest and weakest, must be respected by the powerful in their identity and rights, especially the right to live in their own lands; and no one can force them into exile,” Leo said in comments Saturday to a group of forced refugees from the Indian Ocean archipelago Chagos that were clearly destined for a broader audience.Netanyahu has said Gaza’s population should be relocated to other countries through what his government has described as voluntary emigration.

Mass Russian drone and missile attack kills three and injures 24 in Kyiv

KYIV. A mass Russian drone and missile attack on Ukraine's capital early Thursday killed at least three people and injured 24, local authorities said.Among the dead was a 14-year-old girl, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv’s city administration, citing preliminary information. The numbers are expected to rise.A five-story residential building in the Darnytskyi district was hit directly.

“Everything is destroyed,” Tkachenko said. A strike in central Kyiv left a major road strewn with shattered glass.The attack affected over 20 locations across the capital, local authorities said. Rescue teams were on site to pull people trapped underneath the rubble.Thursday's attack is the first major combined Russian mass drone and missile attack to strike Kyiv since U.S.

‘Nuke India’, 'Kill Donald Trump' scribbled on gun used in Minneapolis Catholic school shooting that killed two children

WORLD. (Agency)
A gunman who opened fire through the windows of a Catholic church in Minneapolis and struck children celebrating Mass during the first week of school had the words “Nuke India” and “Kill Donald Trump” inscribed on his weapons, according to video footage circulating online. The shooter, identified as Robin Westman, 23, of Minnesota, opened fire at the Annunciation Catholic School on Wednesday, killing two children aged 8 and 10, and injuring 17 others.Westman reportedly died by suicide shortly after the attack.Footage shared on social media appears to show Westman displaying a cache of weapons, including rifles, handguns, and loaded magazines.The phrase “Nuke India” was clearly visible in white lettering on one of the firearms. The magazines were marked with other inflammatory messages such as



'Kill Donald Trump', 'Kill Trump Now', 'Israel Must Fall' and 'Burn Israel'.At least two videos were uploaded to a YouTube channel titled “Robin W” prior to the attack. One of the videos, approximately 10 minutes long and shot on a mobile phone, displayed several firearms and large quantities of ammunition.The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is treating the incident as an act of

domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics, said FBI Director Kash Patel. He confirmed the shooter's identity as Robin Westman, who was born as Robert Westman. According to court records, Westman legally changed name and gender in 2020 and identified as a transgender woman.The incident has reignited debate in the United States over the easy availability

of firearms and the increasing frequency of school shootings. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been at least 287 mass shootings in the country this year alone.In a post on social media platform X, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem described the attack as “unthinkable” and noted that the suspect was “claiming to be transgender.” However, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey urged restraint in public discourse, warning against the scapegoating of transgender individuals. “Anybody who is using this tragedy as an opportunity to vilify our trans community, or any other community, has lost their sense of common humanity,” he told reporters.“We have more guns in this country than people. We can’t continue to express outrage after every shooting and then allow it to happen again and again,” he added.

White House fires US health agency head after she refused to quit

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
The Trump administration confirmed Wednesday it was firing the head of the top US public health agency after she refused to step down during a stand-off with vaccine skeptic Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.The escalating dispute over Kennedy's sweeping overhaul of US vaccine policy also led to five other senior officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announcing their resignations, according to a union representing some of the agency's workers.Susan Monarez, a health scientist and longtime civil servant, had been the CDC's head for less than a month when Kennedy's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced on X that she "is no longer director."But Monarez "neither resigned nor received notification from the White House that she has been fired," her lawyers said in a statement sent to AFP."As a person of integrity and devoted to science, she will not resign," the lawyers said, accusing Kennedy of "weaponizing public health for political gain and putting millions of American lives at risk."Monarez was targeted after she "refused to rubber-

stamp unscientific, reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts," it added. However, the White House later confirmed that Monarez had been fired."As her attorney's statement makes abundantly clear, Susan Monarez is not aligned with the



President's agenda of Making America Healthy Again." White House spokesman Kush Desai said in an emailed statement to AFP."Since Susan Monarez refused to resign despite informing HHS leadership of her intent to do so, the White House has terminated Monarez from her position with the CDC," he added.The Washington Post, which first reported Monarez's dismissal, said Kennedy pressured her to resign after she refused to commit to supporting his vaccination policy changes.In the aftermath, five high-ranking CDC officials emailed in their resignations, according to a

union representing more than 2,000 CDC workers."We were shocked to hear of the sudden resignation of multiple experienced public health leaders at CDC," the AFGE Local 2883 union said in a statement."Many felt forced to walk away from the jobs they loved because politics left them no choice," the union said, adding: "Vaccines save lives." "Enough is enough," said Demetre Daskalakis, who resigned as director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases."I am unable to serve in an environment that treats CDC as a tool to generate policies and materials that do not reflect scientific reality and are designed to hurt rather than to improve the public's health," he wrote on X.The CDC's chief medical officer Debra Houry and Daniel Jernigan, director of the agency's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, were also among those who resigned, according to US media citing notes sent to staff.Public health under attackSince taking office, RFK Jr, as he is known, has overhauled US vaccine policy, dismissing renowned immunization experts, restricting access to Covid-19 shots and new vaccines.

Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro blames India for prolonging Ukraine war, calls it 'Modi's war'

WORLD. (Agency)
White House Trade Advisor Peter Navarro has stirred another controversy by calling the Russia-Ukraine conflict "Modi's war," blaming India's continued oil trade with Moscow for prolonging the conflict.In an interview with

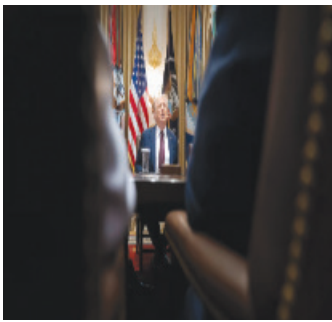


Bloomberg, Navarro accused India of undercutting global efforts to isolate Russia. He claimed that India's discounted oil purchases from Russia are indirectly forcing the US and Europe to fund Ukraine’s defense.“Ukraine comes to us and Europe and says give us more money. Everybody in America loses because of what India is doing. Consumers lose, businesses lose, workers lose because of high Indian tariffs. And the taxpayer? They fund Modi’s war,” said Navarro. He also slammed India for asserting its sovereignty in energy decisions, calling the stance “arrogant.”“India, you’re

the biggest democracy in the world. Act like one. Side with the democracies,” Navarro urged, taking a jab at India’s ties with Russia and China, whom he labelled “authoritarians.”Navarro’s remarks follow the implementation of steep 50% tariffs on Indian goods by the Trump administration, half of which he says are tied to India's oil and arms imports from Russia.India’s Ministry of External Affairs called the move “extremely unfortunate,” emphasizing that its energy decisions are market-driven and essential for securing fuel for its 1.4 billion people.External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar hit back, pointing out the hypocrisy in Washington's stance.“We are not the biggest buyer of Russian oil, that’s China. Nor of LNG, that’s the EU. We were actually encouraged to stabilise global energy markets, including through Russian oil purchases.

Trump administration to change H1B programme, Green Card process

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
The Trump administration is planning to change the H1B programme, the most sought after non-immigrant visa among Indian IT professionals, and also bring changes to the Green Card process, US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick has said."I'm involved in changing the H1B programme. We're going to change that programme, because that's terrible," Lutnick said in an interview to Fox News on Tuesday.He added that the Trump administration is also going to change the Green Card process that provides permanent residency in the US. "You know, we give green cards. The average American makes USD 75,000 a year, and the average green card recipient USD 66,000, so we're taking the bottom quartile, like, why are we doing that? That's why Donald Trump is going to change it. That's the Gold Card



that's coming. And we're going to start picking the best people to come into this country. It's time for that to change," he said. Indians are the main beneficiaries of the H-1B visas, which bring in the best of the talent and brains from across the world. Highly skilled professionals from India walk away with the overwhelming number of H-1B visas, which is Congressional-mandated 65,000 every year and another 20,000 for those who received higher education from the US. In a social media post on

Tuesday, Lutnick said, "The current H1B visa system is a scam that lets foreign workers fill American job opportunities. Hiring American workers should be the priority of all great American businesses. Now is the time to hire American."Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said in an interview to Fox News that the H1B has become a "total scam." "These companies game the system. You have some of these companies that are laying off large numbers of Americans while they're also getting new H1Bs and renewing H1Bs," he said. DeSantis said that people used to say that America is getting the "cream of the crop" from all around the world through the H1B visa system.""The reality is that's not actually what H1B are. Most of them are from one country, India. There's a cottage industry about how all that people make money off this system.

France Beheaded An African King 100 Years Ago. His Skull Is On Its Way Home

Antananarivo. (Agency)
France has returned three human skulls, including one believed to be that of a 19th-century Malagasy King Toera of the Sakalava people, to Madagascar. This comes 128 years after they were carried to France. The restitution was carried out in a ceremony held at the French Ministry of Culture on August 26. It marks the first use of the 2023 French law that enables the return of human remains to a country for funeral purposes. The other two skulls belonged to Sakalava warriors who fought with King Toera and were also put to death during the bloody uprising against the Menabe kingdom in western Madagascar, CNN reported.

French troops defeated the Sakalava kingdoms in the late 19th century and colonised Madagascar. King Toera was killed and beheaded by French forces during the August 1897 massacre. His skull was then taken as a trophy to Paris and placed in the National Museum of Natural History, along with numerous other remains from Madagascar.

"These skulls entered the national collections in circumstances that clearly violated human dignity and in a context of colonial violence," said French Culture Minister Rachida Dati.Her Madagascar counterpart, Volamiranty Donna Mara, hailed the handover as a groundbreaking gesture that ushers in a new era of cooperation between the two nations, Al Jazeera reported. "Their absence has been, for more than a century, 128 years, an open wound in the heart of our island," she said.Since taking office in 2017, French President Emmanuel Macron has admitted to certain previous wrongdoings by France in Africa. While visiting the capital Antananarivo in April, Macron mentioned that he was seeking "forgiveness" for France's "bloody and tragic" colonisation of Madagascar.The country gained independence in 1960 after more than 60 years of colonial control. The skulls are scheduled to return to the Indian Ocean island on Sunday for their burial.

A shooting at Minneapolis Catholic school kills two children, injures 17 people



MINNEAPOLIS. (Agency)
A shooter opened fire with a rifle through the windows of a Catholic church in Minneapolis and struck children celebrating Mass during the first week of school, killing two and wounding 17 people in an act of violence the police chief called “absolutely incomprehensible.” Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara said the shooter — armed with a rifle, shotgun and pistol — approached the side of the church and shot dozens of rounds through the windows toward the children sitting in the pews during Mass at the Annunciation Catholic School just before 8:30 a.m. Police believe the shooter then killed himself.The children who died were 8 and 10, and 14 other kids were among the wounded, the chief said. Dozens of youngsters were inside.Michael Simpson said

his 10-year-old grandson, Weston Halsne, was nicked by a bullet as he sat near the church windows. His voice shaking as he left the area around the school, Simpson said the violence during Mass on the third day of school left him wondering whether God was watching over.“I don’t know where He is,” Simpson said.Official identifies the shooterThe police chief said the shooter was in his early 20s, did not have an extensive known criminal history and is believed to have acted alone, but did not release the name or information on possible connections to the school. A law enforcement official told The Associated Press authorities have identified the shooter as Robin Westman. That official was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

JICA aid for flood mitigation, water storage revival in Chennai

CHENNAI. (Agency)
The Water Resources Department (WRD) has drawn up a flood mitigation and water storage improvement plan with financial assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
WRD Superintending Engineer M Mahesh Nagarajan told TNIE that JICA's support would be crucial to strengthening Chennai's water infrastructure. "With JICA's help, WRD will deepen 28 major tanks within city limits, including Porur, Ambattur, Kolathur and Korattur.



Though these tanks store water, their capacity has drastically reduced due to silt deposits. Preventing sewage from entering them is equally important. For this, we are planning inter-departmental discussions with the Corporation and Metro Water," he said.
The initiative aims to both reduce inundation and meet future drinking water needs. "At present, Chennai requires about 1 tmcft of drinking water. Within a decade, this demand

could double due to population growth and urbanisation.
Unless we enhance storage facilities now, the city will face severe shortages. Once the tanks are restored, they will serve as natural reservoirs, playing a vital role in flood management and water supply," he added. As part of the project, WRD has also proposed four straight-cut channels to improve water flow and reduce stagnation in the Buckingham Canal. JICA is expected to submit the detailed project report shortly. Meanwhile, under state funding, desilting work worth Rs 31 crore is underway in the central canal, aimed at easing waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Produce medical records of RG Kar victim's mother injured in rally: HC tells pvt hospital



Kolkata. (Agency)
The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday ordered a private hospital in Kolkata to submit medical records of the deceased trainee doctor's mother, who sustained injuries during the Nabanna Abhijan rally earlier this month, which was taken out to protest the rape and murder of the trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital last year.
The order came after the court considered police reports from two police stations and the hospital's medico-legal form.
The case dates to August 9, the first death anniversary of the RG Kar doctor, when the victim's parents held the Nabanna Abhijan rally.
The father had filed online complaints at two police stations in Kolkata seeking them to be treated as FIRs. He alleged that his wife had been attacked by police during a lathi charge. The doctor's mother was taken to a private hospital and later discharged.
A single-judge bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh heard the matter after the state placed on record the two reports of the police stations.
As per the first report, an inquiry found that "there was no ground to proceed any further with the case as there was no substance."
The second police station report stated "outcome of preliminary enquiry is completed and no evidence or materials substantiating the allegation, thus no case was made out to lodge an FIR and the information was given to the Petitioner."
The private hospital produced a medico-legal report and after examining it the court directed the hospital be made a party to the case. The court ordered the hospital to be represented and to make available all medical documents.

Thiruvananthapuram's first cycle track turns into disappointment

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)
The first-ever cycle track, hailed as a landmark step towards green mobility has quickly turned into a disappointing affair for cyclists and citizens in the city. Opened recently with much fanfare, the track along the Vellayambalam-Thycaud stretch lies in shambles – blocked by parked vehicles, encroachments and crippled by unscientific design. Frustrated by administrative apathy, activists are gearing up for an online campaign 'Save the Cycle Track'.
Bicycle mayor of Thiruvananthapuram P Prakash

said that the cycle track is of no use to the public. "The Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd (SCTL) is blaming the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS) for the unscientific cycle track, as it is too narrow for cycling.
Initially we were very excited as this was going to be the first ever dedicated track for cycling. However, we couldn't use it even for a day because of unauthorised parking and other encroachments. We want the authorities to make the track available from at least 5.30 am to 7.30 am," he said.
Cycle enthusiasts in the city are also heavily disappointed



with the track. "The track is inadequate for cycling. The authorities should take steps to improve the safety of the track first. Parking on the track is also a major issue and the police have put up 'no parking' boards blocking the way," said Dr Shankar Ram, a native of Althara.
New cycle track coming up from Kowdiar to Peroorkada

Meanwhile, an interlocked road with a dedicated cycle track is coming up at the Pipeline Road running parallel from Kowdiar-Peroorkada. It has started attracting cyclists even before its formal inauguration. The first phase of the project from Kowdiar to Ambalamukku has been completed and the second phase from Ambalamukku to Peroorkada is under way. The Rs 4-crore project is being implemented using funds sanctioned by MLA V K Prasanth.
An official associated with the project said that it had been pending for a while due to

objections from the Kerala Water Authority (KWA). "The pipeline road is owned by KWA and they had granted permission for the project under multiple requirements. They had maintained the condition that heavy vehicles will not be allowed in the stretch as pipelines pass underneath," said the official.
The official said that once the project is completed, parking will not be allowed on the cycle track. "There is an additional project, funded by KIIFB under the initiative of the MLA, coming up to beautify the stretch too," the official added.

4 Maoists killed in 8-hour encounter on Gadchiroli-Narayanpur border



Nagpur. (Agency)
Four Maoists, including three women, were killed Wednesday after an eight-hour-long encounter with security forces in the Koparshi forest area along the Gadchiroli-Narayanpur border.

According to the police, they received intelligence inputs about the presence of Gatta Dalam, Company No 10, and other Maoist formations of the Gadchiroli Division in the dense forest region on August 25. They added that acting on

the tip-off, 19 C-60 commando units of the Maharashtra Police, and two Quick Action Teams (QATs) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a search operation under the supervision of M. Ramesh, Additional Superintendent of

Police (Operations).
The police said security forces managed to reach the location early Wednesday despite heavy rain in the Bhamragad area over the past two days. While combing the forest, they came under indiscriminate fire from Maoists, prompting retaliatory action.
The gun battle, which stretched intermittently for nearly eight hours, resulted in the death of the four Maoists, said the police. They said the security forces later recovered four weapons from the spot, including one SLR rifle, two INSAS rifles, and a .303 rifle.
Search operations are continuing in the forest to trace other Maoists believed to be present in the area. The police said further details will be released once the operation concludes.

Mumbai rain: IMD forecasts moderate showers from today

Mumbai. (Agency)
Rain activity is slated to recede in Mumbai over the weekend with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting only moderate rain activity in the city, starting Friday. At present, amid a yellow alert sounded in the district, the city and its neighbouring pockets are experiencing intermittent spells of moderate rainfall.
Data furnished by the IMD showed that the Santacruz observatory recorded 1 mm of rainfall between Wednesday and Thursday morning, while the Colaba coastal observatory received 5 mm of rainfall during the period.
According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the wettest spells were recorded in the eastern suburbs, which received an average of 5.68 mm of rainfall, followed by 3.30 mm of rain in the western suburbs and 2.56 mm of rainfall in the island city division.
Amid Ganesh Chaturthi festivities unfolding in the city, the weather bureau had sounded a yellow alert in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts since Monday, owing to the likelihood of heavy rainfall in isolated pockets. While heavy showers have eluded the region, the city is experiencing overcast skies and brief spells of light to

moderate rainfall. This comes a week after extremely heavy rainfall battered the district between August 16 and August 19, when nearly 900 mm of rain

So far, Mumbai's Santacruz station has received 2,384 mm of rainfall between June and Thursday (August 28), while the Colaba station has recorded



IMD's Santacruz observatory recorded 1 mm of rainfall between Wednesday and Thursday morning, while the Colaba coastal observatory received 5 mm of rainfall during the period.

was recorded in Mumbai.
However, indicating a break from monsoon activity, IMD has issued no warnings for Mumbai from Friday in its forecast bulletin. Meanwhile, the neighbouring districts of Thane and Palghar have been placed under a yellow alert until Saturday morning, following which rain activity is expected to subside.

1,595 mm of rainfall. Of this, the suburban station has clocked over 1,000 mm of rainfall in August alone, in a stark departure from the normal monsoon patterns for the city.
Typically, August records only 566 mm of rainfall, while July receives the heaviest monsoon showers at an average of 855 mm.

Parents allege students humiliated, photo shared on WhatsApp group: Hindustan Antibiotics School faces probe

Pune. (Agency)
Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)'s education department has set up an inquiry against Hindustan Antibiotics School following allegations of humiliation of students over non-payment of fees. Parents of Class 7 students have alleged children who have not paid their fees were singled out in class, made to stand together and photographed, which was then shared on the parents' WhatsApp group.
The school is a government-aided school run by the Deccan Education Society. It was established in 1958 mainly for the wards of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd employees and children from low-income families in the neighbourhood.
Requesting anonymity, the parent of a Class 7 student told The Indian Express, "The school had no communication with parents regarding the fees. They told the students a couple of times and my child reminded me about the fees, but I could not pay it due to financial constraints. But why was my child humiliated? Is it right to humiliate children and their parents on WhatsApp groups over fees?"
"It is my fault that I was not able to pay the fees. What is the child's fault? Why single them



out in the class and take their photos? It is only natural that now the other kids will make fun of them for not having paid the fees," he added.
After receiving the message on the WhatsApp group on Monday, the parent approached the Republican Party of India (Athawale), which helped him file a complaint with the PCMC.
Sangita Bangar,

The school is a government-aided school run by the Deccan Education Society. It was established in 1958 mainly for the wards of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd employees and children from low-income families in the neighbourhood.

received, a class teacher clicked photos of the students and shared it in the parents' group. We will investigate tomorrow and find out why and how the teacher did this and what this fee was regarding."
Asha Mane, vice-principal of Hindustan Antibiotics School, told The Indian Express such photos should not have been taken and circulated by the teacher.
She assured that an internal inquiry has been set up by the school against the teacher and that the PCMC education department had also informed them that they were conducting an inquiry against the teacher. Mane added that the parents had not approached the school before taking their complaint to the PCMC.



said. A one-year-old girl's birthday party was underway on the fourth floor when 12 flats in a wing of the building collapsed, trapping residents and guests under the debris, as per eyewitnesses. Palghar District Collector Dr Indu Rani Jakhar on Thursday morning

confirmed that the death toll in the incident has gone up to 15.
The work of clearing the debris by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other rescue teams will continue to ensure no other person was trapped under the rubble, she told

Democracy on trial: From the rule of law to rule by law

The surest way to throttle democracy is to weaponise laws and target those opposing the government. This government seems to have converted this into an art.I recall the day the amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), was taken up for discussion in Parliament. The Home Minister openly stated that this was necessary, for none could oppose the inclusion of terrorists and terrorist organisations in the First Schedule of the UAPA, seeking to destabilise our Republic. I intervened and expressed my fears that these laws are likely to be used against our citizens; it has turned out to be a reality.The prosecution of young students, like Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, under those laws has resulted in them languishing in jail for years without a trial. Such laws have been used against journalists, academics, and members of religious communities in this country. The obvious intent was to silence them.The weaponisation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) is evident in its widespread use against political opponents, including chief ministers and ministers from opposition-ruled states, such as Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Satyendra Jain, Hemant Soren, and Farooq Abdullah, among others. Valiant attempts were made to move against Siddaramaiah, but they came to nought. These laws have also been used to instil fear in several leaders who were once part of the opposition but have been persuaded to join the BJP to save themselves from prosecution and imprisonment.The BJP has, particularly in Maharashtra, rewarded opposition leaders against whom serious allegations of corruption were publicly made for causing a split in their erstwhile parties. They are now part of the coalition ruling Maharashtra.The latest example of weaponisation of laws is the introduction of two Constitution (Amendment) Bills in Parliament on August 20, 2025. It is claimed that this is being done in public interest, for the welfare of the people and to uphold the principles of constitutional morality, and good governance—concepts that are alien to the functioning of this government.What is likely to serve is not public interest, but the political interest of the ruling dispensation. This is clear from the fact that the proposed law provides that the chief ministers and ministers being investigated for offences punishable for more than five years and being in custody for more than 30 days will, on the 31st day, if they have not resigned, be dismissed by the governor of the state.The principle of law that our Republic has embraced is that a person is innocent till proven guilty. In this case, a minister or a chief minister can be removed on a mere allegation without any proof. We are all aware that many such cases have been pending trial for over a decade and that the conviction rate in several of these prosecutions is abysmally low.

If the proposed constitutional amendments become law, it is most likely that trumped-up allegations will be made to target sitting chief ministers and ministers, and after 30 days in custody, they will be dismissed from those positions. Such allegations in the past have served the political interests of the BJP. The present establishment seeks to utilise these laws for its own political purposes.This weaponisation is also evident from how laws such as PMLA or UAPA have been used against influential ministers seeking to coerce them to join the BJP, or even public servants not belonging to any political party, in opposition-ruled states.Ironically, since 2014, these laws have never been invoked against any minister in any of the BJP-ruled states, or, for that matter, against any minister within the ruling establishment at the Centre. Obviously, the selective use of such laws serves the political interest of the party in power.

The silent scourge of hysterectomy

From Dima Hasao to Jaintia Hills, who owns the region’s wealth?

There is a quiet but serious epidemic in the country—hysterectomy. It is a surgical procedure involving the removal of a woman’s uterus, sometimes accompanied by the removal of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and cervix. According to the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS 5), the prevalence of hysterectomy among women aged 40-49 years was as high as nearly 10 percent. The numbers are far higher in states such as Andhra Pradesh (22.5 percent), Telangana (21.2 percent), Bihar (17.2 percent) and Gujarat (11.7 percent). More worryingly, the median age of women who had undergone hysterectomy is 34 years for rural and 36 years for urban areas, more than 10 years before natural menopause.The common reasons for getting a hysterectomy include excessive menstrual bleeding/pain, fibroids/ cysts, and uterine disorders. While it may be sometimes unavoidable, the surgery poses serious risk to women’s health by inducing early menopause. Research has established its links with increased risk of illnesses like cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders, ovarian failure, vasomotor symptoms, thyroid cancer, urinary tract cancer, pelvic prolapse, bone density loss, and mental health issues. Therefore, it is not a procedure that should be taken lightly.

Despite such obvious health consequences, why is hysterectomy among young women in India on the rise? Data consistently indicates a higher prevalence among less educated rural women, despite the limited access to surgical procedures in rural areas. Moreover, women agricultural workers have been hit hard by this trend as they are led to believe that it avoids loss of wages and improves endurance for demanding work hours without menstrual discomfort. This is widely documented among sugarcane workers in Maharashtra’s Beed district, where the prevalence was at a staggering 56 percent in 2024, with an average age of 35 years among women who migrated for work. Similar trends were observed among women agricultural workers in Telangana and Bihar, where the prevalence was 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively, according to NFHS 4. This grim choice, thought to be a short-term solution to avoid financial penalties, ironically reduces the woman’s active working lifespan and quality of life because of its impact on bone mineral density and cardiovascular health, among other ailments.From global experience, we know that the structure of the medical system, the

quality of medical advice and the extent of insurance coverage influence unnecessary surgeries. For instance, the prevalence of hysterectomy has always been much higher in the US (325 per 100,000 females in 2008) compared to average European OECD nations (212 in 2010), despite similar socioeconomic and health indicators.Europe’s largely public healthcare system leaves less incentive for private medical practitioners for invasive procedures. In contrast, the dominant private healthcare in the US, covered by insurance, exhibits the issue of moral hazard where health insurance coverage drives overprescription of surgeries or diagnostics.

Note that as per NFHS 5, 70 percent of the hysterectomies in India were done at private clinics. Bharath Bhushan Mamidi and Venkat Rao Pulla’s research, published in 2013, found in Andhra Pradesh that healthcare providers

done, particularly covered underCentre and state-funded insurance schemes.Taking cognisance, the National Health Authority, that administers the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, brought out a working paper in 2019 highlighting that hysterectomy claims under the scheme comprised almost 2 percent of claims for all female packages in 24 states in the first nine months (September 2018 to May 2019). The paper stressed the need for monitoring claims over time. Following this, the NHA in 2019 introduced pre-authorisation requirements for claims. For instance, a mandatory second gynaecological opinion and uploading of clinical or USG findings on the portal is required for women under 40 years.

The Union health ministry is clearly aware of this issue and noted in an advisory that “private empanelled healthcare providers are proceeding with the surgery (hysterectomy) without waiting for pre-auth approval, even after preauth processing doctor has asked a query/ clarification”. In 2022, it issued guidelines on unnecessary hysterectomies, including the creation of monitoring committees at district, state and national levels to gather data on surgeries across public and private facilities.

This issue requires a multi-pronged approach. Firstly, more recent and detailed data are needed on the prevalence of hysterectomy. NFHS should include questions on how women paid for the surgery to ascertain the role of public health insurance in rising cases. Secondly, greater awareness needs to be spread among women about the harmful effects of early hysterectomy. For heavy menstrual bleeding, which is the most cited reason, conservative treatment options like hormonal contraceptive pills and hormonal IUDs need to be promoted. Lastly, there should be stricter surveillance and medical audits.It is also worth examining whether such practices are guided by the misplaced perpetuation of population control policies/ mindset, as it has implications not just for women’s health but also for our demography at a time when India’s fertility rate is already below replacement level.The trend of unnecessary hysterectomies highlights a deeper challenge in healthcare delivery. When private providers operate within insurance-funded systems, without transparency and accountability, there is hardly any pushback from patients as they are insured. This presents a classic case of market failure due to asymmetric information, which heavily burdens the medical system with overprescription, drives up health costs, and strains public finances.



advised poor rural women as young as 20 years to have a hysterectomy even for routine gynaecological issues, such as abdominal pain and white discharge, without offering any alternatives due to the profit motive. Such nudges are common due to the lack of awareness about the importance of the womb for their overall health and longevity.In addition, insurance coverage clearly plays a role. Gaurav Gunnal and Sudeshna Roy (2024), and Angad Singh and Dipti Govil (2021) used data from NFHS 4 to show that women covered under insurance were more likely to undergo a hysterectomy. There are widespread media reports of unnecessary surgeries being

India in right stance to face extra tariff

The urea stock with the Centre at the beginning of this month was about half of what it was last August

Those who had hoped for a last-minute pause of the additional 25 percent tariffs on Indian exports to the US would be disappointed.With no settlement signed or even negotiated, the US department of homeland security on Tuesday notified “the punitive tariffs on Indian goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption” from 9.31 am IST on Wednesday would attract the heightened levies.The signals have been pointing in this direction. First, the US trade team, expected in India on August 25, deferred its visit. American rhetoric has been aggressive too; Vice President J D Vance on Sunday stated “aggressive economic leverage” including “secondary tariffs on India” had been applied to force Russia to stop bombing Ukraine.

It is to the credit of India that it has stood up to the armtwisting. Speaking in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated, “No matter how much pressure comes, we will keep increasing our strength to withstand it... The government will never let harm come the way of small entrepreneurs, farmers, livestock rearers.”The government has also rightly decided to diversify its trading options. Russian crude purchases,



which were suspended in July, have been resumed, with several Indian refiners placing orders for loading in

September and October.While the PM called for ‘self-reliance’, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra pledged the central bank “would not be found wanting” in providing additional liquidity to guard against the tariff impact.

ndia, which has been reaching out to Russia and China, has made it clear it intends to more than double its trade with Russia, targeting \$100 billion by 2030. Meanwhile, it must keep its US options open too, as the latter needs India as a counterweight to China.India has surpassed China as the top smartphone exporter with a 44 percent share of the US market, largely driven by Apple’s strategy to diversify production. Indian exports to the US are at about \$85 billion and cannot be replaced overnight without hurting American consumers.Peace or a pause in Ukraine could soon end the rationale behind the punitive tariffs. Thus, the expectation among some pundits that the trade talks could resume after a short hiatus is not misplaced. The government should use this period, meanwhile, to develop domestic demand and stronger, alternative regional trade routes.

Money gaming ban set to play spoilsport

The creation of a strong regulatory system could have been the first step before imposing a ban

DREAM11, RummyCircle, Pokerbaazi — these are just some of the familiar names associated with the online gaming industry. The first is well known due to its connections with cricket and football as fantasy sports games have become hugely popular. The others are linked to popular games of skill played all over the world at social and professional levels. The online versions of these and innumerable other games are played largely with real money, and this practice has now come under scrutiny.The outcome is the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act that bans all real money games (RMG) but seeks to support social and educational online games as well as electronic sports.At the outset, one must explain what defines a real money game. The new law says an RMG is any online game, which could be based on skill or chance, where a user deposits money or places a stake with the hope of winning something valuable, usually money. This is completely different from simply purchasing a game online.The passage of the law has created an uproar in the country’s burgeoning real money gaming sector. Industry associations estimate that about two lakh people are directly employed by such platforms, with another one lakh in related jobs. They argue that the ban on RMG could lead to most losing their livelihoods at a time when the IT industry in general is going through a shakeout, with jobs being

lost due to the advent of artificial intelligence. The ban will undoubtedly have a devastating effect on those employed in the sector and will equally impact the government’s tax revenue of Rs 20,000 crore. Venture capitalists are also worried about the \$2 billion raised for investments made in this sector. Most online RMG platforms now have few options — either to shut down or pivot to the much-less-lucrative advertisement-based model. The beleaguered gaming industry may even be gearing up to make a legal challenge to the new Act.In its defence, the government claims that these gaming platforms have caused addiction and financial ruin to millions of families. It says that as many as 45 crore people have been negatively affected and faced losses of over Rs 20,000 crore because of these platforms.

The question is: what prompted the government to take such a hard line on real money gaming, after allowing the industry to carry on operations in an unchecked manner for so long? One reason given is the failure of the industry to do self-regulation. It has not been able to implement measures to safeguard players from the danger of addiction, which often leads to financial distress. In addition, there are now concerns over terror financing and money laundering being linked to RMG entities. What is unique about this legislation is the bipartisan support to it. Apparently, online gambling addiction has become such an endemic problem that politicians of all hues feel the need to protect their constituents from its disastrous impact.

Besides, it may appear as if the law has been imposed suddenly, but there were clear indications over the past two years that the industry was treading on thin ice. The Information Technology Ministry laid down rules in 2023 to allow the creation of self-regulatory bodies for online gaming. These were aimed at certifying games

and blocking illegal offshore betting platforms. Such self-regulation efforts did not meet with much success. Subsequently, Goods and Services Tax (GST) levies on the full face value of deposits in RMG were hiked to 28 per cent. Thus, the gaming industry should have been cautious, given the nudges being given to regulate RMG with more care.As for the need to protect users of these online games, even young gamers recognise the



pitfalls. It starts out as a catchy game and the user is then lured into pumping more and more money into it. The suggestion of gamers, as well as of industry associations, is that the ban on RMG should be replaced by a strict regulatory framework. This is based on the premise that bans rarely work effectively. Those who are desperate to gamble are bound to move to unregulated offshore platforms to satisfy their urge to play these games.

The decision to impose an outright ban may have been

influenced by revelations in the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting scam. It involved a betting platform that enabled illegal gambling on card games and sports. It engaged in match-fixing, money laundering via crypto currency and manipulating games to ensure huge profits for its UAE-based promoters.The creation of a strong regulatory system, however, could have been the first step before imposing a ban on RMG. It could have given gaming platforms some time to pivot to non-money games as well as to adopt an advertising-based model. The sheer size of the industry and the potential for India to grow into a global hub for gaming also need to be taken into account while formulating such policies.

A report by RMG platform Winzo and the Interactive Entertainment and Innovation Council gives an indication of the size of a sector considered a sunrise industry till now. It says revenues of the online gaming industry were \$3.7 billion in 2024 and are expected to reach \$9.1 billion by 2029. The report says India has 591 million gamers, comprising 20 per cent of the total global gaming community along with 1,900 gaming companies employing 1.3 lakh skilled professionals. What is significant in the context of the latest ban is the estimate that RMG contributed 85.7 per cent of the sector’s revenue at \$3.2 billion.

The new gaming law is thus a harsh step that could affect the growth of a sunrise sector. A rigorous regulatory system could have been adopted initially before deciding to go for a complete RMG ban. At the same time, the widening arc of gambling addiction and financial distress must not be allowed to expand further. For the time being, the industry must evolve to utilise the space available for promotion of social, educational and e-sports that have a huge following in India and abroad.

Bhagwant Mann govt revokes suspension of IPS officer Parmar, dept probe continues

A departmental inquiry had been ordered against Parmar for alleged lapses in investigating a scam and that inquiry is still under progress, informed a senior police officer.

Chandigarh . (Agency)

The Punjab government Wednesday revoked the suspension of Additional Director General of Police Surinder Pal Singh Parmar and Senior Superintendent of Police Varinder Singh Brar. The government also posted Paamar as ADGP (law and order) and gave Brar the charge of assistant inspector general of police (provisioning), as per separate orders.

Parmar was suspended in April when he was the state vigilance bureau chief. He faced action along with two other officers — Swarandeep Singh (Assistant Inspector General (AIG), Flying Squad, Vigilance Bureau, Mohali) and Harpreet Singh (Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Vigilance Bureau, Jalandhar) — for allegedly not taking timely action in a driving licence scam case. Brar was suspended in May when he was the Fazilka SSP after four police officers were arrested in a bribery case.

While Parmar remained under suspension for four months, the government had revoked the suspension of Swarandeep and Harpreet in

May. A departmental inquiry had been ordered against Parmar for alleged lapses in



investigating a scam and that inquiry is still under progress, informed a senior police officer.

There has not been any official word on the reason why Parmar and other officials were suspended though Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) functionaries had made certain allegations against them at the time of suspension. However, these allegations did

not seem to hold any water as the two AIG/SSP level vigilance officials were

across the state. As part of this crackdown, surprise inspections were conducted by the Vigilance Bureau (VB) at Regional Transport Authority (RTA) offices and driving test centers.

These raids uncovered widespread malpractices, including the issuance of licenses without proper tests, use of fake documents, and bribery involving agents and officials. Consequently, 16 FIRs were registered, and 24 individuals, including agents and government staff, were arrested.

On April 25, three senior officers — Parmar, Swarandeep and Harpreet — were suspended for “grave misconduct and dereliction of duty” under relevant service rules. The suspensions were attributed to their alleged inaction despite available evidence, including delays in arresting two key accused RTO officials (Ravinder Kumar Bansal, RTO Nawanshahr, and Pardeep Singh Dhillon, RTO Mohali), who remained at large. It was also suspected that internal leaks from the VB allowed the accused to evade

reinstated to their original posts and one of them played a prominent part in arresting SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia in the disproportionate assets case.

In April 2025, the Punjab government, had initiated a high-profile anti-corruption drive targeting irregularities in the issuance of driving licenses

NFR to run five pairs of festival special trains to clear extra rush of passengers

Services of special train between Charlapalli and Naharlagun continues

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 28th August: In a bid to clear the extra rush of passengers, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to operate five pairs of festival special trains during the forthcoming festive season. Among these festival special trains - train No. 06559/06560 (SMVT Bengaluru-Narangi-SMVT Bengaluru) will run from 2nd September to 29th November, 2025 for 13 trips from both directions; train No. 05744/05743 (Katihar - Sonpur - Katihar) will run from 18th September to 14th November, 2025 for 25 trips from both directions; train No. 07541/07542 (Katihar - Dauram Madhepura - Katihar) will run from 21st September to 5th November, 2025 for 46 trips from both directions; train No. 07540/07539 (Katihar - Manihari - Katihar) will run from 21st September to 6th November, 2025 for 46 trips from both directions and train No. 07640/07639 (Agartala - Dharmanagar - Agartala) will run from 18th September to 30th October, 2025 for 33 trips from both directions. Accordingly, train No. 06559 (SMVT Bengaluru - Narangi) special will depart from SMVT Bengaluru on every

Tuesday at 23:40 hours to reach Narangi at 05:00 hours on Friday. In return direction, train No. 06560 (Narangi - SMVT

will depart from Sonpur on every Friday, Monday & Tuesday at 03:00 hours to reach Katihar at 12:00 hours on same day.



Bengaluru) special will depart from Narangi on every Saturday at 05:30 hours to reach SMVT Bengaluru at 09:45 hours on Monday. Train No. 05744 (Katihar - Sonpur) special will depart from Katihar on every Thursday, Sunday & Monday at 18:00 hours to reach Sonpur at 01:00 hours on the next day. In return direction, train No. 05743 (Sonpur - Katihar) special

Train No. 07541 (Katihar - Dauram Madhepura) special train will depart from Katihar daily at 19:00 hours to reach Dauram Madhepura at 22:00 hours on same day. In return direction, train No. 07542 (Dauram Madhepura - Katihar) special train will depart from Dauram Madhepura daily at 22:45 hours to reach Katihar at 2:30 hours on the next day.

Train No. 07540 (Katihar - Manihari) special train will depart from Katihar daily at 20:30 hours to reach Manihari at 21:30 hours on same day. In return direction, train No. 07539 (Manihari - Katihar) special train will depart from Manihari daily at 05:00 hours to reach Katihar at 06:00 hours on same day. Train No. 07640 (Agartala - Dharmanagar) special train will depart from Agartala daily at 05:15 hours to reach Dharmanagar at 08:45 hours on same day. In return direction, train No. 07639 (Dharmanagar - Agartala) special train will depart from Dharmanagar daily at 09:30 hours to reach Agartala at 13:20 hours on same day. Moreover, the services of festival special train no. 07046/07047 (Charlapalli - Naharlagun - Charlapalli) will continue for more 14 trips from 30th August to 2nd December, 2025 as per existing stoppages, timings and days of service. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available in IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Swept away, ‘Sher-e-Punjab’ was once residential premises that took a beating in 1995 flash floods

Shimla. (Agency)

A strong water current from the swollen Beas river swept away the iconic ‘Sher-e-Punjab’, a two-storey restaurant on Rohtang Road near Manali, leaving only the front wall bearing its name as a testament to its presence. The washed-away restaurant was an extension of the renowned ‘Sher-e-Punjab’ on the Mall Road in Manali, which had been in operation for over three decades.

The two-storey building, where the restaurant opened in 2021, was a residential structure and had faced calamities earlier, too. In 1995, when floods hit the Manali valley, the building took a beating from the raging Beas. Then, during the flash-floods of 2023, too, the overflowing Beas had hit the rear boundary wall of the structure, but didn’t cause any harm.

The Sher-e-Punjab’s building had a basement, a ground floor, and an upper floor with six rooms, and had the capacity to serve food to as many as 125 people at a time.

Videos and photos of the standing lone restaurant wall went viral on social media.

Saravjeet Singh Gulati, 58, who runs Sher-e-Punjab in Manali, had hired the two-

storey building on Rohtang road for the restaurant.

Gulati, the third generation



of a family which migrated from Peshawar in Pakistan to Mandi, in 1947, said, “I opened a branch on Rohtang road in 2021 after hiring the property from Sukhbir Mehta in 2020. My daughter Shaj was managing the branch.

“Usually, staff close the restaurant by 10 pm, but on Monday, they shut it around 8.30 pm. The last customers were a senior administrative officer and his driver, who were on a routine patrol. Luckily, no one was inside when the

building collapsed in the early hours of Tuesday.”

Gulati said in 2023, the Beas had hit the rear boundary wall of the building, but no damage was done. “The landowner informed us that the property was severely damaged by the flash floods in 1995.”

Gulati, who used to pay an annual rent of Rs 3.5 lakh, claimed that he suffered a loss of around Rs 1 crore in the tragedy. Along with Sher-e-Punjab, two more shops — a snow-dress rental outlet and a daily-needs store — were also swept away by the river. The two adjoining stores were makeshift structures, but ‘Sher-e-Punjab’ was a concrete building. Gulati said, “My grandfather migrated from Peshawar (Pakistan) to Mandi (undivided Punjab) in 1947. My father Amar Singh Gulati started selling various things, including shoes, umbrellas, slipper, etc. Later, we also moved to Manali, and I established myself here.”

Gulati said, “The telecommunication connectivity in Manali was hit severely. I am talking to you over the phone because I am in Mumbai with my relatives. I am unable to contact my children and staff since Tuesday evening.”

Token system introduced, 7,479 picked on Day 2: Govt on Rozgar Mahakumbh

Lucknow . (Agency)

Organisers of the Rozgar Mahakumbh 2025 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow introduced a token system on Wednesday after an overwhelming turnout of job seekers on the event’s second day, and moved candidates into separate halls to manage crowds more effectively. The changes came as officials sought to reduce congestion while continuing large-scale recruitment drives across sectors. The government said 7,479 candidates were selected on Wednesday, including 6,947 for jobs within India and 532 for positions with 22 companies in the United Arab Emirates.

With these selections, the total number of recruits from the first two days stands at 9,297. Officials said they expect total recruitments to exceed 15,000 by the close of the third and final day of this phase. Chief Minister’s advisor Awanish Awasthi visited the venue around 5pm to review arrangements and praised the improved management. Several senior officials remained on site throughout the day to oversee logistics and ensure convenience for applicants, the official release added.

Murder of 2 over chicken prices and a revenge killing in Ajmer: How 3 brothers’ luck runs out in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The murder of a meat shop owner in Ajmer over selling chicken at “low prices” and an alleged revenge killing on July 15 after a duel between two groups of the Qureshi community have kept Rajasthan police on their toes after three of the 14 accused in the double murder, three brothers, went into hiding.

The three brothers, identified as Salman s/o Abdulali Qureshi (29) and his brothers Allarakha, 25, and Oves, 20, have been arrested in Ahmedabad a month after the alleged crime. Gujarat police said Wednesday. The trio is accused of fatally stabbing meat shop owner Imran and his associate Shah Nawaz in Ajmer city for selling chicken at lower prices, said a release by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch.

The accused had been booked under BNS Section 103(2) which concerns a murder committed by a group of five or more people acting in concert. The three were handed over to the Rajasthan Police, said DCP Ajit Rajan of the Ahmedabad Crime Branch. The brothers also own a meat shop in the same area. A conflict arose after Imran posted low prices of chicken in a common WhatsApp group, the release said. This led to a fight between two groups. The accused were allegedly trying to force Imran

Why Sultanpur Lodhi’s Mand area faces floods after every rain: Inside Dhussi Bandh’s history and the people’s struggle

Jalandhar. (Agency)

Recurring floods in Sultanpur Lodhi’s Mand area, an island, almost every or alternate rainy season raise an obvious question: why do 16 villages on the island, as many villages by the river and over 10,000 acres of farmland drown, even if Punjab receives slightly above normal or even deficit rainfall? This year, ironically, Kapurthala recorded just 22 mm rainfall in the past three days, and it still has a deficit of 45 per cent — the



even seasonal river of Punjab to protect the countryside areas close to the rivers. The objective of the Dhussi bandh on the Beas was to protect the downstream areas from the river’s unpredictable course. But, while the bandh protected several villages outside, around 30 villages inside the bandh, of which 16 fall on an island-type area and the remaining, along with the river inside the Dhussi bandh in Sultanpur Lodhi tehsil, remained exposed to backflow and inundation.

Around 10,000 acres in Sultanpur Lodhi Mand area and in the adjoining Tam Taran and Ferozepur get affected badly with the swelling of the Beas. In Mand villages, the Beas now flows directly over around 3,000-4,000 acres.

Ownership and allotment — a history

Generally, it is believed that people living inside the Dhussi bandh are actually using the riverbed for their houses and farming, but the people in these over 30 villages claim that they are not using the riverbed and the land they have been cultivating is theirs. They also have proper documents like registries, intkaals and fards of the land as everything is theirs in the revenue record. “We are not using even a single inch of the river land. We are using land which is legally under our ownership,” said Kuldeep Singh Sangara of Sangara village in Mand area.

The Dhussi bandh was originally laid down in the 1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far. However, villages in the Mand area have under water for the past around 10 days — even as Punjab recorded close to the normal rainfall — due to the heavy flow of water in the Beas river from the upstream and the Pong dam. The answer lies in the topography and history of Dhussi Bandh, a protective embankment along the Beas, which has turned the Mand into a bowl holding water with no effective outflow, except for running towards Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

with no effective outflow,

except for running towards

Harike.

Inside Dhussi bandh

The Dhussi bandh was

originally laid down in the

1950s on every perennial and

highest in the state, so far.

However, villages in the

Mand area have under water

for the past around 10 days

— even as Punjab recorded

close to the normal rainfall

— due to the heavy flow of

water in the Beas river from

the upstream and the Pong

dam. The answer lies in the

topography and history of

Dhussi Bandh, a protective

embankment along the Beas,

which has turned the Mand

into a bowl holding water

Scholarships, work prospects — and Chinese dramas: Mandarin finds new takers in Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

On a humid August day at MeiYu Chinese Centre in Delhi's Karol Bagh, a native Mandarin teacher, Claire Laoshi, guides a group of beginner-level students through simple sentences. "Wo he kafei," she says. "It means I drink coffee."

The students repeat it as she explains how he means drink and that adding le turns the action into the past tense.

She then introduces a practical scenario. "If your colleague asks you in the morning, 'Did you drink coffee?' you can answer, 'Wo he le (I drank)'..." she says. "In Chinese, the adverbs always go with adjectives."

The students nod, as they jot down the grammar lesson — some writing down the structure: Subject + Verb + Object. "Next Saturday, when I ask you if you did the homework, you will say, 'Wo xie le (I wrote it),'..." says Laoshi. The next sentence is tougher. "Ta men ti zuqiu (they play football)." Some stumble at first, until the teacher pronounces zuqui as dzoo chyo.

By the end of the lesson, the students are familiar with simple Mandarin greetings.

"A says 'Ni hao', B replies 'Ni hao ma?'" Laoshi

demonstrates.

One by one, the students respond: "Wo hen hao. Ni ne? (I'm fine. How are you?)" — marking their first attempt at a



tiny dialogue in Mandarin.

They are part of the HSK 1 (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi or Chinese Proficiency Test) batch at the centre. It comprises 10 students, mostly in their 20s.

Mandarin has been steadily gaining popularity in the city among those seeking foreign scholarships and global career prospects.

According to data shared by Mandarin instructors in Delhi-NCR, learners come from a wide range of professional backgrounds: around 55% are corporate professionals, 25% are business owners from manufacturing and export sectors, and around 20% are

university students or young professionals aiming to study or work abroad.

Some like Princi Narang, among the centre's older

She adds, "Initially, it was overwhelming — tones, characters, sentence structures. But when you want to learn something, you have to give it

awareness is still limited.

"People are fascinated, but ultimately, they approach it from a career perspective," says Jaiswal. "Chinese is a highly practical language and can be very rewarding, offering excellent salary packages."

Earlier, job opportunities for those proficient in Mandarin were largely thought to be limited to tour guides or the tourism industry. But now, Jaiswal notes, the scope has significantly expanded to include roles such as interpreters, translators, positions in multinational companies, the travel industry, embassies and diplomatic missions, as well as government-linked posts.

The institute itself has come a long way from when it started with six students in 2018. "Initially, foreign languages were a niche... We wanted to focus on one language properly. Over the years, we evolved, added courses, and adjusted to student needs," he adds.

Many college students are also choosing Mandarin over traditionally popular options like French and German.

At Delhi University, Prof. Payal Maggo, Director of the School of Open Learning (SOL), points to a university-led survey that highlighted the growing interest in Mandarin.

students, were drawn to the language through social media and Chinese Dramas.

A digital marketing professional, the 21-year-old says she started learning Mandarin in May 2023. She initially travelled from her hometown in Muzaffarnagar to Delhi for classes, later shifting to Noida for convenience.

"I became interested in the language because of short reels on Instagram and binge-watching Chinese dramas. The characters and phrases fascinated me, and I thought — why not learn the language?" she says. Narang has since progressed to the HSK 4 level.

'City has over 300 villages': PIL seeks HC directions to implement Delhi Panchayati Raj Act



New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought a note from the Delhi government on the legislative history of the Capital, and also asked if the provisions of Delhi Panchayat Raj Act are applicable or if it stands repealed.

The bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was dealing with a public interest litigation by Satish Aggarwal, former vice-president of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, seeking the court's directions to the authorities to immediately implement the Delhi Panchayati Raj Act in the villages of NCT of Delhi.

Submitting that the Act has been in existence since 1954 with elections to Delhi's panchayats held only up to 1989, the PIL claims that the municipal corporations in the Capital have "encroached upon the territorial jurisdiction of gaon panchayats, and municipal laws are being applied to rural

areas/villages of Delhi", depriving villagers of their constitutional rights, including

As per the available data, it added, more than 300 villages are notified as rural or partially urbanised, where residents are engaged in agriculture and other "allied village activities".

of self governance.

The PIL has also claimed that Delhi, despite being a union territory with a legislature, has failed to implement the Panchayati Raj system in its village areas, and contrary to general perception of the city being entirely urban, "several notified rural villages still exist in the National Capital Territory". As per the available data, it added, more than 300 villages are notified as rural or partially urbanised, where residents are engaged in agriculture and other "allied village activities".

2 members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang arrested in Delhi after exchange of gunfire

The Delhi Police said the arrested men are associated with US-based Harry Boxer, who claimed to have commissioned the firing outside comedian Kapil Sharma's cafe in Canada.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang were arrested after a brief exchange of fire in Delhi's New Ashok Vihar area late Wednesday night, the police said.

The police identified the arrested men as Kartik Jhakkad



and Kavish, who allegedly work for US-based Harry Boxer, who claimed to have commissioned the recent firing outside comedian Kapil Sharma's cafe in Canada's Surrey.

According to the police, Sub Inspector Vijender received information about the presence of Jhakkad, a key henchman of Boxer. "A team led by Inspector Sanjay Gupta and Inspector Pawan reached the area and spotted two suspicious men on a bike. When they were asked to stop, the pillion rider opened fire," a Special Cell officer said.

The police recognised the

man on the pillion as Jhakkad and fired back in self-defence as the accused tried to escape. "One of the bullets struck Jhakkad's left leg, causing the bike to become unbalanced. Both accused were then detained. The bike rider was identified as Kavish, who had recently joined the Boxer gang," the officer said.

Jhakkad, the police said, has more than 10 cases against him, including that of extortion. "He recently demanded Rs 2 crore from a businessman at Ganga Nagar in the New Ashok Vihar area. The reason for the presence of the two in the

capital is being probed," the officer added.

Boxer, who hails from the Alwar district in Rajasthan, is known to be close to Bishnoi's brother Anmol and is believed to have reached the United States via 'dunk' route in 2024.

"The Bishnoi gang has used him to oversee their extortion business both in the US and in Punjab, Delhi and Rajasthan. He allegedly called a businessman in GTB Enclave on August 23 and on August 25 to demand an extortion payment of Rs 5 crore," the officer said.

Bishnoi is currently housed in a high-security cell at Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad. Despite being imprisoned, he has been connected to several high-profile crimes, including the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala in 2022 and threats against actor Salman Khan.

Delhi Police bust human trafficking ring, rescue 3 children from J-K

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police recently busted a network of agents allegedly targeting minors and labourers at railway stations and transporting them to Jammu and Kashmir for exploitation as domestic workers and bonded labourers. They rescued three minors, arrested four men and are looking for more members of the network.

The police probe began in December 2024, when a woman complained at the Bhalswa Dairy police station that two children were missing: her 15-year-old daughter and her 13-year-old friend, who lived in the neighbourhood.

"The 15-year-old left her house in anger after he parents scolded her. She asked her friend to accompany her," a police officer said.

The probe made no progress for the next seven months. Then in June, a man from Jammu contacted the local police, saying that a girl had contacted him on Instagram.

"The man claimed that he had been talking with a girl from Delhi for months on Instagram. He said she had then suddenly contacted him using another number registered in Jammu," a police officer said. The police found out that it was the 15-year-old girl who had left her Bhalswa Dairy home in December.

The police then tracked the number and found that it belonged to a woman working as a maid in Jammu. "The two girls who disappeared from Delhi were working as domestic help with the maid at a house in Jammu. They were trafficked from Delhi," a police



officer said.

On June 15, the police conducted a raid at the house in Jammu and brought back both the girls.

Hareshwar Swami, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer), said, "Their statements before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) revealed that they were lured by traffickers from the Old Delhi railway station, transported via the 15-year-old girl who had left her Bhalswa Dairy home in December.

On August 14, based on

technical surveillance, the police arrested Suraj, 31, a resident of Begampur, who was allegedly transporting children to Jammu at the behest of Delhi-based agents. On Suraj's instance, the police arrested another man, Salim.

"Upon interrogation, Salim

disclosed that he runs an agency in the name of V A Manpower Private Limited, Bemina, Srinagar, through which he trafficked nearly 500 people in the last two years, charging huge commissions per victim," DCP Swami said.

On August 19, the police took Salim to Srinagar and conducted a raid, leading to the arrests of two other agents, Md Talib and Satnam Singh. On their instance, the police rescued another 16-year-old victim.

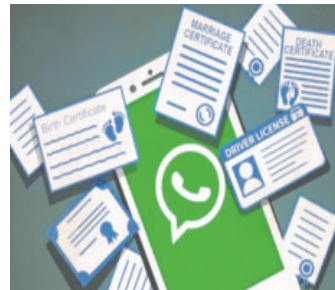
New Delhi. (Agency)

Need to apply for a marriage certificate, caste certificate, or driver's licence? Soon, Delhi residents will be able to access all these services through their phone — via WhatsApp.

Officials said the Delhi government is planning to launch the initiative called 'WhatsApp governance', and residents will be able to apply for services, verify documents, and download certificates — all from the comfort of their homes.

"Through this service, citizens of Delhi can avail multi-departmental services from the convenience of their WhatsApp account, without the need for additional applications or physical visits to government offices, thereby improving accessibility, transparency, and governance efficiency," said a senior official.

The previous AAP government had launched a similar "doorstep delivery"



scheme, which provided access to more than 30 services — across government departments — from the convenience of a person's home. The Indian Express reported in June that the scheme, which has been inactive for over a year, is likely to be discontinued soon.

"For the past year, people have struggled with long queues and touts just to get basic certificates. To ease this, the government is working to launch the 'WhatsApp Governance' initiative, using AI and modern technology to make public services more accessible," said a senior

Visa fraud busted in Delhi: 19 from Nepal lured with jobs in Serbia, duped of Rs 70 L; 2 held

New Delhi. (Agency)

Last April, Suján Khadka (22), a Nepalese national, along with 18 of his fellow countrymen, thought that they were on the brink of an opportunity of a lifetime. He had met a man named Jaykab in Northeast Delhi's Seelampur who allegedly lured them with job opportunities in Serbia. He said that all the formalities would be taken care of by him.

"To win their confidence, he showed scanned copies of purported Serbian employment visas and job offer letters, thereby convincing the victims of the authenticity of his claims," a police officer said.

It was a well-planned fraud with Jaykab and his associate, Rupesh, allegedly during the 19 aspiring job seekers of Rs 70 lakh as part of "visa processing fees", the Delhi Police said. The duo were nabbed on Tuesday.

According to the police, on August 22, a written complaint was received by the team of Crime Branch (Eastern Range) from Khadka. "A Nepali national, currently residing at Neel Gagan Hotel, Paharganj, alleged that he, along with 18 other Nepali citizens, had been duped by a fraudulent visa racket allegedly operated by Jaykab," DCP (Vikram Singh) said. Jaykab, after taking the 19

men into confidence, took their Nepali passports for visa processing last April, the police said. Over a month later, Jaykab allegedly demanded that the 19 Nepali nationals pay ₹3,500 each for the processing of the documents. "Acting on the instructions of the accused, all 19 victims travelled from Nepal to Delhi in July, hoping they could collect their passports, Serbian visas and board their onward flights," DCP Singh said. However, once they reached India, Jaykab started avoiding them, the police said. After staying in lodges in India for over a month, the Nepali citizens finally tracked Jaykab to his Seelampur residence, where he threatened them and flatly refused to return their money, the police said.

"Acting on inputs, the Crime Branch team arrested Jaykab (41) from Noida and found Serbian visas shown by the accused were forged and fabricated," DCP Singh said.

During questioning, Jaykab revealed the involvement of his associates Sachin, George aka Bijoj and Rupesh. Rupesh was then arrested from Trishul Colony in Chhawla, the police said. Further investigation to arrest the other accused is ongoing, officers added.

Lionel Messi powers Inter Miami past Orlando City to Leagues Cup final



New Delhi. (Agency)
Lionel Messi once again proved decisive as Inter Miami advanced to the Leagues Cup final with a 3-1 victory over Orlando City in Fort Lauderdale on Wednesday night. The Argentine forward scored twice and provided an

assist in a devastating late spell, ensuring the Herons reached their second final in three years. Orlando, who had beaten Miami twice in Major League Soccer this season, began confidently and took the lead just before the interval. In first-half stoppage time, Marco

Pasalic capitalised on a defensive lapse. After being briefly dispossessed by Maximiliano Falcon, the ball ricocheted kindly off his chest and he lashed a half-volley beyond Oscar Ustari to give the visitors a 1-0 advantage. Miami pressed after the restart but

struggled to find a breakthrough until the turning point arrived in the 74th minute. Tadeo Allende got in behind David Brekalo and directed a header on target, which Pedro Gallese parried. However, referee Walter Lopez judged that Brekalo had pulled Allende

back in the process. The defender received a second yellow card and was dismissed, leaving Orlando with 10 men. Messi seized the moment. From the resulting penalty in the 77th minute, he coolly struck low to the right. Gallese dived the right way but was unable to keep it out, and Miami were level. The equaliser galvanised the hosts, who sensed an opportunity to punish their short-handed rivals. In the 88th minute, Messi combined brilliantly with Jordi Alba, rekindling their Barcelona chemistry. A swift exchange of passes unlocked Orlando's defence before Messi finished neatly into the bottom corner to complete the turnaround. The 37-year-old was not done. In stoppage time, he linked with Telasco Segovia, slipping a pass that the Venezuelan midfielder converted from close range to seal the result and spark celebrations at Chase Stadium. Miami, winners of the 2023 Leagues Cup, will now travel to face the Seattle Sounders in Sunday's final. The Sounders earned their place with a 2-0 victory over LA Galaxy earlier in the evening. The winner will secure direct entry into the round of 16 of the 2026 CONCACAF Champions Cup.

England's batting line-up will be unbelievable in Ashes: Josh Hazlewood

New Delhi. (Agency)
Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood has admitted that the upcoming Ashes series will be one of the biggest tests of his career as he prepares to take on what he calls a formidable England batting lineup. He heaped praise on Joe Root and Harry Brook, two of England's finest Test batters, who headline a side that has not won the Ashes in Australia since the 2010-11 series. Hazlewood commended the strength of England's top order, calling it the most dangerous unit he has faced in an Ashes contest. Among the key players, he highlighted Harry Brook, ranked No. 2 in the world, and Joe Root, Test cricket's second-highest run-scorer, who he feels is in the form of his career. "England has obviously played on quite flat wickets in recent years, and it's been a really dry summer as well, so they are probably starting to get tired and spin now. I think [Brook] will adapt. He's a good player. He's at the top of the rankings for a reason, and he'll be a tough challenge," Hazlewood said. The experienced pacer also believes that vice-captain Brook's aggressive style could suit Australian conditions, even though this will be his first Ashes tour down under. The 25-year-old has already amassed 2,820 runs at an average of 57.55, including 10 centuries in

just 30 Tests. "I think a fresh face like Harry Brook might find it easier. There's no baggage behind him and he can



just come out and play with freedom as he does. Joe's [Root] probably in the form of his life as well. So they're an unbelievable batting line, to be honest. The top seven have done really well... so it's a challenge," Hazlewood said. The preparations underline how seriously he is taking the series. While bowling partners Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc opted to rest and manage workloads, the 33-year-old chose to keep himself in rhythm by playing in the white-ball series against South Africa, featuring in three T20Is and two ODIs. "It felt like over the last 12 months, the best way for me to go about it is just keep on ticking over, keep playing, not having too long off bowling. I find getting back to that intensity and volume is quite tough for me. So if I can just keep staying up there."

Ever-improving Neeraj eyes Diamond Trophy before World Championship showdown

New Delhi. (Agency)
Neeraj Chopra is no stranger to the podium. The two-time Olympic champion, however, hasn't lifted a major title since his triumph at the World Championships in Budapest in 2023. The Diamond League Final in Zurich now offers India's golden boy a chance to end that drought, as he arrives as the clear favourite in a seven-man field on Thursday, August 28. Neeraj, who etched history as the first Indian to win the prestigious Diamond Trophy in 2022, has had to settle for second place in the last two editions. After conquering the world in Budapest in 2023, he went into the Paris Olympics as the man to beat. But this time it was Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem who edged him out, forcing the Indian ace to finish with a silver medal. Now, with two major events crammed into a matter of weeks—the Diamond League



Final and the World Championships - Neeraj is chasing more than just titles. His sights are firmly set on pushing his own limits, continuing a relentless pursuit of progress and perfection that has defined his career. Few athletes have been as consistent as Neeraj over the last two Olympic cycles. With podium finishes in each of his last 36 appearances at the elite level, he has turned winning into a habit. Since that unforgettable gold-medal throw in Tokyo, the

javelin star has crossed 88 metres on 19 occasions - a staggering measure of his dominance and consistency in men's javelin. EVER-IMPROVING NEERAJ The number that once defined him, though, is finally behind him. Earlier this year in Doha, Neeraj became the first Indian to breach the magical 90m mark. It was a moment of vindication after years of expectation. "I was waiting so long for 90m," he admitted. "People have been asking me about it since I threw 88m in 2018. It was always in my head. Now, it's over. I am happy that people are no longer asking this question." But for Neeraj, Doha was not a finish line - it was a starting point. "I really want to throw more and more consistently over 90m," he said. "It was early in the season, and my focus has been on zoning in on good technique. In training, I am doing really good with my

coach Jan elezn. I want to ensure I compete with the same technique in competition." Technique is the obsession that drives him forward. Even his best throws, he insists, leave room for improvement. "In Doha, the throw was good, but I won't say my technique was perfect. If my left leg can be straighter and if I use the perfect block, that will be a really good throw. Then I will be satisfied with the speed," he explained. Jan Zelezny's influence looms large in Neeraj's evolution, particularly when it comes to refining the finer points of his craft. Training under the Czech legend - the man who has crossed 90 metres more times than anyone in history - is, for Neeraj, a privilege. "When Jan competed, he was on another level," Neeraj reflected. "I have looked up how to manage pressure and be consistent."

Dhruv Jurel, Abhimanyu Easwaran miss Duleep ties with fever and groin injury

New Delhi. (Agency)
Central Zone captain Dhruv Jurel and East Zone skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran were absent as the Duleep Trophy quarter-finals got underway in Bengaluru on Thursday, dealing a blow to their respective sides. North Zone, too, entered the match with a leadership change. Original skipper Shubman Gill was sidelined after failing to recover from a fever in time. Vice-captain Ankit Kumar stepped up to lead the team, while Shubham Goel was added as Gill's replacement. Central Zone faced a similar challenge with Jurel missing the clash against NorthEast Zone due to a groin niggle that flared up on the eve of the match. Although the Test specialist was present for pre-match proceedings, team management advised him to sit out to avoid further aggravating the injury. In his absence, Rajat Patidar, who captained Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their IPL title



earlier this year and was Central Zone's vice-captain, took over the leadership role in the high-stakes knockout game. East Zone faced an even bigger crisis. Abhimanyu Easwaran fell ill with a fever on the morning of their quarter-final against North Zone at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. His absence left a void in the top order, compounded by the unavailability of pacer Akash Deep and wicketkeeper-batter

Ishan Kishan. Assam all-rounder Riyan Parag was handed the captaincy, stepping into the leadership void to guide a weakened side in a tough encounter. Easwaran's absence was particularly disappointing, given his recent stint on the five-Test tour of England, where he remained on the bench throughout. Like Jurel, he has been part of India's squad in the longest format but has struggled for opportunities.

India is ahead in clean energy commitments, achieves 2030 goal five years early

New Delhi. (Agency)
Most of the "common man items" are proposed to be moved to the lower GST slab rate of 5 per cent under the GST rationalisation initiative, government sources said on Friday, noting that the Centre will closely engage with states to build a broad-based consensus in the coming weeks. The sources said that food items and daily use items will fahe proposal on restructuring and new GST slabs will have marginal negative effect on GST collection. They said the proposal has been sent to the Group of Ministers (GoM) to enable constructive and inclusive dialogue. "This will have a big impact on reinvigorating core economic sectors like agriculture, textiles, fertilisers, renewable energy, automotive, handicrafts, healthcare, insurance, construction, transportation," a source said. Sources said a meeting of the GST Council is likely to be held in September-October to consider the proposal. Referring to the pillars of structural reforms, rate rationalisation and Ease of Living, the sources said that structural reforms include correction on invested duty structure (IDS), aligning input and output tax in key sectors to eliminate IDS, supporting

domestic value addition and improving liquidity specially for MSMEs. Classification issues would be resolved and there will be streamlining of tax

games on September 3, 6, and 7, serving as vital preparation ahead of the Asia Cup 2025.

Sri Lanka, who finished as



structure on namkeen, savouries. Charith Asalanka will captain the side, with experienced names like Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka and Dasun Shanaka providing stability. In Hasaranga's absence, the onus will fall on young all-rounders Dunith Wellalage and Kamindu Mendis to step up. The tour also provides an opportunity for fringe players such as Kamil Mishara and Vishen Halambage to make a case for Asia Cup selection. Sri Lanka's tour of Zimbabwe begins with two ODIs in Harare, scheduled for August 29 and 31. The sides then meet in a three-match T20I series, also in Harare, with

the runners-up in the previous edition, are scheduled to begin their upcoming Asia Cup campaign on Saturday, September 13 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Sri Lanka squad for Zimbabwe T20Is Charith Asalanka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Nuwanidu Fernando, Kamindu Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Vishen Halambage, Dasun Shanaka, Dunith Wellalage, Chamika Karunaratne, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushan Hemantha, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana.

US Open 2025, Day 5, Order of Play: Swiatek, Sinner, Gauff aim for Round 3 berths

New Delhi. (Agency)
Day 5 of the 2025 US Open offers a packed line-up featuring top seeds and home favourites across the show courts. At Arthur Ashe Stadium, World No. 2 Iga Swiatek opens against Suzan Lamens, aiming to maintain her dominant form. Top seed Jannik Sinner follows with a testing clash against Alexei Popyrin, while American No. 3 seed Coco Gauff meets Donna Vekic in a highly anticipated battle. At Louis Armstrong Stadium, 10th seed Lorenzo Musetti takes on Belgian veteran David Goffin in the



opening match. Naomi Osaka, seeded 23rd and looking to



continue her strong return, faces Hailey Baptiste in a match sure

RCB's first post in 3 months after Bengaluru stampede: The silence was grief

New Delhi. (Agency)
Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Thursday ended their three-month silence on social media with an emotional message addressed to their fans - the self-styled "12th Man Army" - while announcing the launch of "RCB Cares," an initiative aimed at honouring supporters and assisting families affected by the stampede that marred the team's title celebrations in June. The tragedy occurred on 4

June 2025, when thousands gathered outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to celebrate RCB's maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) triumph. Eleven people lost their lives, and 56 others were injured in the crush, even as festivities continued inside the venue. The contrast drew widespread outrage, with the franchise facing heavy criticism for its muted response. In the aftermath, RCB announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh for

each of the deceased families and launched the "RCB Cares" fund to support injured fans and provide medical assistance. These measures were presented as a way to reaffirm the club's solidarity with its supporters in a time of grief. The Karnataka state government also placed responsibility for the incident on RCB, further fuelling public anger. While the franchise had issued a brief statement of condolence immediately after the tragedy, their prolonged

silence remained a source of mounting scrutiny. On Thursday, RCB returned to Instagram with a candid post, acknowledging the grief and unveiling their new initiative: "It's been close to three months since we last posted here. The silence wasn't absence. It was grief. This space was once filled with energy, memories and moments that you enjoyed the most. But June 4th changed everything."

Swadeshi-style startups breathing life into rural economy, generating employment



Kolkata. (Agency)
India cannot be imagined without its rural hinterland and the vast rural economy is being invigorated by Swadeshi startups that are based on indigenous practices and resources. These ventures draw upon the age-old Ayurvedic practices of India. It also creates an economic ecosystem that links local farmers, women groups, small entrepreneurs. The resources, practices,

consumers and markets are India's own having drawn nourishment from the centuries-old traditions of India. A significant part of the raw materials and resources are medicinal plants such as tulsi, neem, turmeric, ashwagandha etc. These are cultivated organically and numerous village-based processing units turns them into extracts, oils and powders. apart from linking producers, processors and users,

these ventures provide an invaluable service to the economy — they prevent migration of workers from the rural areas to the cities. It is achieved by generating employment for both males and females at the village level from production to processing from packaging to delivery and sales of the products in the countryside. The wellness and agrifood sectors are two domains where

these startups are becoming active quickly.Grassroot-level employment Developing job opportunities at the grassroots level is the key challenge of policymakers. Ayurveda-driven startups serve this purpose well by generating livelihoods at the local level. The process starts with the cultivation of medicinal flora. Medicinal plants offer a way of crop diversification for the local

farmers. Once the crop is harvested, the raw material moves to processing plants where they offer employment opportunities to local women. Young men from the villages also find employment in these units.

The model can also work in large-scale units which Patanjali has proved. This company has adopted organic cultivation. The net result of this model: farmers get more remunerative prices for their crops.

Challenges for the sector
Needless to say, like any other industry sectors, swadeshi startups too face difficulties. The obstacles typically relate to the financing and technology, both of which are required to scale up these units. Another challenge is maintaining uniform quality standards. For some products certification needs are also there.

Also in these startups formal training is one of the vital needs that are not widely found. If these gaps can be addressed, vast opportunities wait for this sector. Rural incubation programs are gradually coming up to offer a platform to rural entrepreneurs. The two basic requirements are hand holding of the entrepreneurs for the initial years and providing them access to markets.

AIF commitments surge past Rs 14.2 tln; funds deployments nears Rs 6 tln

MUMBAI . (Agency)
Despite the Reserve Bank capping investments by banks and other financial institutions in alternate investment fund (AIF) schemes at 10%, overall investor commitments to AIFs rose 20% on-year to a record Rs 14.2 trillion as of June 2025, with funds raised touching Rs 6 trillion and deployments from such funds crossing Rs 5.72 trillion, according to Sebi data.

The AIF industry has been rocking with the rising inclination of ultra high-networth individuals and family offices to deploy their monies in high yielding investment options like AIFs. These schemes have gained traction also because of their ability to diversify investments in early stage startups, unlisted assets, and complex trading strategies. As a result the total commitments for AIFs surged to Rs 14.2 trillion as of June 2025, which is a 20% jump on-year and 5% growth sequentially.

Also, total funds raised inched closer to Rs 6 trillion mark while total investments made through such funds rose to Rs 5.72 trillion, according to the latest data from the Securities and Exchange Board (Sebi).AIFs are pooled investment vehicles catering to the niche segment with high entry investments. Recently, the market regulator has pushed for accreditation among investors

for certain schemes.Category II AIFs focus on private equity, debt, and other unlisted assets, continue to dominate the segment with highest commitments at Rs 10.78 trillion. But of late there is also a rising inclination towards category III AIFs which include hedge funds. According to the report by the industry



association IVCA, category III AIFs accounted for 47% of the total launches this financial year so far.In terms of investments, real estate is the largest accounting for nearly 12.5%, followed by financial services, IT, NBFCs, and banks.It can be noted that in early June, the Reserve Bank, which has been frowning upon the mushrooming of AIFs for quite sometimes, has capped the cumulative investments by banks, non-banks and all-India financial institutions at 10% of their corpus of any single entity exposure 20%. The new directions will be in force from January 1, 2026 and will apply to all banks, cooperative banks, non-banks.

India on track to become 2nd largest economy by 2038: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)
India could become the world's second-largest economy by the year 2038, reported EY. With strong economic fundamentals, a young population, and a sustainable fiscal position, India is expected to continue its robust growth despite global uncertainties.



The report, called the 'EY Economy Watch', mentioned that if current growth trends continue, India may become the world's second-largest economy by 2038 in PPP terms, with a GDP projected at \$34.2 trillion.WHY IS INDIA DOING SO WELL?
Unlike many other big economies in the world, India has some unique advantages. The average age of people in India in 2025 is just 28.8 years. This means there's a huge number of young, working people who can drive the economy forward for

that India's strong economy doesn't rely too much on what's happening in other countries. Our huge domestic market means people within India are buying and selling things, which keeps the economy healthy even when global trade is slow.

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD?The report compares India to other major economies like the USA, China, Germany, and Japan. While they are all very successful, they face some big challenges that India doesn't. For example, China is dealing with an ageing population, and the USA has a lot of debt. Germany and Japan also have older populations and are very dependent on global trade, which can be a risk.

In simple terms, India's mix of a young population, high domestic demand, and good financial health gives it the most promising path for long-

term growth.According to EY India's Chief Policy Advisor, DK Srivastava, the country's strong points will help it grow even when the world economy is facing problems. He says India is well on its way to achieving its goal of becoming a "Viksit Bharat" (developed India) by 2047.India is also expected to become the third-largest economy in market exchange rate terms by 2028, surpassing Germany. Even potential disruptions, like US tariffs affecting 0.9% of GDP, are projected to have only a minor impact on growth if countered with export diversification and stronger domestic demand.

With a combination of a young population, rising domestic consumption, fiscal discipline, and structural reforms, India appears well-positioned to climb the global economic ladder in the coming decades.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that US President Donald Trump's decision to impose steep tariffs, including a 50% duty on Indian goods, is part of a wider strategy that goes beyond trade economics.Speaking to Rajdeep Sardesai, Consulting Editor, India Today TV, Rajan explained that tariffs are being used not only as a trade tool but also as a means of exerting political and economic power.

He added that tariffs were also increasingly being seen as a tool of force.

"It can be a way for the US to essentially use force when it doesn't want to use its military," Rajan said. He cautioned that the outcome is often that "other countries suffer."IS INDIA BEING SINGLED OUT?Rajan said there were several reasons behind Trump's tariff push. "I think certainly he believes that a current account deficit, trade



deficit is evidence that other countries are taking advantage of the United States rather than sending goods cheaply to the United States, which the US consumer benefits from," he said.According to him, Trump has held this view since the 1980s, when he was critical of Japan. Rajan pointed out that the former US President sees tariffs as a way to "level the playing field."Another reason, Rajan noted, is Trump's belief that tariffs act as a tax on outsiders rather than on US

consumers. "Therefore it's a cheap way of getting revenues, which can then help offset some of the tax cuts that he has made," Rajan said.When asked if India had been targeted more harshly than other Asian nations, Rajan agreed. "It is. I think there's no true questions about that," he said.He explained that India was initially in discussions to be placed in the same tariff category as other Asian countries, with rates of around 20%.

GST 2.0 boost for textile, fertiliser sectors as Trump's 50% tariff kicks in

New Delhi. (Agency)
The government is preparing a fresh round of changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure, with a focus on sectors that are under pressure after the United States imposed a 50% tariff on Indian exports.The textile and fertiliser industries are expected to be among the biggest beneficiaries of the upcoming GST 2.0 rationalisation, as the Council looks to ease costs, improve competitiveness, and resolve long-standing issues of inverted duty structures. TEXTILES TO SEE MAJOR RELIEF

In the textile sector, the fitment committee has recommended a steep cut in GST rates across several categories. Woven fabrics of cotton, man-made fibres, wool, apparel, hosiery, and some blended textiles are being considered for a reduced 5% rate, down from the current higher slabs.Industry associations have long argued that higher tax on inputs compared to finished garments creates a blockage of working capital, making it harder for small weavers, powerloom operators, and garment makers to stay competitive. Lowering GST will reduce this imbalance, ease cash flow pressures, and make Indian textiles more attractive in global

markets at a time when exports are already facing headwinds due to the US tariff. **FERTILISER RATE CUTS TO EASE COSTS**



The fertiliser industry is another major focus area. The GST Council is weighing a reduction in tax on key inputs, including urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP), single super phosphate (SSP), and complex fertilisers.The proposal is to bring the rate down from 12% to 5%.Officials say this move will reduce production costs for fertiliser companies, lower the subsidy burden for the government, and make essential farm inputs more affordable for farmers.It will also fix the inverted duty problem, where raw materials are taxed more heavily than the finished product, leading to refund

delays and blocked funds for businesses. **BROADER RATE RATIONALISATION** Beyond textiles and

fertilisers, the GST Council is also expected to approve several consumer-friendly changes at its 56th meeting in New Delhi on 3-4 September. These include widening the nil rate slab, lowering the 12% slab, and reducing rates on selected 18% goods.As part of the proposals, several everyday food products may soon attract no GST.This includes UHT milk, pre-packaged paneer (chena), pizza bread, khakhra, chapati, and roti. Paratha and parotta, which were earlier taxed at 18%, are also being considered for the nil rate as suggested by the Group of Ministers on rate rationalisation.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is preparing some major changes under GST 2.0 that could reduce costs for households, students, farmers, and businesses.The proposed changes, to be discussed at the Council's meeting on September 3-4 in New Delhi, focus on widening the nil rate, lowering the 12% slab, and reducing rates on selected 18% goods.MORE TAX FREE ITEMSThe GST Council is likely to expand the nil tax slab, bringing a range of essential products under zero GST. Everyday food items such as UHT milk, pre-packaged paneer (chena), pizza bread, khakhra, chapati, and roti are expected to move from the 5% and 18% slabs to zero. Paratha and parotta, previously taxed at 18%, are also included in the proposed nil rate, according to the Group of Ministers on Rate Rationalisation.Education-related items are also set to benefit. Maps, atlases, globes, printed charts, pencil sharpeners, pencils (including crayons, pastels, tailor's chalk, and drawing charcoals), exercise books, graph books, and laboratory notebooks could move from the 12% slab to nil. If approved, these changes

Cheaper milk, chocolates, clothes and more: How GST 2.0 could slash your bills



would provide relief for households and students while simplifying GST compliance and improving transparency.

MANY ESSENTIALS AND TREATS TO GET CHEAPER

Several commonly purchased foods may see GST reduced from 12% to 5%. Proposed items include butter, condensed milk, jams, mushrooms, dates, nuts, and namkeens. These changes are expected to lower prices for families and benefit bakeries, sweet shops, and packaged food manufacturers.Butter and condensed milk—widely used in cooking and desserts—are likely to see noticeable price reductions. Similarly, jams, namkeens, mushrooms, and dry fruits such as dates and nuts would become more affordable.

The move is part of the Council's effort to remove the 12% slab and streamline GST into fewer, clearer rates for mass-consumption goods.

Chocolates with cocoa, cereal flakes, pastries, and ice cream, currently taxed at 18%, are proposed to fall under a 5% rate. This would lower prices for common breakfast items and everyday indulgences, as well as pastries, which are central to India's bakery and caf culture. The changes aim to make the indirect tax system more uniform and reduce inflationary pressures on frequently purchased products.

BIG BREAKS FOR TEXTILES AND FERTILISERS

The textile sector could see GST cuts on woven fabrics of cotton, man-made fibres, wool,

apparel, hosiery, and blended textiles, with rates reduced to 5% from higher brackets. The reduction is expected to ease working capital constraints, boost exports, and make fabrics and clothing more affordable in the domestic market.In agriculture, key fertilisers—including urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP), single super phosphate (SSP), and complex fertilizers—may move from the current 12% slab to 5%. Lower rates would reduce cultivation costs for farmers, extend subsidy efficiency, and simplify the tax structure for manufacturers.The proposed changes reflect the government's aim to rationalise the GST rate structure, reduce the number of slabs, and resolve classification issues. Expanding the nil slab and eliminating the 12% rate could simplify compliance, provide savings for consumers, and support businesses without significantly affecting overall GST collections.The final decision rests with the GST Council at its meeting in early September. If approved, GST 2.0 could introduce a simpler, more transparent tax system and provide tangible savings on essentials .

Jasmin Bhasin

Looks Cute In Polka Dot Mini Dress With A Pop Of Red Glam

Jasmin Bhasin knows how to slay in every outfit, and her recent Instagram post is the proof. In the latest photoshoot, Jasmin opted for a beautiful flowy white mini dress featuring black polka dot designs printed over it. The gown featured balloon sleeves with cut-out detailing and a plunging V-neckline, giving the overall appearance a touch of glamour. In the snaps shared on her Instagram, Jasmin could be seen striking stunning poses as she paired her outfit with contrasting red footwear. For the hair, the actress left them open, cascading down her shoulder with soft curls at the end. Jasmin knows how to let her natural beauty shine with minimal to no makeup look, and for this appearance, she wore a light pink nude lipstick and elongated mascara.



For accessories, the actress chose a chic bracelet along with tiny earrings that matched her footwear. In one of the pictures, the actress could be seen sitting on the edge of the sofa, giving sensual vibes. While sharing the snaps, Jasmin wrote, "Blessing your feed with polka dots".

About Jasmin Bhasin
Jasmin Bhasin recently joined boyfriend Aly Goni and filmmaker Farah Khan for the latter's YouTube vlog, where the two talked about their relationship. Jasmin and Aly found love on Bigg Boss 15, and since 2020, they have been going strong. Now, they have their own house where the two are in a live-in relationship.

In the vlog, Farah talked about their interfaith relationship and asked if their parents had asked

them to get married. To this, Jasmin said, "Nahi, mummy daddy hum dono ke hi kamal ke hain." To which Farah said, "Of course, and considering your relationship is cross-communal, it's so lovely." To this, Aly replied, "Koi issue nahi hai." Aly Goni and Jasmin Bhasin met each other in 2018 during their participation in Rohit Shetty's reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi. Their time together in Argentina for the show's shoot led to a deep friendship, which blossomed into a love story after Aly entered the Bigg Boss house as a wildcard entry, where Jasmin was already locked as a contestant. During the stint, he secretly confessed his feelings to Jasmin, and ever since, they have been together.



Janhvi Kapoor

Rocks In An Orange Short Skirt As She Attends Param Sundari Screening



Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra are gearing up for the release of their next movie, Param Sundari. On Wednesday, a screening of the film was held in Mumbai, which was attended by the two stars along with their loved ones. For the occasion, Janhvi sported an uber-cool outfit and grabbed everyone's eyeballs.

Janhvi Kapoor was snapped by the paparazzi as she arrived at the screening. In a video that surfaced on social media, the actress was seen posing for the cameras in a white top with an orange short skirt. She also opted for green heels and colourful bangles. Watch the video here:

On the other hand, Sidharth Malhotra arrived at the screening in a blue shirt with matching denims. Even though the actor kept his look simple, he looked dashing as always.

What Do We Know About Param Sundari?

Directed by Tushar Jalota, Param Sundari 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. Param Sundari has already received a U/A 13+ certificate from the censor board. A report by Bollywood Hungama had recently claimed that the board asked the makers to mute certain words and replace some terms in the subtitles. The word bastard was swapped for idiot, while

church and bloody were muted and dropped from subtitles. Even the word father was asked to be muted. With these edits in place, the film was passed without any visual cuts. Originally set for July, the film was pushed back to avoid a clash with Son of Sardaar 2. Param Sundari is now set to hit theatres on August 29, 2025.

SRK, Deepika Padukone Sued For THIS Reason; Sunita Ahuja Dismisses Govinda Divorce Rumours



Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone, along with six officials from Hyundai, have been named in an FIR in Bharatpur, Rajasthan, over allegations of fraud linked to the promotion of a vehicle said to have manufacturing defects. The case stems from a complaint filed by a local resident, who alleged that his Hyundai Alcazar SUV, purchased in 2022, developed major technical issues within months, and despite repeated follow-ups, the problems were not resolved.

It's a big day for Bonrad fans! It's official! The wedding the finally off and Belly is on her way to Paris. Episode 8 of The Summer I Turned Pretty was released today, and it has Bonrad fans in a chokehold. From Conrad being open about his love for Belly to Taylor asking Belly to confront her feelings, and from Jeremiah calling off the wedding to Belly seeing Conrad at the airport, this episode was an emotional journey for fans.

Bollywood actor Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja have been in the headlines due to rumours surrounding their marriage. On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the couple made their first appearance together as they welcomed Ganpati Bappa home. While addressing the media, Sunita spoke about the growing rumours and confirmed that everything is fine between them, adding that no one can separate the two.

Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra are gearing up for the release of their next movie, Param Sundari. On Wednesday, a screening of the film was held in Mumbai, which was attended by the two stars along with their loved ones. For the occasion, Janhvi sported an uber-cool outfit and grabbed everyone's eyeballs. Popular music director and singer Amaal Mallik has revealed that he used to have a crush on Shraddha Kapoor when they were in school. He said Shraddha was his senior and wore dentures in school. He said that Shraddha's simplicity and honesty won him over, and are the real reason behind her humongous Instagram following.

Gurmeet Choudhary, Wife Debina Bonnerjee 'Embrace Ganpati Bappa With Open Arms'



Ganesh Chaturthi is being celebrated with a lot of joy, fervour and enthusiasm across the nation today. The festival is observed by installing clay idols of Ganesha in homes and public pandals. Keeping up with the auspicious tradition, the television couple Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee have also welcomed Ganpati Bappa at their home. Gurmeet and Debina were joined by their daughters, Lianna and Divisha. Debina shared a glimpse of the celebration on Instagram.

Gurmeet and Debina's Ganesh Chaturthi celebration

The opening frame featured the family of four standing around the Ganesha deity with folded hands. Debina wore an orange saree, while Gurmeet donned a yellow kurta pyjama set with a matching embellished jacket. Their daughters looked adorable in matching pink tops and skirts.

Further in the post, Debina and Gurmeet were seen performing the aarti. The couple also clicked some more pictures in front of the Ganesha idol. In the caption, the actress wrote, "Our Bappa is Home. This year is extra special as we welcome him into our new home, filled with love, positivity, and gratitude."

She added, "As a family of four, we promise to embrace Bappa with open arms, and may his blessings fill our lives today and in all the years to come. To everyone who visits, may you receive his blessings, joy, and endless love always."

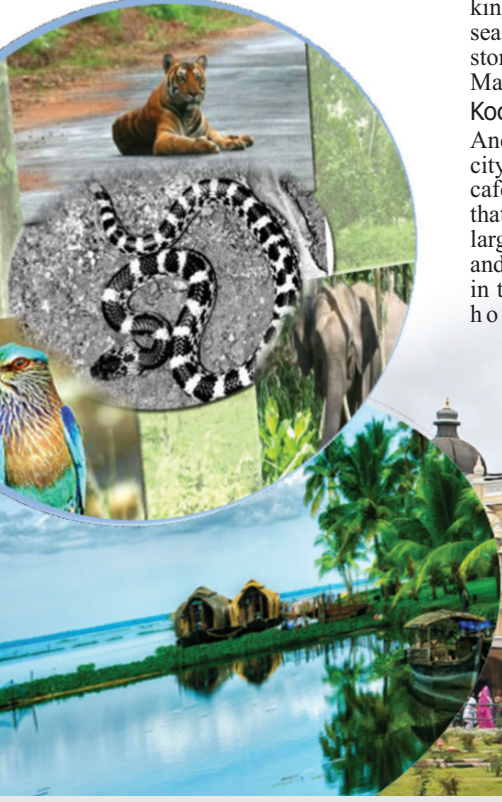
A day ago, Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee were seen visiting an idol shop before bringing their Ganpati idol home. In the viral video making rounds on the internet, the couple was seen accompanied by their daughters as they lovingly transported the idol.

As per tradition, the Ganpati idol's face was covered with a cloth, which was unveiled during the official Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. Debina was seen sitting in the car with one of their daughters, while Gurmeet travelled in the tempo van with the idol and their other child.

Gurmeet and Debina's relationship
Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee secretly eloped and got married in 2006. A more public and traditional wedding ceremony took place in February 2011. The couple welcomed their elder daughter, Lianna, in April 2022 and their second daughter, Divisha, in November that same year.

Go tripping around Mysore

Wayanad
Located between the Kannur and Kozhikode districts in Kerala, Wayanad is a sparkling green emerald sprawled across the slopes of the Western Ghats. The monsoons persevere here—the rainy season starts in June and lasts all the way till mid November—during which the already lush landscape takes on an even more vibrant shade of green, and everything is washed squeaky clean. The most enjoyable way to experience it is by checking into a jungle resort—even better if it has a treehouse. During the occasional dry spells in between, venture out and enjoy everything else the region has to offer. Wayanad ploughs tourists with some interesting prehistoric archaeological sites, tea plantations and thick



forests, and is home to some of the oldest (and most insulated) tribes in India.

Kumarakom
Part of the Kuttanad region, picturesque Kumarakom is an archipelago scattered on the eastern edge of the Vembanad Lake. This area's natural splendour and way of life were vividly described in Arundhati Roy's Man Booker Prize-winning, 'The God of Small Things'. Kumarakom has a string of luxury resorts including the Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom Lake Resort and Vivanta by Taj - Kumarakom, located right on the backwaters and guests can rove about the canals on boating and fishing trips. The 14-acre Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is an ornithologist's paradise and home to egrets, darters, herons, herons, waterfowls and kingfishers. The sanctuary also welcomes seasonal guests including the elusive Siberian stork, between the months of November and May.

Kochi
Ancient meets contemporary in Kochi, a lively city at just an hour's drive from Alleppey. Posh cafes sit right by the side of Chinese fishing nets that were installed here in 1350 AD; India's largest man-made island is a major attraction and so is the Paradesi Synagogue that was built in the year 1560. St Francis CSI Church once housed the

remains of Vasco da Gama and is also the oldest European church in India. Kochi also hosts the world famous Kochi-Muziris Biennale, an event that sees much of the city turning into an art exhibition ground. With its potpourri of history, culture, arts and the great Kerala cuisine, Kochi makes for a perfect short trip from Alleppey.

Coonor
An erstwhile summer refuge to the British, Coonor retains its colonial tinge to this day, with its club culture, well established boarding schools, sophisticated architecture and a distinct plantation lifestyle. Travellers love this tea town for its relatively quieter environs as compared to Ooty, and if you're drawn to the outdoors, here are our top picks for how you can fill your days.

Bandipur National Park
Bandipur National Park one of the most stunning National Parks in India. Situated between the picturesque Western Ghats next to the

Mysore-Ooty highway in Karnataka, the Park was once the private hunting reserve for the Maharaja of Mysore. It's now home to elephants, gaurs, tigers, sloth bears, muggers, Indian rock pythons and Dhholes. The park was established in 1974 as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger and has a good number of Tigers. Birds like the jungle fowl and green pigeon are also found here.

Ooty
The most famous hill station south of the Vindhyas, Ootacamund's resplendent tea plantations and red-roofed bungalows still carry echoes of its colonial past. Originally a densely forested area in the Nilgiri mountains, it was converted into a summer retreat for the British in the 19th century. The undeniable natural beauty of Ooty (as it's universally referred to) and its misty green trails continues to draw visitors every year. Ooty is pleasant all year round, but the summer months are the high season. If you want to avoid the crowds and don't mind a drizzle then head here between August and November, when the rains turn the hills a luxuriant green.

Kozhikode
Less-known than the backwaters of central Kerala, the backwaters around Kozhikode are also not as touristy and consequently much less crowded. Houseboats can be hired at the pier near the Purakkattiri Bridge on the Ullery-Perambra road, 10 kilometres outside Kozhikode. The prettiest routes wind along the Canoly Canal, Kallai River and Elathur. An excursion to the scenic Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, set amidst hillocks and by an estuary, is highly recommended. The sanctuary comprises of a group of small isles where the Kadalundi River meets the Arabian Sea, and is home to over 100 species of native birds and 60 kinds of migratory birds.

Hogenakkal Falls
Experie

With the places to visit near Mysore as stunning as the city itself, you will have plenty to choose from. While there is no comparing the wonderful Hogenakkal Falls that is just a drive of 4 hours away, Bandipur National Park too is quite alluring for nature lovers. Kerala aficionados can drive off to Kochi, Wayanad or the startlingly scenic Kumarakom. Ooty, Kozhikode and Coonor are quite popular with anyone seeking a solitary getaway. Most of these places are quite accessible via road and make for a perfect trip to Mysore and around.

nces like coracle rides (round wickerwork boats called parais by the locals) and medicinal baths make Hogenakkal Falls literally a much more immersive experience than other large waterfalls in the country. Leading up to the Falls the Cauveri River flows through a forest known for naturally growing herbs which many believe gives the water curative properties. The Falls are located a short drive (150 kilometres) from Bangalore along NH7 on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Top 5 places to visit in

Dooars

With an unspoilt terrain and the mighty Himalayas forming a stunning backdrop, Dooars is a paradise for nature lovers. Many may not be aware of the fact that there are many places to visit in Dooars. Duar means door in Bengali and this region has been aptly named Dooars or Duars as it is the door to Bhutan and North East India. Veined by mighty rivers like Teesta, Torsa, Murti, Jaldhaka, Dyna and Sankosh, the region is blessed with dense forests and exotic wildlife. Nature lovers would have an unforgettable time in this region exploring its rich flora and fauna as well as beautiful landscape.

From the rippling rivulets of Jhalong and the picturesque valleys of Buxa with forests marked by walking trails to the riverbeds at Jaldapara and the lush greenery of Gorumara National Park, these places are a treat for the eyes. These parks, however, remain close during the monsoon season. Travellers coming to this stunning place around November-December can be a part of Raas Mela which is one of the ancient fairs held here. As per the Bengali calendar, the day of full moon (Purnima) in the month of Kartik marks the beginning of the fair. So plan your trip to this lesser-known gem to create memories that can be cherished for a lifetime.

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary
Not too far from Gorumara National Park lies Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary, another hidden treasure of Dooars. A drive through some of the verdant tea gardens in the undulating plains of Dooars will take you to Chapramari. The area derives its name from two words—chapra (referring to a variety of fish found in north Bengal) and mari (meaning plenty). Covering an area of 9.6 sq km, the sanctuary boasts of a diverse range of flora and fauna that delights nature lovers.

Chapramari was declared a national reserve forest in 1895 and later, renamed as a wildlife reserve in 1939. After a few decades, in 1998, it was designated a wildlife sanctuary. The region is famous for its elephants that can be spotted easily. In addition, gaur is commonly found here. The sanctuary is also inhabited by Royal Bengal tiger, boars, deer, leopard, reptiles and various other animals. If you love birdwatching, do remember to carry a pair of binoculars to catch a glimpse of colourful birds like parrot, kingfisher and green pigeon, among many others. For accommodation, there are just a few options available in the area. Hence, whenever you visit Dooars, spend some time in this peaceful retreat in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas.

Buxa Tiger Reserve
A beautiful location in the lap of nature interspersed with the River Jayanti, mountains and dense forests—that's Buxa for you. The area is however more popular for Buxa Tiger Reserve, which is one of its kind in eastern Himalayas. Situated in Alipurduar, the reserve actually consists of the former Buxa Forest Division and a part of the Cooch

Behar Forest Division. It was set up in the year 1983 and was given the status of a national park in 1992.

The reserve's rich biodiversity has been attracting tourists for years now and has become a popular escape for tired souls who love to relax in the lap of nature. The area, approximately 760 sq km, encompasses a mix of different types of forests—riverine, savannah, evergreen, sal and others. The topography and climate not only supports a rich variety of plant species but also animals. Visitors can spot mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes, such as tigers, civets, red jungle fowls, leopards, elephants, gaurs, porcupines, rhesus macaque, mahseer, tortoise and butterflies.

Buxa is also an absolute delight for birdwatchers. Birds like red stars, wagtails, fork-tails, ibisbill, great pied hornbills, and the trans-Himalayan migratory goosander can be spotted here. A number of migratory birds too make Buxa their temporary home, such as gargani teal, common teal, white-eyed pochard and the large whistling teal at the Narathali Lake. The black-necked crane, which is a rarity in India, can be spotted in Buxa during winters. Besides, visitors can also explore other attractions of the region, such as

Buxa Fort, Jayanti and Rajabhatkhawa. For accommodation, homestays and resorts are available in the region. Buxa Tiger Reserve, a peaceful retreat, is definitely a not-to-miss attraction during a visit to Dooars.

Rasikbil Bird Sanctuary
The area derives its name from a lake named Rasikbil in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. The lake is surrounded by low water land or marshland, which provides appropriate dwelling atmosphere for birds. Rasikbil is one of the five such low water lands in the area, others being Neeldaba, Bochamari, Shankhadanga and Raichangmari. No wonder, the area attracts a lot of migratory birds year-round, besides being home to several other resident birds. So, if birdwatching is one of your favourite hobbies, then you would love your visit to the magnificent Rasikbil Bird Sanctuary. Do remember to carry a pair of binoculars so that you can easily spot some exquisite species of birds such as cormorants, ibis, parrots, owls and storks. You can also catch glimpses of water birds like lesser whistling teal, shoveler, wigeon duck, small blue kingfisher and gadwall. Apart from birdwatching, you can choose to indulge in other activities as well. Travellers often opt for boating in the lake and nature walk in the forests. They also visit the aviary and tortoise rescue

centre, deer park, python house, crocodile rehabilitation centre and leopard house in the vicinity. A day spent at such places provides an insight into the ways of animal rescue and rehabilitation. Rasikbil, a paradise of winged beauties, can be reached by road from Cooch Behar and Alipurduar.

Gorumara National Park
Situating along the banks of the River Murti and Raidak, Gorumara National Park is one of the most popular attractions in Dooars. The area of the park, which is around 80 sq km, encompasses grasslands and forests. Since 1895 it was a reserve forest but years later, it was given the status of a wildlife sanctuary in 1949. Furthermore, in 1994, the park was declared a national park which is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna. It is specially known for being home to the great Indian rhinoceros. Other prominent animals that can be spotted here are elephant, leopard, hornbill, king cobra, Indian python and gaur, to name a few. Travellers can choose between elephant safari and jeep safari to explore the park. They can even climb atop the watchtowers (Methla, Chukchuki, Chandrachur and Jatraprasad) to spot the inhabitants of the park with the help of binoculars.

One of the most popular tourist destinations in Dooars, Gorumara National Park attracts a lot of tourists round the year. The park's green forests, tall elephant grasses, streams and beautiful landscape provide shelter to several mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians. Gorumara National Park is also a birders' paradise. If you are a birder, you will have a great time spotting and photographing birds like hornbill, woodpecker, ibis, drongo, minivet, and pheasants. The ruddy shelduck, also known as the Brahminy duck, migrates to the park during winters. Beautiful butterflies

can also be spotted in the jungle, along with night hunters like owls and nightjars.

Preferably visit the park during winters as it is considered the best time for coming here. While you can choose from a number of forest rest houses at Gorumara for accommodation, Lataguri, the nearest town offers several accommodation facilities. The nearest railhead is New Jalpaiguri and the nearest airport is Bagdogra. Gorumara National Park can also be reached by road from Siliguri, which is around 72 km away.

Jaldapara National Park
Situating on the banks of the River Torsa, Jaldapara National Park is one of the popular places to visit in Dooars. Before 1800, when the place was inhabited by Toto and Mech tribes, it was known as Totopara. The sanctuary was established in 1941 with an aim to protect Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros, and was eventually declared a national park in the year 2012.

Spanning over an area of 216.5 sq km, the park boasts of verdant grassland with patches of riverine forest and belts of tall grass. At an altitude of 61 m in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas, this park is mainly savannah forest and is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. Along with one-horned rhinoceros, various mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds dwell here, such as elephant, leopard, Bengal florican, peacock, python, cobra and around eight species of fresh water turtles.

A fun way to witness the wilderness of Jaldapara National Park is by elephant safari. Another way to explore the flora and fauna of the region is to opt for jeep safari. For a close encounter, you can climb any of the many watchtowers in the park. There are various tourist lodges and guests houses available in the region for accommodation of tourists coming to visit Jaldapara National Park.

