

# PM pays homage to Shibu Soren, consoles Jharkhand CM: My thoughts with Hemant ji

► Prime Minister Narendra Modi was seen consoling an emotional Hemant Soren at Delhi hospital where his father and JMM patriarch, Shibu Soren, passed away after a prolonged illness.

**Lucknow. (Agency)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi where he passed away.

► PM Modi paid homage to Shibu Soren at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

► Shibu Soren died at 81 after prolonged illness and stroke

► PM Modi consoled Hemant Soren and met family at Delhi hospital

away today. Shibu Soren, founding patron of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), died at the age of 81 after a prolonged illness. PM Modi, who visited the hospital in Delhi, shared pictures with his family. In one of the pictures shared on X, PM was seen consoling Shibu Soren's son and Jharkhand Chief

Minister Hemant Soren as he got emotional.

"Went to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay homage to Shibu Soren Ji. Also met his family. My thoughts are with Hemant Ji, Kalpana Ji and the admirers of Shibu Soren Ji," he wrote on X.

The JMM patriarch, who had been away from active politics in recent times, was admitted to a Delhi hospital in the last week of June with a kidney-related ailment. His condition deteriorated recently after he suffered a stroke and had been on life support for the past month. Hemant Soren announced the death, saying, "Respected Dishoom Guru has left us all. Today, I have become empty".

Earlier today, PM Modi condoled Shibu Soren's death and hailed his passion for empowering tribal communities, the

poor and downtrodden. In a post on X, he said, "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was

My thoughts are with his family and admirers. Spoke to Jharkhand CM Shri Hemant Soren Ji and expressed condolences. Om Shanti."

Shibu Soren served as Union Cabinet Minister for Coal in three separate stints between 2004 and 2006. A six-time Lok Sabha MP, he represented the House in the period from 1980 to 2005. He was also elected to the Rajya Sabha three times.

He was at the forefront of the movement for a separate Jharkhand state and went on to serve as Chief Minister three times, in March 2005, from August 2008 to January 2009, and from December 2009 to May 2010, though he never completed a full five-year term as his tenure marked by political turbulence. His first term in 2005 lasted only nine days due to a lack of majority support.



particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden. Pained by his passing away.

## Probe panel holds KCR responsible for Kaleshwaram project irregularities: Sources

According to sources, the Justice PC Ghose Commission has found ex-Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao primarily responsible for severe planning, financial, and technical failures in Kaleshwaram irrigation project, calling it a colossal public waste.

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) has been named as primarily responsible for large-scale irregularities in the planning, design, and financial management of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in the final report of the Justice PC Ghose Commission, according to sources. The report submitted on July 31, describes the project as a "colossal waste of public money," the Commission has placed direct and vicarious accountability on Rao for what it calls "rampant and brazen irregularities" that led to a financial disaster and structural failure. The Kaleshwaram project, which includes the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages,



saw its cost escalate from Rs 38,500 crore to over Rs 1.10 lakh crore by 2022. The Commission's report states that key planning and decision-making processes were dominated solely by Rao and then Irrigation minister and KCR's nephew T Harish Rao, without approval from the cabinet. A crucial expert report opposing the viability of the Medigadda barrage was allegedly suppressed, and site changes were pushed through with misleading justifications and a lack of transparency. The report finds that the contracts were awarded on a lump sum basis, bypassing the Central Water Commission's recommendation for turnkey contracts. Subsequent revised administrative approvals (RAA)

continuously in violation of engineering norms, contributing to the structural distress seen at Medigadda. The project also used unsafe permeable foundations for water storage and ignored geotechnical study requirements, with quality checks allegedly manipulated. In addition to KCR, the Commission has named several other key officials. The then Irrigation minister T Harish Rao has been held responsible for suppressing expert advice, and then Finance Minister Eatala Rajender has been criticised for failing to ensure financial oversight. Senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and engineers were found to have suppressed facts, submitted false evidence.

## What exactly is BJP's Malviya lecturing Mamata on amid Bangla row

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

An unnecessary row has erupted over a letter from New Delhi's Lodhi Colony Police Station to Banga Bhawan requesting assistance in translating documents written in the "Bangladeshi language" for an FIR involving suspected illegal immigrants. The Trinamool Congress (TMC), led by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, condemned the reference to Bangla as "Bangladeshi language" as an insult to Bangla. As Mamata and the TMC seized upon the opportunity provided by a policeman, who lacked understanding, BJP leader Amit Malviya began lecturing Mamata on Bangla dialects. The thought is outrageous as Mamata is a native

speaker of the language, and a Bangla poet. The source of the entire controversy is ignorance, and should have been possibly ignored. At best, an honest, corrective statement was all it demanded. However, the TMC is a political party and has the duty to turn issues into controversies to suit its political narratives. So, the TMC called it a "deliberate attempt to undermine Bengali identity", reminding one and all that Bangla was a constitutionally recognised Indian language and a classical one at that.

The letter by the inspector at Lodhi Colony Police Station said that the Delhi Police needed an interpreter "proficient in Bangladeshi national



language" to translate documents for a case involving eight persons "strongly suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals residing illegally in India". Since Sunday evening, the Trinamool leadership, including Mamata, escalated the issue, demanding an apology from Delhi Police.

In response, BJP leader Amit Malviya, labelling Mamata "poorly lettered", attempted to school the self-taught poet on the phonology of Bangla across borders. He argued that Bangla spoken in Bangladesh and West Bengal are different. Malviya focused on Bangla phonology and dialects, missing the point by miles that the Delhi Police's goof-up had to do with the script used in the documents recovered from the suspected Bangladeshi illegals, which, in all likelihood, was Bangla — a script which is common to the dialects spoken on both sides of the border. Bangla, with around 300 million speakers across the world, is among the Top 10 spoken languages globally.

## 'Failed' UP government focused on events, not flood relief: Akhilesh Yadav slams BJP

**LUCKNOW. (Agency)**

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday criticised the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government over the worsening flood situation, alleging that the "corrupt and failed" administration is more invested in event management than in public welfare.

In a post on X, the former chief minister questioned why a government capable of organising "super VIP" rallies was unable to conduct proper relief and rescue operations in flood-affected areas.

As of Sunday, official data showed that floods had affected 402 villages across 37 tehsils, impacting 84,392 people. Seventeen districts, including Kanpur Nagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Agra, Auraiya, Chitrakoot, Ballia, and Varanasi, were reported to be severely affected. "There is a terrifying situation not just in Prayagraj but across the entire state due to floods," Yadav said. "People are facing acute shortages of food and drinking water. Sanitation has collapsed, forcing many to live in inhuman conditions."



He added that children, pregnant women, and the elderly are struggling to access healthcare due to disrupted medical services.

"People are scared of rats, poisonous insects, and the threat of electric shocks. Homes are collapsing, belongings have been washed away, and many are left without even a change of clothes," Yadav claimed.

He alleged that the administration is missing from the ground while the government is "busy with self-promotion and photo-ops".

The SP leader also highlighted the loss of critical documents such as ID cards, ration cards, bank papers, and educational certificates, and said vehicles and livelihoods had been destroyed.

Yadav expressed concern about the outbreak of water-borne diseases, disruption in children's education, and the inability of families to conduct last rites due to submerged cremation grounds.

In Varanasi, the Ganga river crossed the danger mark on Monday, flooding ghats and forcing authorities to shift cremations and other religious rituals to rooftops and elevated platforms. According to the Central Water Commission, the river was flowing at 72.1 metres, well above the danger level of 71.262 metres.

## The Sikh Times Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi. 4 August 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta said that Operation Sindoora and Operation Mahadev were more than just military missions, they embodied the honour and dignity of every Indian household. Addressing the Delhi Assembly yesterday, the Chief Minister reflected on India's military achievements, national security strategies, and pivotal decisions in recent history. She described the success of these operations as a moment of national pride and paid tribute to the courage and dedication of the Indian armed forces. The CM added that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through his resolute and dynamic leadership, has safeguarded the dignity, honour, and self-respect of Indian women. She strongly criticised the opposition,

accusing them of consistently neglecting national interest and deliberately working to tarnish the country's image.

CM Rekha Gupta said that the Prime Minister's credibility is rooted in the people's unwavering trust. Operation Sindoora, she noted, was a response to the silent suffering of India's daughters and sisters. By acting as a courageous father, a compassionate brother, and a resolute national leader, the Prime Minister has upheld the dignity and empowered the spirit of Indian women. She further remarked that opposition parties, driven by self-interest, have distanced themselves from the nation's welfare. "They sympathise with anti-national elements because they see their own reflection in them. They are not inspired by India's progress—they would rather see the nation held back," she said. She recalled that when Operation Sindoora was

discussed in Parliament, the opposition raised numerous questions. "Those



who distrust their own military and refuse to believe their own Prime Minister instead place their faith in foreign powers," she remarked. She stressed that the Indian armed forces continue to defend the nation with the same courage and commitment they

displayed during the wars of 1965 and 1971.

However, she questioned the lack of political will shown by previous governments, despite India's historic military victories. "Why did our governments return captured territories under pressure after the 1965 war? Why did we accept mediation from the United Nations and the United States? And in 1971, after capturing 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, why were they released unconditionally?" she asked.

The Chief Minister also invoked the Shimla Agreement, the issue of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits as critical historical references. She criticised the silence of the opposition and questioned the "indecisiveness" of past leadership, pointing out that no accountability was ever taken for these matters.

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## High-level meeting held at the Delhi Legislative Assembly with senior officials

The Sikh Times  
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi. 4 August, 2025

A high-level meeting was held yesterday at the Delhi Legislative Assembly under the chairmanship of Development Minister Kapil Mishra to address the issues and developmental plans of the Karawal Nagar area. Senior officials from the Delhi Jal Board, the Public Works Department (PWD), and the District Magistrate from the Revenue Department attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to prioritize and review solutions for the basic needs of the residents of Karawal Nagar.

During the meeting, Kapil Mishra held detailed discussions on the uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water, reconstruction of dilapidated lanes, upgrading of the drainage system, construction of better roads, and issues related to traffic congestion. He directed the officials to identify waterlogging-prone areas and initiate timely cleaning and reconstruction of drainage lines. Furthermore, he instructed that repair and reconstruction of lanes that have not been addressed for years should be initiated on a priority basis.

Addressing the issue of traffic jams, he directed the authorities to conduct a traffic audit of congested areas and prepare a solution-focused plan. Immediate steps were also instructed for better traffic management near schools, markets, main roads, and intersections. In addition, instructions were given to ensure proper maintenance of public toilets, functioning of street lights, and effective waste management. [Continued news page 2](#)

## Trump's dead economy remark should not be taken literally: Shashi Tharoor

**PUNE. (Agency)**

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has said US President Donald Trump's remark terming India a 'dead economy' was meant to be an "insult" and must not be taken "literally". Tharoor on Sunday said that when wars are being conducted with the active involvement of some of the biggest powers, and people who are supposed to be upholding world order are contributing to promoting disorder, India needs to be very clear about its national interests.

The senior Congress leader, who was in conversation with Crossword CEO Aakash Gupta in Pune, spoke on a wide range of issues, including his latest book, "The Living Constitution". US President Trump last week called India a 'dead economy' just hours after he announced a 25 per cent tariff on the import of Indian goods along with an unspecified penalty for buying vast majority of Russian military equipment and crude oil.

Tharoor said that it is a turbulent and unpredictable world, especially with Trump in the White House. "On Trump, let me say, you can't take him literally, but you do need to take him seriously. He is the President of the US, and the decisions he makes can affect policies, and policies can affect us. So take him seriously, but don't take

literally," he said.

The entire impact of Trump's tariff policies over the last six months or so has taken the whole world back, and India too had a bit of a jolt just two to three days ago, Tharoor said. We are going to have to recover because the American relationship, and I don't just mean the trade relationship, the strategic partnership, is important enough for us to want to make the real effort to make this work.

So I think there is a lot that needs to be done," he said. He added that the credibility of the United Nations Charter and the Security Council is cast into question.



## CM Rekha Gupta Hails PM Modi as a True National Hero

discussed in Parliament, the opposition raised numerous questions. "Those



who distrust their own military and refuse to believe their own Prime Minister instead place their faith in foreign powers," she remarked. She stressed that the Indian armed forces continue to defend the nation with the same courage and commitment they

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# Staircase collapses in Ghaziabad society, man and son rescued

**Ghaziabad .(Agency)**

A father-son duo and their pet dog were rescued after the staircase leading to their third-floor apartment in Vasundhara's Green View society came crashing down early on Sunday. The incident, which occurred around 4.30am, left the family stranded in their home for several hours before fire officials could safely evacuate them. The society in Sector 17 — constructed by the Awas Vikas Parishad about 25 years ago — houses around 450 families in towers that are three storeys tall. The collapsed staircase was the only access point to Flat H-110, where Sanjeev Sharma (54) and his son Sahl (24) live with their pet dog. Other residents, too, feared venturing out due to the hanging debris. "The stairs completely crumbled, trapping residents in their flats. With no elevator in the building, people were scared to move as portions of the structure were still precariously hanging," said Pankaj Sharma, an RWA member.



Neighbours rallied to help, ingeniously using ropes and baskets to deliver essential supplies like milk and bread through windows. Chief fire officer Rahul Pal described the rescue as challenging because of the dangerous debris hanging overhead. "The

fire unit used ladders to safely evacuate both the father and son and their dog. The operation was executed with utmost caution," he said. For Sanjeev Sharma, the ordeal was nothing short of terrifying. "I feared my entire flat would collapse. We managed to grab some clothes before

being rescued. But now, I'm worried about accessing my home. We might have to stay in hotels as both my son and I need to return to work on Monday," he said. The incident sparked a blame game between residents and authorities. While society members accused the Awas Vikas of substandard construction, officials pointed to poor maintenance and unauthorised modifications.

"About 250-300 flower pots were placed along the staircases. The terrace, too, was converted into a garden against norms. Years of seepage had also weakened the structure," said Nikhil Maheshwari, executive engineer at UP Housing Board. The RWA claimed that around 40 flats owned by Awas Vikas officials didn't contribute to maintenance charges. The officials, however, claimed they never received prior complaints about poor upkeep. As a stopgap solution, the Housing Board provided temporary access to the affected family.

## Infra crumbles under rain: 2 cave-ins on Basai Rd in 2 days

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Another patch of Basai Road collapsed on Saturday near Feroz Gandhi Colony's entrance, making it the second cave-in on the same stretch in two days — an occurrence that residents say highlights the state of civic infrastructure in the city. The latest collapse occurred barely 100 metres from a similar cave-in reported on Friday near Manohar Nagar post office, both caused by an ageing underground drain that is part of the city's main sewerage network. MCG officials on Sunday said the old sewer line had sunk into the ground over time, causing the soil above it to give way. Repair work, already underway after Friday's incident, was disrupted by Saturday's rainfall.

"We began plugging the leak and initiated repairs, but Saturday's rain forced us to unplug it temporarily, as it is the main trunk line. Repair work will resume shortly, and the damaged portion will be rectified within a couple of days as the 900mm line lies nearly 20 feet below the surface, making its repair intricate," an MCG official said. The sewer line serves densely populated colonies across Old Gurgaon, including Shivaji Nagar, Om Vihar, Feroz Gandhi Colony and Surya Vihar. Residents have reported frequent cave-ins over the past three years, particularly during monsoon, as authorities fail to provide lasting solutions. "Every year we see some patch or another sink on this road, and each time they repair it only to be damaged again. The road is already narrow, and every time this kind of issue happens, only one carriageway is functional, and people get stuck for hours for a five-minute journey. The municipal corporation needs to find a permanent solution," said Suraj Bhola, who regularly uses this stretch.

The sewer network was originally laid in 2009 by the Public Works Department and Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) before being transferred to MCG in 2018.

## More wet spell: Gurgaon to witness heavy rainfall for 3 days

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

The city is set to witness more wet days ahead, with the weather department forecasting widespread rainfall over the next three days and issuing a "yellow alert" for it till Aug 5. While the intensity of rain is expected to ease gradually after that, light to moderate showers are likely to continue across various parts of the state for the next week, with isolated heavy spells possible until Tuesday.

On Sunday, the city woke up to cloudy skies after overnight showers that began around 10pm on Saturday and continued till midnight. By the next morning, the city had received 44mm of rain, with Wazirabad tehsil recording the highest at 50mm, followed by Kadipur and Harsaru at 40mm each. Sohna received 15mm, Manesar 10mm, and Pataudi 3mm. While Farrukhnagar

saw a drizzle, Badshapur reported no rainfall. The city's minimum temperature settled at 26.4 degrees Celsius — slightly up from 26 degrees a day earlier, and the maximum temperature was recorded at



32.6 degrees Celsius as compared to 31.7 degrees on Saturday.

According to IMD, the ongoing wet spell is driven by an upper air cyclonic circulation

lying over north Gujarat and adjoining south Rajasthan at the lower tropospheric level. Additionally, a western disturbance is active as a trough in the middle and upper tropospheric levels, contributing to the persistent rain across northwestern India. The current conditions are favourable for continued rainfall activity in parts of south Haryana, including Gurgaon. While the next three days are likely to see widespread rainfall, isolated intense showers may occur, especially till Aug 5. Thereafter, the rainfall will become scattered, but cloudy conditions may persist," said a Met official.

So far, the monsoon has been normal in the city. Between June 1 and Aug 3, the city recorded 262.2mm of rainfall, about 20% higher than the normal of 218mm for the period.

## Haryana sets Aug 10 deadline for private schools to claim fee reimbursements

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Private schools have been directed to submit pending student data and fee reimbursement claims by Aug 10. Fee reimbursement refers to the process where the govt repays students the money they initially paid as tuition or other academic fees. Haryana Directorate of Elementary Education has issued the critical directive under the now-defunct Rule 134-A. Rule 134-A — a provision of the Haryana School Education Rules 2003 — previously governed the admission of economically disadvantaged children into private unaided schools. Copies of the directive have been circulated to 16 major school associations across Haryana, including those in Yamunanagar, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Panipat. This initiative aims to clear a decade-long backlog of dues, with claims spanning the academic years from 2015-16 to 2024-25. While this specific rule for new admissions has been discontinued in favour of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, the state govt has committed itself to honouring its financial obligations to students already

enrolled under the scheme until they complete classes 2 through 8. A portal has also been created to facilitate the submission process. Schools are required to use their existing MIS User ID and password to log in. To be eligible for reimbursement, principals must verify and update student data, ensuring that all entries are complete and include a valid student registration number (SRN) linked to the MIS portal. The directive explicitly states that duplicate entries or claims for which payment has already been received will be disqualified, and schools may face strict action for regulatory violations.

The success of this initiative will depend on the proactive response of schools in meeting the Aug 10 deadline. The education department is also exploring a long-term solution, with plans to develop a concept note based on best practices from other states like Maharashtra to address systemic issues.

### Reluctance to admit

President of the Haryana Progressive Schools Conference (HPSC), which represents CBSE and CISCE affiliated

schools, Suresh Chander pointed to a breakdown in communication as a primary reason for the long-standing payment delays. He said a lack of proper communication from the district education officer or the education department often leaves schools unaware of the necessary application procedures.

"While some districts like Ambala have been quite proactive, other districts were lax, which led to dues accumulating over several years," Chander said. He described the current directive as a "final call" from the govt for schools to claim their outstanding payments. Chander also said that such delays can make private schools hesitant to admit students under these govt-sponsored schemes.

### Differing perspectives

An official from the education department, speaking on the condition of anonymity, offered another perspective. The official suggested that some schools might not actively pursue reimbursement because the tuition fee amount per child — often between Rs 400 and Rs 600 — is not substantial.

## Rollercoaster ride from local rinks to global podium: Skater boys from Gurgaon shine at Asian championships

**Gurgaon .(Agency)**

"Jab bacche chalna seekhte hai, inhone skating karne shuru kar di thi (the age at which kids learn how to walk, these two had started skating)," Suman Yadav said of her son Krish (17) and his friend Devansh Sharma (18). With the exception of different schools, Krish and Devansh have been inseparable since childhood. They'd go to practice together and hang out at each other's houses often. It was in 2019 that they stepped into the rink of competitive skating for the first time. The duo, who initially trained in speed skating but shifted to inline hockey due to infrastructure necessities, was selected for the National Sub-Junior Championship that year.

The competition cemented their path. The big break came in 2023, when Krish and Devansh — together once again — were chosen to represent India's under 19 team in inline hockey at the 19th Asian Championship held in China. The team's last-place finish only fueled the teenagers' ambition, and years of practice and dedication paid off this week.

The two, along with another Gurgaon resident Kaviin Raghav, were part of India's 16-member team that won the bronze for inline hockey at the 20th Asian Roller Skating Championships, held in South Korea's Jecheon this July.

"When we first wore the Indian jersey in

2023, it felt like a dream come true. This medal feels even more special because we came from a place of failure. We worked harder, and finally reached the podium," Devansh, still standing alongside Krish at his house in the city, told TOI. The Indian team, according to the teens, met its toughest opponent in Taiwan at the Asian Roller Skating Championships, but went on to win comfortably with a score of 3-1. The boys then defeated Iran and South Korea before being pitted against China in the match for a bronze. India led 2-1, but the opposition pressed hard. "Krish literally put his body on the line. He took several hits from the puck — he has bruises all over — but he didn't flinch. That medal was earned with blood and grit," Devansh said. Krish added, "This championship was a rollercoaster for all of us. We learned new things and made new friends. This championship was one of the best experiences I have had in my journey till now." Kaviin, the son of two electrical engineers who moved to Gurgaon from Tamil Nadu when he was only six months old, said he came into the mix later, but has been close to Devansh and Krish for a decade now. "We have been playing together for 10 years. They are like my brothers, and they really supported me throughout this journey. They have played in three internationals,

and as it was my first international (competition), they helped me deal with nervousness and anxiety," he said. On the bronze medal, Kaviin said,



"Representing the Indian national team was a proud moment for me. Not only for me, but for my family, my friends and my entire society." The journey to the international stage wasn't easy for either. "We began practising in basketball courts because there were no proper skating rinks... The first rink we trained at came up in Samaspur village, and later we moved to a better facility at Vivekanand School," Devansh said. Infrastructure wasn't easily available, but the skaters' families rallied behind them. Devansh's grandfather, Colonel RK Sharma (retd), was a constant presence. "He might skip a society meeting or a family function, but he never missed picking up Devansh from practice. He's like a coach, driver

and biggest cheerleader — all rolled into one," said a family friend. Col Sharma said Devansh's father is in the Merchant Navy and his mother works for a corporate firm in the city. "They (parents) are busy with work... I've seen Devansh and Krish's passion up close. I'm proud to support them however I can," the 75-year-old said. India's, and the team's performance in South Korea has enthused the local community, but it has also given them reason to appeal to the govt for support.

Families say they have spent Rs 5-6 lakh each on training camps, equipment, diets and travel — all from their own pockets.

"There's zero financial aid, no infrastructure support and no acknowledgement from the state. These kids have the talent and the drive, but how long can families keep funding everything on their own," questioned Krish's father Narendra Yadav, a businessman, said.

Krish's mother Suman said the families had even protested outside the then-Haryana sports minister's house in 2019. "We were hopeful things would change with a new govt, but the silence continues," she said. Haryana's current sports minister did not respond to requests for comment till Sunday night. For now, the boys are back to their routines, training harder and dreaming bigger.

## News box

### Gurgaon moves ahead with ph-1 construction bids for new metro corridor

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

GMRL is likely to award the contract for the first phase of Millennium City Centre-Cyber City in a month's time and aim to start construction by Sept this year. Officials said on Sunday that bids for phase 1 of the new metro corridor have been opened. The joint venture of Dilip Buildcon Ltd (DBL) and RBL have emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction contract, though the process is still under evaluation, they said.

"The evaluation is in the final stages. We expect to complete the process within this month and are aiming to start construction work by Sept. Once work begins, the project is slated for completion within 30 months," a senior GMRL official said. GMRL has planned construction of the new corridor in three phases.

Under Phase 1, the agency will build a 15.2km elevated metro line from Millennium City Centre to Sector 9 for an estimated cost of Rs 1,503 crore. The tender for civil work for Phase 1 was floated in March this year, in which eight agencies participated. Of these, six agencies were found eligible after technical evaluation. This section will have 14 stations and is expected to improve connectivity to key residential and commercial areas in the old and newer parts of Gurgaon. The scope of work also includes a 1.8km spur to the Dwarka Expressway and a ramp leading to the proposed metro depot in Sector 33. The stations in between are -- Sector 45, Cyber Park, Sector 47, Subhash Chowk, Sector 48, Sector 33, Hero Honda Chowk, Udyog Vihar 6, Sector 10, Sector 37, Basai and Sector 101. The new corridor was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2023 to address the city's growing public transportation needs. Currently, Gurgaon has the Yellow Line of Delhi Metro, which terminates at Millennium City Centre, and the Rapid Metro. The new line is expected to ease congestion, especially in sectors not currently connected by the metro, including densely populated areas such as sectors 9, 4, 5, 10 and 7.

### 'Didn't want him to meet his wife, kids': Delhi woman stabs live-in partner to death in Gurgaon; arrested

**Ghaziabad . (Agency)**

A 27-year-old woman was arrested on Saturday for allegedly stabbing her 40-year-old live-in partner to death. Yashmeet Kaur of Ashok Vihar, Delhi, was apprehended from her rented residence in Gurgaon.

According to police, Harish was stabbed by Kaur as he wished to return to his family against her will.



Police said that on Aug 2, they received information from a local hospital regarding an injured person being admitted. "Upon reaching the hospital, the doctor declared the victim dead, following which teams went to the crime scene in DLF Phase 3, where a knife used in the incident and a T-shirt were recovered," ASI Sandeep Kumar, Gurgaon police spokesperson, said. During initial interrogation, it was revealed that Harish was married and had two daughters. ASI Sandeep said that his wife was unwell, which allegedly led him to develop a relationship with Kaur. The accused and Harish were living in a live-in relationship in a rented house. Kaur did not approve of Harish visiting his home, leading to a quarrel on Saturday during which she stabbed him," ASI Sandeep added.

### Key stretch to HSVP mkt in a state of disrepair, riddled with potholes

**Gurgaon .(Agency)**

The 300-metre stretch leading up to HSVP market in Sector 23 has been in a state of disrepair for the last one month, posing serious safety risks to commuters and pedestrians, especially during the monsoon. Despite repeated complaints, no action has been taken.

The road is riddled with potholes and a huge crater, making it hazardous for motorists and two-wheeler riders. Residents said the recarping work was last taken up before the assembly election in Oct last year, but the condition has deteriorated rapidly.

The residents also pointed out that there is no stormwater drain along the road, and the existing sewer line constantly overflows. They further claimed that the eateries in the market are dumping oil directly into the sewer line. Residents said streetlights often don't work at night, making it even more dangerous to navigate the broken stretch. "Every evening, the market witnesses a heavy footfall, but people have to jump over puddles to reach the shops. Scooters often lose their balance, and cars struggle to pass through the cratered stretch. It's a nightmare not only for motorists but pedestrians as well," said Bhawani Shankar Tripathy, vice president of RWA 23A, who is a regular visitor to this market.

"The condition has become unbearable over the past few weeks. This road caters to a huge population not only in our sector but in the surrounding area as well. After a few spells of rain, the asphalt started peeling off, making it difficult to commute," said Harish Nair, RWA president of Sector 23 (East Pocket).

When contacted, an MCG official said the matter was brought to their knowledge. "We will fill the potholes to make it motorable. Bituminous work will be taken up after the monsoon."

# SC bans construction of badminton/basketball courts, commercial activities in park near Shaikh Ali Gumti

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has banned construction of badminton/basketball courts and commercial activities in a park near the Lodhi-era Shaikh Ali Gumti illegally occupied by the Defence Colony Welfare Association (DCWA) in the National Capital. "The only direction which needs to be given here is that it should not be used for any other purpose and no activity, such as construction of badminton court, basketball court, etc., be made considering the limitations of the area itself," said Bench of Justice

Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah in its July 31 order. "Needless to say, there will be no commercial activity, nor any kiosks/shops be allowed in the area," said the Bench which had earlier ordered restoration of the 500-year-old tomb of archaeological importance, where the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) used to operate an unauthorised office and parking. Directing senior counsel and Court Commissioner Gopal Sankaranaryan to "coordinate with the concerned Department, including the Horticulture

Department, for maintenance and beautification of the park, the Bench directed the matter to be relisted on August 28. Delhi Government counsel Shubhranshu Padhi informed the top court that the restoration work of the monument was going on and was likely to be completed by August end. The park consisting of four quadrants shall be maintained and beautified so that it retains its natural beauty and may be used for the benefit of the general public, it was told. The Bench was also informed that anomalies in the June notification dated June 11, 2025, whereby the Gumti

of Shaikh Ali was declared as a 'protected monument' under Section 4 of The Delhi Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2004' shall be corrected and shortly notified. The counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) assured the top court that the corporation has cleared the waste lying in the park and will continue to perform its duties. The possession of the Lodhi-era Shaikh Ali Gumti has been handed over by the Defence Colony Resident Welfare Association to Land & Development Office, Government of India. The

Supreme Court on July 16 ordered the Delhi government to issue a fresh notification to declare the Lodhi-era monument "Gumti of Shaikh Ali" in Defence Colony area of South Delhi a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The order came on a petition filed by Defence Colony resident Rajeev Suri seeking to declare the Gumti tomb of Shaikh Ali a protected monument under the 1958 Act. Suri had challenged the Delhi High Court's February 20, 2019 judgment refusing to issue directions to the ASI and

the Centre to declare the 'Gumti' as a protected monument under the 1958 Act. Monuments protected under the Act get legal

protection and benefit from conservation efforts and restrictions on activities around them to ensure their preservation.

Such monuments are safeguarded against damage, destruction, and unauthorized construction or excavation in their vicinity.

## Woman dies by suicide in Southeast Delhi's Sunlight Colony area

New Delhi: Her family has alleged that she faced sustained abuse from her husband and in-laws since her marriage nearly two years ago. According to police, a PCR call about the incident was received around noon on Saturday. When officers arrived at the scene, the woman, identified as Sadhna, was found hanging in her room in the Sidharth Basti locality. Her body was sent for post-mortem and later handed over to the family. Statements of her mother and brother were recorded by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Defence Colony. Sadhna's mother, Sunita, alleged that her daughter endured constant harassment. "She was never happy in that house. They kept hurting her," she said tearfully. Recalling the morning of the incident, Sunita said she had spoken to Sadhna around 8.30 am. "She didn't say anything was wrong. I left for work soon after. Later, my elder daughter called to inform me that Sadhna had taken her life. By the time I got home, her body had already been taken down." The family has filed a written complaint with the police and submitted a video as evidence. "We want justice. Those responsible for pushing my daughter to this must be punished," Sunita demanded. Police said the case is under investigation and action would be taken based on the findings. Meanwhile, a video circulating on social media shows Sadhna in tears, alleging repeated physical abuse by her husband, Yogesh, and his family. In the footage, she claims the violence began after she married Yogesh against the wishes of both families. Police are currently verifying the video's authenticity.

## Man out on bail for raping woman opens fire at her in Delhi's Vasant Vihar

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

### NAME CHANGE

I, YASHWANT SINGH S/O SHIV RAM/H R/O NEAR MARWADI CHOWPATTI, DAKRA, PALWAL, HARYANA-121105, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YASHWANT SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, JASMEEN KAUR SIDHU WO RAMESH RAI residing at PLOT NO-99, KALE PIVO, DIAHON ROAD, PART-B2, SANGRI KAUR, DELHI-110043, have changed my name to JASMEEN SIDHU VERMA for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, KISHORE CHAND Father of JC-343305 Rank-BH SUB NAME-PANKAJ SHARMA Presently residing at VILL-SHRI PANDIAN, PO-TALWARA, TEH-MUKERIAN, DIST-HOSHPIUR, PUNJAB-144216, have changed my name from ANIL KUMAR my minor daughter namely ARUSHI aged 10 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine is KISHORE CHAND to KISHOR CHAND for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SURESH JANRAO LOKHANDE is father of No. 2813484 Rank-SEP NAME-KANZARIYA BHADBARIHAI BHAGVANBHAI Father of SHREYANSHU KANZARIYA Presently residing at VPO-GHANSHYAMPUR, TEH-HALVAD, DIST-MORBI, GJARAK-363330, have changed my minor son's name from SHREYANSHU KANZARIYA to SHREYANSHU BHADBARIHAI KANZARIYA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SURESH JANRAO LOKHANDE is father of No. 2813484 Rank-SEP NAME-KANZARIYA BHADBARIHAI BHAGVANBHAI Father of SHREYANSHU KANZARIYA Presently residing at VPO-GHANSHYAMPUR, TEH-HALVAD, DIST-MORBI, GJARAK-363330, have changed my minor son's name from SHREYANSHU KANZARIYA to SHREYANSHU BHADBARIHAI KANZARIYA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RABIA KHATUN alias RAVIA BEGAM R/O Mohd. Hakim R/o Hno-443, Block-D1, Bhalwa Resettlement Colony, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rabia Khatun.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as VINOD CHAUDHRY S/o B-242, B-Block, Shahi Sukhdev Nagar, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Wazir Pur-3, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANU CHAUDHRY.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Pinki D/O Suresh Kumar WO Ronit Gahot, R/O H NO-3, NAVADA VILLAGE, UTTAM NAGAR, Utam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PINKI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ARUN KUMAR S/O BHOLA MUKHLAL VISHWAKARMA R/O R/FZ-769/16, First Floor, Gall No-11, Near Gyan Sagar Public School, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110005, declare that name of my minor son YATINDER in my minor son JAI KUMAR aged 17 years, in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is YATINDER KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ARUN KUMAR S/O BHOLA MUKHLAL VISHWAKARMA R/O R/FZ-769/16, First Floor, Gall No-11, Near Gyan Sagar Public School, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110005, declare that name of my minor son YATINDER in my minor son JAI KUMAR aged 17 years, in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is YATINDER KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RABIA KHATUN alias RAVIA BEGAM R/O Mohd. Hakim R/o Hno-443, Block-D1, Bhalwa Resettlement Colony, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rabia Khatun.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Yatinder Kumar Singh, JAI KUMAR, R/O H-3904, Street No-26, Near Vishnu Mandir Marg, Raigarh Pura, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110005, declare that name of my minor son YATINDER in my minor son JAI KUMAR aged 17 years, in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is YATINDER KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ARUN KUMAR S/O BHOLA MUKHLAL VISHWAKARMA R/O R/FZ-769/16, First Floor, Gall No-11, Near Gyan Sagar Public School, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110005, declare that name of my minor son YATINDER in my minor son JAI KUMAR aged 17 years, in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is YATINDER KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ARUN KUMAR S/O BHOLA MUKHLAL VISHWAKARMA R/O R/FZ-769/16, First Floor, Gall No-11, Near Gyan Sagar Public School, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi, 110005, declare that name of my minor son YATINDER in my minor son JAI KUMAR aged 17 years, in his 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is YATINDER KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O BHEESHAM PAL R/O HOUSE NO-126 RAVTA MORE, DABAR ENCLAVE, JAFAR PUR KALAN, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI -110073 have changed the name of my minor son SANS KRITY PAL aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJPAL KAUR.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, RABIA KHATUN alias RAVIA BEGAM R/O Mohd. Hakim R/o Hno-443, Block-D1, Bhalwa Resettlement Colony, Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rabia Khatun.

### NAME CHANGE

I, POONAM SINGH is legally wedded spouse of BHUPENDRA SINGH presently residing at H NO-4X, 06044, AWHO VISHWAKARMA GURJINDER VIHAR, SEC-CHI-1, GREAATOR NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR (UTTAR PRADESH)-201304, have changed my name from POONAM SINGH to PUNAM SINGH for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 30/07/2025. Before Notary Public, New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, NILAMENI KANZARIYA Wife of No. 15814568X Rank-HAV Name-KANZARIYA BHADBARIHAI BHAGVANBHAI Presently residing at RUDRA TOWNSHIP, HALVAD, DIST-MORBI, GUJARAT-363330, have changed my name from NILAMENI KANZARIYA to NILAMENI BHADBARIHAI KANZARIYA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, AASIYA BEGAM WO Khan Sabah R/o PO Sudaka Near Bus Stand, Mewat Nuh-122107, Haryana have changed my name to Ashiya for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD SAMEER S/O SHAMIM R/O HNO- F-62, FIRST FLOOR, MURADI ROAD, GULI NO 11, BATHA 16, ROHINI Sector-15, Dist- North West Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as MD SHAHIM PARVEEN in 10th and SHAHIM PARVEEN in 12th certificates. The actual name of my father and mother is SHAMIM and SHAHEEN, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD SAMEER S/O SHAMIM R/O HNO- F-62, FIRST FLOOR, MURADI ROAD, GULI NO 11, BATHA 16, ROHINI Sector-15, Dist- North West Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as MD SHAHIM PARVEEN in 10th and SHAHIM PARVEEN in 12th certificates. The actual name of my father and mother is SHAMIM and SHAHEEN, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD SAMEER S/O SHAMIM R/O HNO- F-62, FIRST FLOOR, MURADI ROAD, GULI NO 11, BATHA 16, ROHINI Sector-15, Dist- North West Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as MD SHAHIM PARVEEN in 10th and SHAHIM PARVEEN in 12th certificates. The actual name of my father and mother is SHAMIM and SHAHEEN, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Meena w/o Billa Bhatt R/o T-89, Gall No-10, Transit Camp, Anand Parbat, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi -110005, have changed my name Meena Bhatt Permanently.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Basanti w/o Ashok R/o B-178H-196, Block-A5-5, Transit Camp, Anand Parbat, Karol Bagh, Central Delhi -110005 have changed my name to SHABANA PARVEEN for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VIMAL JEET, S/o Ajit Singh, R/o F-42 Flat No-18, Gall No-16, C-Block, Nagar Palam Colony, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed the name of my minor daughter CHAVI KHATRI aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as VAIBHAVI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, REHMUDDIN KHAN S/O NOOR MOHMAD residing at P-ANCHAKA(244), HATHIN, PALWAL, HARYANA-121103, have changed my name to REHMUDDIN for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, REHMUDDIN KHAN S/O NOOR MOHMAD residing at P-ANCHAKA(244), HATHIN, PALWAL, HARYANA-121103, have changed my name to REHMUDDIN for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, REHMUDDIN KHAN S/O NOOR MOHMAD residing at P-ANCHAKA(244), HATHIN, PALWAL, HARYANA-121103, have changed my name to REHMUDDIN for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SHYAM VEER Singh S/o Sh. Hukam Singh R/o A-188, Gall No. 8, Madhu Vihar, Utam Nagar, Mohan Garden, Dist- West Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name is SHYAM VEER Singh. SHYAM VEER Singh and Rajiv Kumar is one and same person.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHAZIA KHALID wife of KHALID ABDUL RAHMAN residing at S-3/A, Nafees Road, Near Fatima Public School, Jogaibai Extn, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KM SHAZIA NOOR.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as WAHID HUSSAIN ANSARI son of Shri WAHID HUSSAIN ANSARI residing at A-120, First Floor, Thokar No-6, Abul Fazal Enclave, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VAHID HUSSAIN.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMULAMMA mother of NO-1571041F Rank-HAV, Name-SANKARA REDDY YEDURU R/O VILL-GOVIDAPURAM, PO-KOTABOMMIL RS, TEHSIL-SANTHA BOMMALL, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532195, have changed my name from RAMULAMMA to YEDURU RAMULAMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMULAMMA mother of NO-1571041F Rank-HAV, Name-SANKARA REDDY YEDURU R/O VILL-GOVIDAPURAM, PO-KOTABOMMIL RS, TEHSIL-SANTHA BOMMALL, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532195, have changed my name from RAMULAMMA to YEDURU RAMULAMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMULAMMA mother of NO-1571041F Rank-HAV, Name-SANKARA REDDY YEDURU R/O VILL-GOVIDAPURAM, PO-KOTABOMMIL RS, TEHSIL-SANTHA BOMMALL, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532195, have changed my name from RAMULAMMA to YEDURU RAMULAMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAJAT S/O BALJEET SINGH R/O H NO-263, PITAMPURA VILLAGE, PITAMPURA, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110034, have changed the name of my minor daughter ARSHIYA alias NAVYA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as NAVYA.

### NAME CHANGE</

## NEWS BOX

**At least 68 dead after migrant boat sinks off Yemen****DUBAI . (Agency)**

A shipwreck off Yemen has killed at least 68 people, the UN's migration agency said Monday, with dozens still missing after the boat carrying mostly Ethiopians sank. The International Organization for Migration's country chief of mission, Abdusattor Esoev, told AFP that "as of last night, 68 people aboard the boat were killed, but only 12 out of 157 have been rescued so far. The fate of the missing is still unknown."

On Sunday, two security sources in southern Yemen's Abyan province -- a frequent destination for migrant smuggling boats -- gave a preliminary toll of 27 killed in the shipwreck. Despite the war that has ravaged Yemen since 2014, the impoverished country has remained a key transit point for irregular migration, in particular from Ethiopia which itself has been roiled by ethnic conflict.

Each year, thousands brave the so-called "Eastern Route" from Djibouti to Yemen across the Red Sea, in the hope of eventually reaching oil-rich Gulf countries. The vessel that sank off the coast of Yemen's Abyan was carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants, according to the province's security directorate. It said on Sunday that security forces were conducting operations to recover a "significant" number of bodies. Last month, at least eight people died after smugglers had forced migrants to disembark from a boat in the Red Sea, according to the UN's migration agency.

The International Organization for Migration says tens of thousands of migrants have become stranded in Yemen and suffer abuse and exploitation during their journeys. Last year, the IOM recorded at least 558 deaths on the Red Sea route, with 462 resulting from shipwrecks.

**Eight decades after atomic bombing in Hiroshima, search for missing continues on nearby island****NINOSHIMA. (Agency)**

When the first atomic bomb detonated 80 years ago on August 6, thousands of the dead and dying were brought to the small, rural island of Ninoshima, just south of Hiroshima, by military boats with crews that had trained for suicide attack missions.

Many of the victims had their clothes burned off and their flesh hung from their faces and limbs. They moaned in pain. Because of poor medicine and care, only a few hundred were alive when the field hospital closed Aug. 25, according to historical records. They were buried in various locations in chaotic and rushed operations. Decades later, people in the area are looking for the remains of the missing, driven by a desire to account for and honor the victims and bring relief to survivors who are still tormented by memories of missing loved ones. "Until that happens, the war is not over for these people," said Re bun Kayo, a Hiroshima University researcher who regularly visits Ninoshima to search for remains.

Evidence of the missing is still being unearthed. On a recent morning, Kayo visited a hillside plot in the forest where he has dug for remains since 2018. He put on rubber boots and a helmet and sprayed insect repellent. After planting chrysanthemum flowers and praying, Kayo carefully began shoveling gravel from a hole the size of a bathtub. When the soil was soft enough, he sifted it for bone fragments.

As he worked under the scorching sun, he imagined the pain and sadness that the victims felt when they died. Kayo so far has found about 100 bone fragments, including skull pieces and an infant's jaw bone with little teeth attached. He found the bones in an area suggested by a Ninoshima resident, whose father had witnessed soldiers burying bodies that were brought to the island on boats from Hiroshima 80 years ago.

"The little child buried here has been alone for all these years," he said of the bones he believes belonged to a toddler. "It's just intolerable."

**Iran moves to remove zeros from plunging national currency****TEHRAN . (Agency)**

The economic commission of Iran's parliament revived long-delayed plans on Sunday to cut four zeros from the country's plunging currency, as part of efforts to simplify financial transactions. "Today's meeting of the economic commission approved the name 'rial' as the national currency, as well as the removal of four zeros," said the parliament's website ICANA, quoting Shamseddin Hosseini, the commission's chairman. Under the proposed system, one rial would be equivalent to 10,000 at the current value and subdivided into 100 gheirans, according to ICANA. The proposed redenomination was first mooted in 2019 but then shelved. The current bill will have to pass a parliamentary vote and gain the approval of the Guardian Council, a body empowered to vet legislation. It was not immediately clear when the parliamentary vote would take place. In May, Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin said he would pursue the plan, noting that the Iranian rial "does not have a favourable image" in the global economy. The move comes as Iran faces deepening economic challenges, including runaway inflation, a sharply devalued currency, and the prolonged impact of international sanctions. As of Sunday, the rial was trading at around 920,000 to the US dollar on the street market, according to local media and the Bonbast website that monitors unofficial exchange rates. In practice, Iranians have long abandoned the rial in everyday transactions, using the toman instead. One toman equals 10 rials. Iran's economy has long been under severe strain due to sweeping US sanctions since Washington's 2018 withdrawal from a landmark nuclear deal during US President Donald Trump's first term in office.

**South Korea begins removing border propaganda speakers in conciliatory gesture toward North****South Korea's new liberal government stopped broadcasting anti-North Korean propaganda via border speakers in June as a goodwill gesture aimed at rebuilding trust and resuming dialogue with Pyongyang.****SEOUL . (Agency)**

South Korea's military said Monday it had begun removing loudspeakers along its border with rival North Korea in a move aimed at reducing tensions. The speakers had previously been used to blast anti-North Korean propaganda across the border, but the South's new liberal government halted the broadcasts in June in a conciliatory gesture as it looks to rebuild trust and revive dialogue with Pyongyang, which has largely cut off cooperation with

the South in recent years.

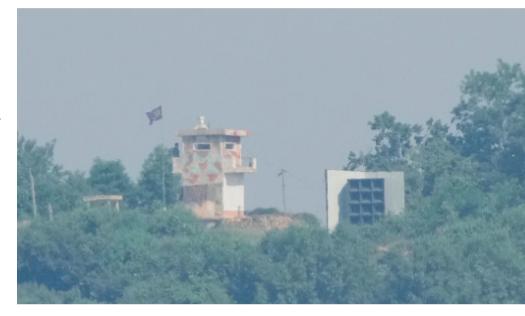
South Korea's Defense Ministry said the physical removal of the loudspeakers from the border was another "practical measure" aimed at easing tensions between the war-divided Koreas and that it does not affect the South's military readiness. Lee Kyung-ho, a spokesperson for the ministry, didn't share specific details on how the removed loudspeakers will be stored or whether they could be quickly redeployed to the border if tensions flare again between the Koreas. There were no discussions between the two militaries ahead of the South's decision to remove the speakers, Lee said during a briefing. North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, didn't immediately comment on the South Korean step. The South's previous conservative government resumed the daily loudspeaker broadcasts in June last year following a yearslong pause in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward

the South in a psychological warfare campaign. The speakers blasted propaganda messages and K-pop songs, a playlist clearly designed to strike a nerve in Pyongyang, where Kim's government has

advancing nuclear program and South Korean efforts to expand joint military exercises with the United States and their trilateral security cooperation with Japan.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, a liberal who took office in June after winning an early election to replace ousted conservative Yoon Suk Yeol, has vowed to improve relations with Pyongyang, which reacted furiously to Yoon's hard-line policies and shunned dialogue. But Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of the North Korean leader, rebuffed overtures by Lee's government last week, saying that Seoul's "blind trust" in the country's alliance with the U.S. and hostility toward North Korea make it

no different from its conservative predecessor. Her comments implied that North Korea — now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia over the war in Ukraine — feels no urgency to resume diplomacy with Seoul and Washington anytime soon.



been intensifying a campaign to eliminate the influence of South Korean pop culture and language among the population in a bid to strengthen his family's dynastic rule.

The Cold War-style psychological warfare campaigns further heightened tensions already inflamed by North Korea's

**Russia to start trial of suspects in Moscow concert hall attack****WORLD . (Agency)**

MOSCOW: The trial opens in Moscow on Monday of 19 people accused of involvement in an attack on a Moscow concert hall last year that killed 149 people. Armed men stormed the Crocus City Hall music venue on March 22 last year, opening fire and then setting the building alight in what was one of the deadliest attacks in Russia's history.

Hundreds of people were injured. The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility. The four suspected attackers, all from Tajikistan -- an ex-Soviet republic in Central Asia -- and another 15 people accused of



being accomplices were expected to go on trial. The first three hearings were to take place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, according to a Moscow court website. The attack shocked

Russia, which was battling Ukraine in a military offensive that it started on February 24, 2022.

Despite the IS claim of responsibility, Russia implicated Ukraine in the attack, an allegation that Kyiv called baseless and absurd.

Nearly half of the victims were killed by smoke and carbon monoxide inhalation from the fire that broke out, not from gunfire, the state TASS news agency reported on Sunday, citing case materials. The attack sparked a wave of xenophobia against Central Asian migrants in Russia.

**NGOs caught between juntas and jihadists in turbulent Sahel****In neighbouring Mali, NGOs financed or supported by former colonial power France, with whom the junta has cut ties, have been suspended since 2022.****ABIDJAN . (Agency)**

NGOs in the violence-wracked Sahel region are dangerously caught between military juntas who accuse them of being spies, and jihadists who view them as symbols of Western influence. In the world terror epicentre, nearly 30 million people rely on humanitarian aid provided by non-governmental organisations and international bodies. "The need is mostly concentrated in the central Sahel" in junta-led Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger where assistance is critical to nearly 15 million people, according to the United Nations humanitarian agency, OCHA.

Since seizing power, the juntas have made sovereignty and the fight against jihadists their priority, leaving NGOs and organisations that receive funding

from abroad under increased pressure. In Burkina Faso, 21 NGOs had their permits to operate in the country revoked in the space of just one month between June and July, for what the authorities said were administrative reasons. Ten other associations were suspended for three months. "It's a tough blow but we are working to



seen by AFP. Subversion missions' Niger's junta has ordered NGOs to align their activities with its priorities, which it says are bolstering security, developing production centres to boost the economy and promoting good governance. In November, it withdrew the operating licences for French aid group Action for Well-being (APBE). Interior Minister General Mohamed Toumba declared two months later that "many NGOs" in Niger were carrying out "subversion missions" through "support they often provide to terrorists." Then in February, the International Committee of the Red Cross was ordered to leave the west African country, where it had worked since 1990, accused of "collusion with terrorists".

As they come under pressure from the juntas, NGOs must also contend with attacks by jihadist groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group, who see them as a threat to their power and ideology. The Sahel region was the epicentre of global "terrorism" for the second straight year in 2024, accounting for more than half of deaths put down to terror attacks worldwide, according to the Global Terrorism Index.

**One year after a bloody uprising, Bangladesh is far from political stability****DHAKA . (Agency)**

Abdur Rahman Tarif was talking to his sister Meherunnesa over the phone when the voice on the other end of the call suddenly fell silent. In that moment, Tarif knew something bad had happened. He rushed home, dodging the exchange of fire between security forces and protesters on the streets of Dhaka. When he finally arrived, he discovered his parents tending to his bleeding sister. A stray bullet had hit Meherunnesa's chest while she was standing beside the window of her room, Tarif said. She was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her dead. Meherunnesa, 23, was killed on Aug. 5 last year, the same day Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee the country in a massive student-led uprising, which ended her 15-year rule. For much of Bangladesh, Hasina's ouster was a moment of joy. Three days later, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over the country as head of an interim government, promising to restore order and

hold a new election after necessary reforms. A year on, Bangladesh is still reeling from that violence, and Hasina now faces trial for crimes against humanity, in absentia as she is in exile in India. But despite the bloodshed and lives lost, many say the prospect for a better Bangladesh with a liberal democracy, political tolerance and religious and communal harmony has remained a challenge. "The hope of the thousands who braved lethal violence a year ago when they opposed Sheikh Hasina's abusive rule to build a rights-respecting democracy remains unfulfilled," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, a New York-based human rights group. Stalled change Bangladesh's anti-government movement exacted a heavy price. Hundreds of people, mostly students, were killed in violent protests. Angry demonstrators torched police stations and government buildings. Political opponents often clashed with each other, sometimes leading to gruesome killings. Like many

Bangladeshis, Tarif and his sister took part in the uprising, hoping for a broader political change, particularly after when one of their cousins was shot and killed by security forces. "We could not stay home



and wanted Sheikh Hasina to go," 20-year-old Tarif said. "Ultimately we wanted a country without any discrimination and injustice." Today, his hopes lie shattered. "We wanted a change, but I am frustrated now," he said. After taking the reins, the Yunus-led administration formed 11 reform commissions, including a national consensus commission that is working with

major political parties for future governments and the electoral process. Bickering political parties have failed to reach a consensus on a timetable and process for elections. Mob violence, political attacks on rival parties and groups, and hostility to women's rights and vulnerable minority groups by religious hardliners have all surged. Some of the fear and repression that marked Hasina's rule, and abuses such as widespread enforced disappearances, appear to have ended, rights groups say.

However, they accuse the new government of using arbitrary detention to target perceived political opponents, especially Hasina's supporters, many of whom have been forced to go into hiding. Hasina's Awami League party, which remains banned, says more than two dozen of its supporters have died in custody over the last one year. Human Rights Watch in a statement on July 30 said the interim government "is falling short in implementing its challenging human rights agenda."

**Mumbai: CBI arrests Customs superintendent while accepting Rs 10 lakh bribe**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

A Customs Department superintendent was arrested on Saturday by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,20,000 from a Customs House Agent (CHA) firm for facilitating clearance of consignments, the agency said on Sunday.

The accused, Krishan Kumar, was posted as the Superintendent of Customs, at the Air Cargo Complex, Sahar, Mumbai. On Saturday the CBI laid a trap and caught him red-handed while accepting Rs 10,20,000 as a bribe. He was produced before court and remanded to CBI's custody up to August 6.

CBI sources said that the accused official has demanded a bribe from executives of the CHA firm, in lieu of clearing the consignment through customs channels. The complainant firm refused to give any bribe to the accused customs officer; despite this the accused officer continued demanding bribe money from the complainant firm. "As per the complaint, the accused persisted with the demand and issued threats. It was alleged that non-payment of the bribe would lead to deliberate withholding of consignments," CBI stated. Frustrated over this, the complainant firm approached the CBI and filed a bribery case complaint. The CBI duly verified the allegations between July 25 and August 1 through recorded conversations and other evidence and lodged a corruption case against the accused and other unknown public servants and private persons. It was alleged in the complaint that the accused was demanding bribes at the rate of Rs 10 per kilogram of imported cargo, both for himself and on behalf of his senior officers, to ensure smooth clearance of consignments, the CBI said.

During the preliminary probe by CBI, it was found that the accused was found to have demanded Rs 6 lakh (Rs 5,80,000 for his senior officers and Rs 20,000 as his share for himself) against previously cleared consignments; ? 10,00,000 for facilitating the release of a currently held consignment; and ? 10 per kg for smooth clearance of future consignments, the central agency stated.

**PG owner arrested for raping 20-year-old student in Bengaluru**



**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

A 20-year-old student was allegedly kidnapped and raped by her paying guest (PG) accommodation owner. The accused, Ashraf (36), a native of Kerala, was arrested by Soladevanahalli police on Sunday. Ashraf used to operate the PG accommodation in Soladevanahalli, under the Bengaluru North West police division.

According to the police, the victim had moved into the PG just two weeks ago and is currently studying at a private college in the city. On 1 August, Ashraf allegedly took her out of the PG under the pretext of getting food but instead drove her to an isolated location, where he raped her.

When she resisted, he reportedly assaulted her. He later dropped her back at the PG in his car and allegedly threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the incident. The victim confided in her friends and decided to file a police complaint on Saturday. Based on her statement, Ashraf was arrested and booked on charges of rape and kidnapping. Further investigation is underway, the police said.

## Potholed Mumbai: 4 VIP wards in Mumbai stand out with only 127 pothole complaints per ward as against an average of 355 in others

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

It was hard to find a road that is pothole-free this monsoon but a closer look reveals a disparity in the maintenance of city roads. According to data from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the number of pothole-related complaints recorded from four high-profile municipal wards — covering areas such as Malabar hills, Colaba, Worli and Bandra (West) — is significantly lower than complaints from the other 20 wards.

The civic body's newly launched 'My Pothole, Quick Fix' dashboard shows that between June 1 and August 1, a total of 7,621 pothole complaints were recorded from all the 24 municipal wards in Mumbai, out of which around 510 complaints (an average of 127 per ward) or only 6.69% came from these four wards. The civic body's data shows that these four municipal wards have a total road length of 275.28 kilometres, which accounts to 13.41% of Mumbai's total road length. Of these four wards, A ward recorded 64 pothole complaints, followed by 116 at D ward, 116 at G south and 214 at H west. The remaining 20 wards, on the other hand, accounted for

7,111 pothole complaints at an average of 355 per ward. Mumbai has 24 municipal wards divided across seven zones in the island city, eastern and western suburbs. Of the 24 wards, A (Churchgate, Colaba), D (Malabar Hill, Altamount Road, Pedder Road), G south (Worli), and H west (Bandra west) are considered to be high-profile wards in Mumbai since they house important government offices, private institutions and residences of top businessmen, politicians, bureaucrats, and celebrities in the country.

Churchgate and Colaba house the state secretariat (Mantralaya) and major government buildings, financial institutions and BMC headquarters, while Malabar Hill houses the official bungalows of chief minister, deputy chief minister and Altamount Road houses residences of high-profile citizens, including industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

**High taxes, more potholes**

Municipal wards that are not labelled as "high-profile" have recorded a surge in pothole-

related complaints, despite some of them being the highest tax paying wards in Mumbai. BMC data shows that four other municipal wards like S (Bhandup, Kanjurmarg) alone recorded 1,499 pothole



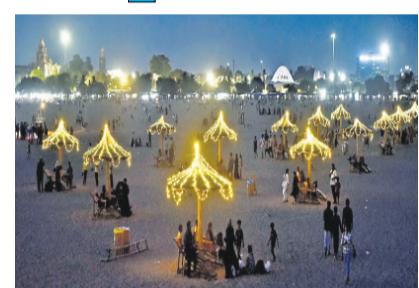
related complaints, followed by 712 complaints recorded from K west (Andheri west), 393 complaints recorded from K east (Andheri East), and 312 complaints recorded in H east (Bandra East, Santacruz East, Khar East) and accounting to a total of 2,916 or 38.26% of the total pothole complaints in Mumbai. The civic body's data also shows these four wards are some of the highest tax

paying municipal wards in Mumbai, contributing to 33.12% of the total annual property tax collected.

Mumbai has one of the highest property tax rates in the country and in the previous financial year, the BMC generated Rs 4,857 crore in property tax, out of which Rs 1,609.35 crore or 33.12% came from these four wards with K east emerging as the highest tax paying ward of Mumbai, followed by H east at the second position, K west at the fourth position and S ward at the sixth position, out of the 24 municipal wards in Mumbai. For the ongoing financial year, the state government has also hiked the ready-reckoner rates in the state — a move that led to an overall hike in property tax rates by 15%-20%. Pothole-related complaints come at a time when the BMC has taken up a mammoth road concreting project of Rs 17,000 crore — a pet project of deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde. As part of this project, the civic body intends to concretise 700 kilometres of roads to prevent potholes. So far, 49 per cent of the project is completed.

## Reading room and recliners: Marina set for 'Blue Flag'

**Blue Flag certification is an international initiative to safeguard the environment and marine ecology. Kovalam beach in Chengalpattu was the first in Tamil Nadu to get the Blue Flag beach certification.**



**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sunday inaugurated eco-friendly developmental features, worth Rs 7.31 crore, at the Marina beach as part of its 'Blue Flag' project.

Under the project, 20 sunshades, 40 recliner benches and 12 benches all made of bamboo, four watchtowers, 24 garbage bins, an entry arch, a meditation centre, a reading room and two selfie spots have been set up on a 20-acre area of Marina Beach.

12 wheelchairs for the persons with disabilities, four areas with children's play equipment, exercise equipment and adaptive play equipment for the PWDs, a breastfeeding room, CCTV cameras and first aid room, a waiting room, separate bathrooms and toilet facilities for men and women and drinking water facilities through an automatic machine have been set up. Beach clean up will be carried out by mechanical cleaning machines and a dedicated team of workers.

Blue Flag certification is an international initiative to safeguard the environment and marine ecology. Kovalam beach in Chengalpattu was the first in Tamil Nadu to get the Blue Flag beach certification. Following this, CM MK Stalin ordered eco-friendly development to preserve the marine ecology in the beaches of Chennai, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi, making them Blue Flag certified which would attract more foreign tourists.

## App fares surge, meters still ignored in Bengaluru autos

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Despite a hike in auto fares from August 1, commuters in Bengaluru say that nothing has changed except that they are paying higher rates with app-based aggregators ignoring the new rates and auto drivers refusing to use meters. The District Transport Authority (DTA) headed by Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner (DC) revised fares starting this month, raising the base fare to Rs 36 for the first two kilometres and Rs 18 for every additional kilometre. But instead of following the new rates, apps have increased fares by at least Rs 40 per trip. Passengers say it's even more hard to find autos for short distances, and when they do, fares across all ride hailing apps are nearly double.

"For a ride under 2 km, I paid Rs 100, earlier it was Rs 50-60," Manju S, a commuter said, adding that even a 3-4 km trip is now costing around Rs 130, when the new fare should be only Rs 72.

Amoolya J, a student at Mount Carmel College said that when the revision was announced, students like her thought it meant they would finally get autos on metre, but they have not



found a single one using it, not even on apps. Auto unions say that this is because of high demand in certain areas. But commuters said this is happening across the city and not just

during rush hours. D Rudramurthy, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union, said the fare revision was done without consulting them and hence more than 90% of drivers are sticking to apps because they earn more on it.

A ground check by TNIE during the three days after revision found no autos using updated meters. Drivers admitted they are not interested in following the new fares. "With apps, I get better money, avoid bargaining, and choose trips I like," Shabeeb, a driver, said.

Mohammed Jamal, an engineer, who travels between Indiranagar metro and Domlur, said even with high app fares, he has to tip drivers at least Rs 30 just to get a ride and that even short trips are being refused. Auto drivers, however, argue that this is only during certain hours or in low-demand areas that they only accept trips with tips. As per a recent notification by the Transport Department, by October 31, all autos in Bengaluru must recalibrate their meters.

## City corporation to inspect condition of 961 bus shelters in Chennai

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

The city corporation is in the process of assigning a private party with expertise in engineering, to enumerate and document the condition of the city corporation's 961 bus shelters.

The independent engineer will survey all the existing bus shelters, except those that are operated under the build, operate and transfer (BOT) model, record its location with the landmark and document the general condition of the shelter in four categories — good, fair, poor or needs repair.

More specifically, the stability of the footing of the bus shelter will be assessed, including recording any traces of corrosion. The engineer will also assess the structure against the existing standards to check if the roof covers the entire structure for reliable protection against sun or rain, existence of a ramp provision with a 1:20 slope ratio for persons with disabilities along with a stainless steel handrail on both sides, and the seat height which is to be maintained at 450 mm from the ground. The enumeration and assessment also includes maintaining a record of the supporting poles used in each bus shelter



and the condition of the footpath flooring which is to be paved with hydraulic pressed anti-skid tiles.

According to corporation officials, the condition of the roof, floors and seating facilities will be documented separately under a 'Improvements required' head. The shelters will also be assigned unique serial numbers and geospatial

coordinates. This is being taken up in order to maintain a centralised documentation of the existing condition of the bus stops and to get expert suggestions.

The deadline for the assessments is set at 30 days from the issue of the work order and an amount of Rs 1,000 for each of the 961 bus shelters has been set aside by the civic body.

## Container Road remains pitch dark as NHAI, KSEB spar over two transformers

**While the stretch has two transformers, the KSEB has insisted on setting up another 2 units**

**KOCHI. (Agency)**

A long-pending demand to light up 'accident-prone' Container Road, connecting Kalamassery to Vallarpadam, is yet to be realised despite the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) installing as many as 1,106 streetlights along a 17.12km stretch of NH 966A. The reason? A bone of contention between the NHAI and the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) over the setting up of a couple of power transformers. While the stretch, which is undergoing renovation works worth Rs 100 crore, already has two transformers, the KSEB has insisted on the setting up of another two as a condition for providing power. Both agencies are now placing the onus on each other, resulting in the 'delay'. In a recent statement in Parliament, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said the

installation of streetlights on NH 966A had been completed at a cost of Rs 7.78 crore. "The NHAI said in its reply that it is awaiting connection from the KSEB and expects to receive it by the end of July. Streetlights have been installed in accordance with the board's standards, the standards of the Indian Roads Congress, a leading technical guideline body, and best practices," Gadkari said, in response to a query raised by Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden.

"The original estimate did not include provision for two additional transformers. We have been tasked with footing the bill when the streetlights are switched on. KSEB should set up the additional transformers as they were not part of the original plan," a senior NHAI official said. The installation of another 60 streetlights on the stretch from Ponnariamangalam toll plaza to Goshree

bridge is also pending over the transformer issue. When contacted, an official with the KSEB section office in Vypeen said, "Two more transformers need to be set up for the functioning of additional streetlights in the section from toll plaza to Goshree bridge. We're installing the same using NHAI funds. However, overhead lines are not possible there. We've written to the NHAI and are requesting a joint inspection," the official added.

NHAI has completed the trial of the streetlights and said the stretch would be lit up once the KSEB gives the go-ahead. Earlier, the Kerala High Court asked the state government to take measures to make the stretch safer for traffic after a spate of fatal mishaps were reported. The main issues identified were illegal parking of container lorries and the absence of streetlights.



## How an English poet reimagined Akbar

A dying Mughal emperor dreaming of religious harmony — not conquest — will be brought back to life on August 10, when the world marks the birth anniversary of a largely forgotten English poet. Laurence Binyon, best known for his Remembrance Day verses, imagined Akbar not as a warrior or tyrant, but as a visionary ruler weary of bloodshed and longing for spiritual unity. Writing in 1908 from the heart of Edwardian London, Binyon gave Akbar a final voice — one that still resonates in today's fractured world: More than a century later, 'Akbar's Dream' still feels radical. At a time when Akbar's name is being quietly erased from Indian textbooks and reduced to polemic, it's striking to recall that a British poet — writing at the peak of colonial arrogance — chose to portray the emperor as a philosopher-king, not a foreign usurper. Binyon saw in Akbar something India itself seems in danger of forgetting: a dream of coexistence, a politics of dialogue, and a vision of empire grounded not in territory but in truth. That dream had deep roots in Punjab. Akbar travelled through the region, forged alliances with Punjabi rulers, and maintained lasting friendships with Sikh Gurus — most famously Guru Ram Das, whom he is believed to have met in Goindwal.

His links to Punjab were more than strategic; they were spiritual. Binyon never visited India, but he immersed himself in Persian texts, admired Mughal aesthetics, and believed in the civilising power of art and philosophy. His Akbar is imagined at the edge of death — reflective, sorrowful, and searching for meaning beyond the sword. The poem was published in *The Nineteenth Century and After*, a journal read by Edwardian elites, but its tone is anything but imperial.

There is no triumphalism here, no smug British superiority. Instead, Binyon channels real reverence. His emperor is not a warning, but a mirror — someone who tried, however imperfectly, to rise above the sectarian strife of his age. "I dreamed a truth/Beyond the creed, the book, the temple, mosque..."

Binyon is remembered today for a different poem — 'For the Fallen' (1914), written in response to the First World War: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn."

At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."

Those lines are now part of Remembrance Day ceremonies across Britain and the Commonwealth. But 'Akbar's Dream', written six years earlier, reveals another side of Binyon — not the chronicler of war's losses, but the seeker of moral vision in an age of imperial certainty.

To modern readers, his Akbar may feel idealised — more saint than sovereign, more symbol than man. But that idealism carries weight, especially in a time when India's pluralist traditions are under strain. Binyon's words remind us that Akbar, for all his flaws, tried to imagine a court where reason could speak louder than rage, and where no single faith held a monopoly on truth. Punjab, with its centuries-old tradition of interfaith dialogue and spiritual experimentation, reflects much of what Akbar hoped to achieve. The region gave shape to his vision before it ever became court policy. From the poetry of the Sikh Gurus to the ethos of shared sanctity, Punjab kept alive a dream that was bigger than any throne. Laurence Binyon died in 1943, too early to witness India's Independence. His poem is rarely read today — in Britain or India. But as his 156th birth anniversary (August 10) approaches, just five days before India marks 78 years of freedom, it is worth revisiting what he saw so clearly from across the seas: that Akbar's greatest legacy was not military conquest, but moral ambition.

## Kashmiri resilience will pay off

Over three months on, no one has really focused on the devastating and long-lasting impact of this horrific incident on the entire tourism ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir

On April 21, earlier this year, I was hosting a delegation of NRI YPO members from the Mumbai chapter at Karan Mahal, Srinagar. It was cool, wet and windy, a typical Spring day in Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha delivered a much applauded opening address, where he spoke about the extent of peace in the Kashmir Valley and the rapidly growing tourism witnessed over the past four years or so. Little did anyone know that the very next day, 26 innocent tourists would be brutally gunned down in Pahalgam, in one of the deadliest terror attacks ever on Indian soil.

What followed thereafter was a spell of shock, grief and anger. Then came Operation Sindoar that saw numerous news panel discussions and comments by one expert after another for days. India's air defence and precision strike capabilities were greatly applauded and became a matter of constant discussion. This was followed by the logistical and security planning for the annual Amarnath Yatra that began on July 3. Fortunately, the Yatra has gone off without any hurdles or incidents thanks to the massive security infrastructure and other resources that have been deployed to ensure the safety of visitors.

Over three months on, no one has really focused on the devastating and long-lasting impact of this horrific incident on the entire tourism ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. Tourism and horticulture are among the top two industries in the Kashmir Valley. From the airlines to the hotel operators, taxi operators, travel agencies, guides, houseboat owners, homestay owners, shikarawallas, handicraft stores, restaurants, wedding planners, hotel suppliers, the industry employs thousands of local people from across the country. The GST generated is a huge source of income for the tax department. In the past four years the domestic tourist figures visiting Kashmir saw a massive surge, resulting in impressive sales and growing return on investments by the local operators. This in turn, gave them the confidence to borrow from banks and grow their respective trade/businesses. Clearly, these were seen as signs of political stability resulting in sustained economic growth. And, perhaps rightfully so, both the UT Government and the Centre took great pride in showcasing the changes brought



about in Jammu & Kashmir, post August 2019. Many of the youth were actively involved in the tourism related ecosystem. By and large, the quiet yet powerful benefits of peace, stability and prosperity it brought was refreshing. One that every local was appreciating and enjoying.

It was all shattered in the course of the afternoon of the April 22 terror killings. Everything collapsed like a house of cards. Special flights were introduced and we saw the mass exodus of both tourists and workers. Hotels shut down overnight and in the course of the month, thousands of skilled and unskilled people lost their jobs. It is sad to see the sense of emptiness, the

financial and psychological trauma that has taken over the industry and its numerous beneficiaries.

Despite best efforts being made by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to restore confidence amongst travellers and agents, I fear tourism in the Valley may take some time to revive.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have fallen and risen numerous times in the past. They are resilient and have the capacity to rebuild their lives. We must work collectively to ensure that faith is restored amongst the domestic traveller and agents and that the Kashmir Valley again becomes the number one tourism destination in North India.

## Pursue stability with US, reduce risks with other trade deals

What's unsettling Trump is India's rising energy and defence purchases from Russia, which he claims is feeding the latter's war machine. So by wielding the trade weapon, he hopes to undercut countries doing business with Russia

The keenly-awaited India-US trade deal has unexpectedly hit a wall. Until recently, it was anticipated that the two countries would either reach an interim deal or that Donald Trump would extend the deadline, just as he did with a 90-day snooze on reciprocal levies. But none expected Trump to charge at India with a 25 percent tariff, which will kick in from August 7, plus unspecified penalties and a warning of further punitive levies later. Though the tariff shocker was disappointing, the Indian government maintained calm, indicating that intimidation would not resolve tensions; tactful diplomacy will. Trump, on the other hand, seemed restless and issued a series of provocative statements about striking an oil exploration deal with Pakistan, whose product can then be sold to India, and terming Russia and India as 'dead' economies. Separately, he warned Indian companies of sanctions over Iranian petroleum purchases. What's unsettling Trump is India's rising energy and defence purchases from Russia, which he claims is feeding the latter's war machine. So by wielding the trade weapon, he hopes to undercut countries doing business with Russia and force

Vladimir Putin to agree to a truce with war-torn Ukraine.



While India values its diplomatic ties with Russia, it will be interesting to see if the escalating trade tensions and sanctions will force it to alter its economic strategy under

pressure. In other words, the proposed India-US deal is not about trade alone, but is a potent tool to declare supremacy. Unarguably, this is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's biggest challenge yet to retain economic and diplomatic stance with both Russia and the US without compromising on credibility and preserving strategic trust. But unlike China, which too teetered between confrontation and conciliation while negotiating with Trump, India only has a few bargaining chips in its negotiation arsenal. While India remains committed to a fair trade agreement, the government has vowed to protect the welfare of farmers, entrepreneurs and small enterprises. Besides the moral aspects, India must carefully calibrate the economic risks and get as many trade deals with other countries as possible to gain leverage and reduce risks. At the same time, the government should explore options to get the US deal going without ceding ground and losing out on the existing trade ties. Such a task needs not political grandstanding, but a sensible strategy that prizes stability over spectacle.

## Touchstones: Glimpse of a divine world

An encounter with a person who has shown you the joys of simplicity and the power of love is all it takes to win over people

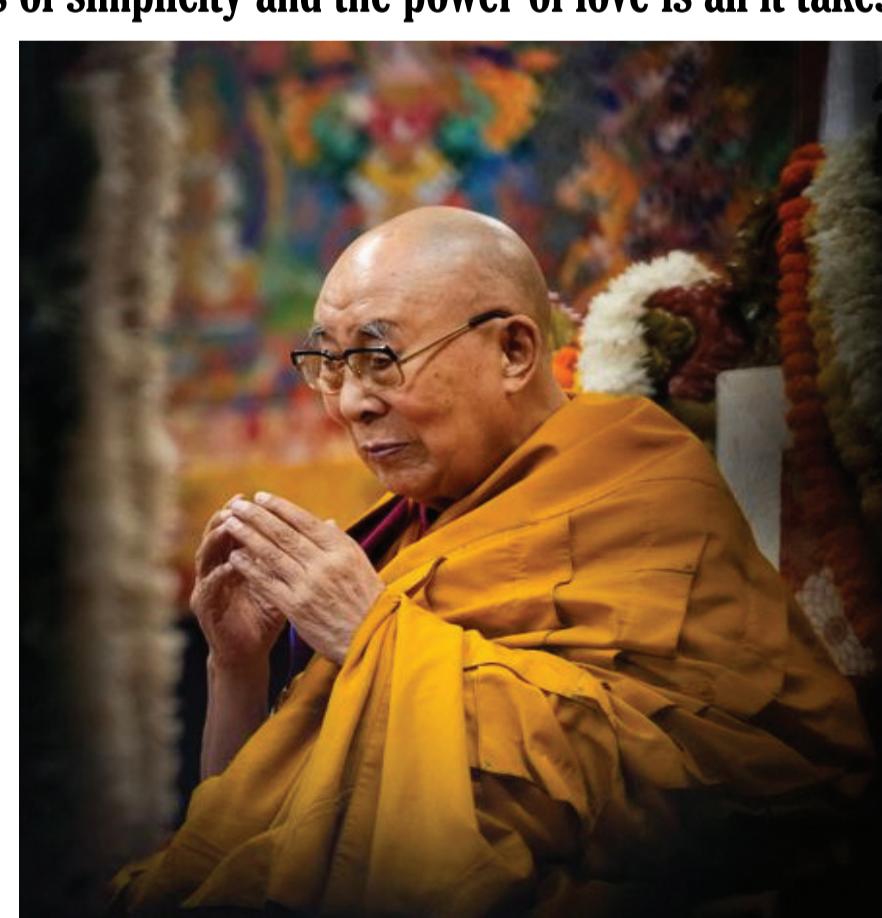
How noisy and senseless the world is becoming! Armed with the Internet, AI, Instagram and Meta, everyone is now free to bombard the world with facts, information, hate, bigotry and ugly noise. Then there are those who feel that unless they document every bit of trivia from their daily lives (clothes, their latest nail polish, new hairstyle, food or views from their windows), the world will be poorer. No wonder so many have serious issues with anxiety, low self-worth and suffer from a fear of being left out (FOMO). Nothing about what I've written so far is any great discovery but, to me, the greatest casualty in this race to remain ever-present is that we have forgotten the simple joys of solitude and silence, the beauty of the natural world, the wonder of watching a bird build a nest or closing one's eyes to hear uplifting music that soothes the soul.

I know my readers will say, 'Here she goes on an auntyji trip again!', and go back to Alexa, but pause for a moment to pay homage to a living seer who has just turned 90. Who stays quietly in his mountain retreat and hardly ever travels now, yet remains connected to the world and his devotees by an unseen magic that draws them to him. I am talking of the Dalai Lama, who seldom appears on our screens but whose every gesture is laden with wisdom and joy. Many years ago, when I was editing a journal, I decided to dedicate it to all those great teachers who live/lived among us. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa and Aung San Suu Kyi are some names I recall and I was fortunate to get a range of brilliant writers who wrote on each one of these great personages. Prof UR Ananthamurthy sent me a short, evocative piece on the Dalai Lama which I included happily.

He described how while giving a public lecture, the Dalai Lama paused suddenly until that pause became an

embarrassing gap. The audience started shifting uneasily but the Dalai Lama seemed intently involved with something on his podium. Finally, he flashed his million-watt smile, walked over and gently placed the ant he carried on his finger on a chair. There was not a single person that day who did not get the message he so effortlessly conveyed: that each life is precious and that non-violence is the only way to live in harmony. That same year marked 50 years of his exile from Tibet and he wanted to hold an event called 'Thank you India!' for giving his entourage shelter after he fled Lhasa. The Indian government, after some complex calculations regarding the political fallout and the diplomatic crisis that may result, politely declined the offer. However, the trustees of the India International Centre came forward and Kapila Vatsyayan fought bravely to offer the Tibetans the space they needed to display their treasures. The Dalai Lama would come to inaugurate the exhibition of priceless khankhas and stay on for a public lecture later that evening. The event, as all IIC cultural events are, was open to the public.

We watched as the lamas set up the multiple exhibits and lit juniper leaves to welcome their leader. As members of the staff, we were allowed to stand at the door of the exhibition room. I decided to take a copy of the journal with the Ananthamurthy article and was advised by a gentle lama from the Dalai Lama's personal staff to just offer it to one of his attendants to give to him. The Dalai Lama came slowly up the stairs and was



briefly introduced to each one of us and something about an aura that emanates from him, struck us all dumb. I held the journal in both my hands and bowed as I said, 'Your Holiness, I would like to offer you a book

that has a beautiful piece on you by Prof Ananthamurthy. I would like you to hold it and bless it.'

I could see frowns from some of our senior trustees at this breach of protocol. To my immense joy, he took it and flashed a smile that I swear blinded me. He then, as his wont, touched his forehead to mine in a blessing, and went inside. I do not know how I managed to go down the stairs but I know that tears were flowing down my cheeks and I felt as if I had been given a glimpse of a divine world that I carry inside myself to this day.

I realised then how inspired ardent devotees left everything to follow their leader. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela are worshipped till today by those who came under their spell. One doesn't need to wage wars, slay enemies and abuse those you hate to win the battle. Our leaders would be well-advised to remember that hate only begets hate; an eye for an eye, as Gandhiji reminded us, only ends up making everyone blind. An encounter with a person who has shown you the joys of simplicity and the power of love is all it takes to win over people. Are our Trumps and others like him even worth respecting? See a movie called 'Seven Years in Tibet', starring Brad Pitt (swoon-worthy as a young actor). You'll understand what I'm talking about.

## As talks on plastics treaty resume, Lancet report calls for interventions to mitigate harm

**Pune.(Agency)**

As nations resume negotiations Tuesday for a global treaty on plastics, a new report published in The Lancet journal warned of its grave threat to human and planetary health but said the harm can be mitigated through effectively implemented policies.

"Plastics cause disease and death from infancy to old age and are responsible for health-related economic losses exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually. These impacts fall disproportionately upon low income and at-risk populations," the report said.

The medical journal also launched a health-focused global monitoring system on the manufacture and use of plastics, called the Lancet Countdown on health and plastics. This is similar to the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change it had launched to monitor the health impacts of climate change.

"This Countdown will identify, track, and regularly report on a suite of geographically and temporally representative indicators that monitor progress toward reducing plastic exposures and mitigating plastics' harms to human and planetary health," the report said. From Tuesday, ministers and negotiators from across the world are meeting in Geneva for the second round of the fifth session of what is known as the Intergovernmental Negotiating

Committee, which has been negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty for the last three years. This treaty is meant to be an internationally legally binding agreement to tackle plastics pollution across its entire life cycle, though serious differences persist over the scope and nature of this agreement.

measures," it said. Philip Landrigan, a paediatrician and epidemiologist, and Director of the Global Observatory on Planetary Health at Boston College, who is the lead author of the Lancet report, said that the new Countdown will identify and regularly report on a suite of scientifically meaningful and geographically and temporally representative indicators across all stages of the plastic life cycle.

"It will track progress towards minimising exposures and mitigating human health impacts. In doing so, the Countdown will provide independent data that can continue to inform decision-making for the benefit of public health," Landrigan, who is also Co-Chair, the Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics, said in an email interview.

Landrigan said there were two factors that make plastic a huge threat for all countries at every level of income. First is the sheer magnitude of the problem. "An estimated 10 billion tons of plastic have been produced since 1950 and half of this plastic has been made since 2002. And because plastic is durable and persists for decades in the environment, an estimated 8 Gigatons of plastic waste – 80% of all plastic ever made – now pollutes the planet – a massive problem by any measure," he said.

The Lancet report said interventions such as an international agreement were necessary to reduce the dangers from plastics pollution.

"Continued worsening of plastics-associated harms is not inevitable. Similar to ambient air pollution, lead, mercury, climate change, and chlorofluorocarbons, plastics' harms can be successfully and cost-effectively mitigated with evidence-based laws and policies that are supported by enabling measures and facilitated by effective implementation



Front Continued news

### High-level meeting held at the Delhi Legislative Assembly with senior officials

Mishra stated during the meeting, "A developed Karawal Nagar is my mission... This crucial meeting with officials has been convened to fulfill that commitment. This is not just an electoral promise but a personal commitment. Ensuring basic amenities for every resident of Karawal Nagar is my top priority." He further added, "Clean water, good roads, smooth traffic, and an effective drainage system—these are not favors, but fundamental rights of every citizen. The government is working with full force to make this a reality." Mishra also emphasized to the officials, "The results must be visible on the ground—plans are not meant to stay in files, but to bring real change in people's lives. Only then will their purpose be fulfilled."

### CM Rekha Gupta Hails PM Modi as a True National Hero

She said, "Today, when decisive action has been taken under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, attempts are being made to discredit it as imaginary." Citing the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, and the recent Operation Mahadev, she lauded the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and declared, "This government neither bows, nor stops, nor pauses—it confronts every challenge the nation faces." Concluding her address, she said, "The leader who has remained rooted in the soil of his nation that unwavering flame is called Modi." She closed her speech by expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Indian armed forces and the Prime Minister for the success of Operation Sindo and Operation Mahadev, and called upon the entire Assembly to join in a resounding chant of 'Har Har Mahadev' on the sacred occasion of the last Monday of the holy month of Sawan.

### Skill Palaver hackathon equips KL University students with practical skills

**VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)**

KL Deemed to be University's Skill Development Division hosted the inaugural phase of "Skill Palaver," a project-based learning hackathon aimed at equipping B.Tech, BCA, and MCA students with industry-relevant skills. Held from August 2 to 3, the event saw participation of 1,650 pre-final year students tackling challenges in AI & ML, Cloud Computing, Virtual Instrumentation, and Multiphysics Simulation.

The initiative, structured in three phases—Learnathon, Virtual Review, and Hackathon & Open House—integrates hands-on learning into the academic curriculum. Phase 1 featured interactive Learnathon sessions led by industry experts, including G Anil Kumar (Cisco), P Thathamadura (IBM), G Naga Sai Ram (Ansys), and Anish (Adya Skills).

These mentors guided students through real-world problem statements, fostering innovative solutions and teamwork. The overnight sessions culminated in student teams presenting action plans, showcasing endurance and creativity.

A Srinath, Dean of Skill Development, said "Skill Palaver fosters self-directed learning and problem-solving skills, preparing students for industry demands by their pre-final year."

Guided by Vice Chancellor GPS Varma and Pro Vice Chancellors Venkatram and K Rajasekhar Rao, the initiative strengthens academia-industry collaboration. Two

## BJP's Jakhar seeks probe into graft claims in Sanjeev Arora's companies; he resigns as MD

**Ludhiana.(Agency)**

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar Sunday demanded that chief minister Bhagwant should investigate corruption allegations against his minister, Sanjeev Arora, for alleged misconduct as a land developer.

Jakhar said that the recent vigilance action against Ranjit Singh Gill, who recently joined BJP, was a "blatant act of political vengeance" by AAP government, and instead Mann should prove corruption allegations against his own minister.

Hours after Jakhar's press conference in Chandigarh, Arora announced his resignation as the managing director of his company Hampton Sky Realty Ltd (formerly known as Ritesh Properties and Industries Limited (RPIL)) and eight other companies run by the group. Arora, a prominent industrialist from

### Two among four octogenarians killed in road crash in US were from Ahmedabad

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

The bodies of four octogenarians, including two from Ahmedabad, who had gone missing in the United States since the night of July 29, were found late Saturday in the West Virginia mountains, along the Big Wheeling Creek Road.

After several days of land and aerial search yielded no trace of the missing persons or their vehicle, investigators used the last known mobile phone locations to zero in on the crash site.

"Since the area is a ravine with thick vegetation, nothing was visible from the ground during search operations. Helicopters also couldn't trace anything. When the mobile data was extracted, it pointed to a specific location, which led police to the bodies. The last signals from their cellphones were located near



Moundsville and Wheeling," Himani Divan, daughter of Shailesh Divan, told The Indian Express. She had been in touch with her cousins since the night of July 29. Dr Kishore Divan (89), Asha Divan (86), Shailesh Divan (87) and Gita Divan (83) were travelling by road from Buffalo, New York, to Prabhupada's Palace of Gold—an ISKCON temple in Marshall County, West Virginia—when their car reportedly went off the road and crashed.

It was Shailesh and Gita Divan's first visit to the temple. The couple, residents of Ahmedabad's Satellite area, were visiting Shailesh's elder brother Dr Kishore, who had moved to the US 45 years ago. They had arrived in the US in early June and were scheduled to return next weekend.

**Chandigarh.(Agency)**

In Mukerian subdivision of Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, years of rampant mining in fertile agricultural land has left behind pits and barren fields—and the damage isn't over. Not only has mining carved 40 to 70 feet deep craters in farmlands across villages, but the adjoining fields are now also under threat. With no end to the destruction in sight, the government has instead ordered fresh physical verification at 17 more proposed mining sites. The recent heavy rains have also added to the crisis, as collapsing edges of previously mined fields are steadily eroding nearby cultivable land, forcing farmers to watch helplessly as their fields vanish, inch by inch.

Farmers in Pandori, Mehtapur, Mansoor Pur, Bishan Pur and Barota have alleged that illegal and unchecked stone mining—up to depths of 40 to 70 feet—has not only rendered around 400 acres of land barren in their area but is now threatening adjoining fields and even homes.

Baljeet Singh from Pandori village said, "The edge of my field has already eroded by 3 to 4

marla in just a year during this rainy season. My house is just 1.5 killa (acre) away from the mined site, and we are extremely worried."

Farmers are now spending lakhs to build mud bunds and embankments to protect their lands. Karnail Singh of Barota village said, "I have spent nearly Rs 1.5 lakh just on making a 'nakka' (bandh) and deploying 250 to 300 tractor-trolleys of soil to reinforce the edge of my field. But erosion continues due to stagnant rain water."

Maninder Pal Singh alias Preet Singh Pandori added that stone crushers have now started buying more agricultural land. Government teams from the Agriculture Department, Mining Department, and District Administration have now started visiting our fields. This is a clear sign that they will start mining again," he said.

He added that some crushers have already purchased land adjoining active fields,

raising fears that mining will soon start just 22 feet away from prime agricultural plots and 2-acres away from his house.

In Mukerian's Pandori village, farmers allege



that stone crusher operators who initially paid for shallow soil extraction have progressively deepened mining pits, turning fertile lands into barren craters. Many farmers, after receiving minimal compensation and finding farming unviable, sold more soil or

eventually their entire land to survive. The deepening pits not only caused adjoining fields to sink but also destroyed pathways, making it difficult for others to access their farms.

Locals also warn of the environmental risk posed by mining near the Hydel Canal of BBMB, saying the elevation of the canal

above mined areas could cause flooding in low-lying villages if water levels rise.

Farmers who sold land for Rs 7 to 8 lakh per acre to stone crushers now regret their decision.

## Missing 'wife' of Chennai man found in Maradu

**KOCHI.(Agency)**

A woman, who was reported missing by a Tamil Nadu native claiming to be her husband, was traced by the city police on Saturday. The police suspect she had been on the run after taking money from the man, a retired engineer from Chennai. The TN man had moved the Kerala High Court recently alleging that his wife, a 44-year-old woman from Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, was being illegally detained by a man, K M Joseph Steven from Thrissur, and his associates for money. He said he had met her through a matrimonial website and they got married in 2022.

The police said the duo was living together when she went missing. As per the man, the woman visited Kerala regularly, and his last contact with her was in May. He said he got a message on June 6, showing a coffin and funeral rituals, from a person identifying himself as G M Rao, a lawyer, saying his wife has died. Later, another



However, the police said the woman had taken some money from him, and when she cut off all contact with him, he approached the HC. The police said they have, so far, not found any evidence indicating the woman was legally married to the petitioner.

# 'Can't risk violating privacy': court denies permission to Delhi excise policy case accused to inspect digital devices of co-accused

## Agency New Delhi.

Citing privacy concerns, a Delhi court Saturday rejected a plea moved by an accused in the corruption case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam to inspect the digital devices of two other co-accused. The court pointed out that such an "attempt to conduct a parallel investigation" could not be allowed.

The court was hearing a plea by Amandeep Singh Dhall, who is accused of conspiring in formulating the now-scraped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, to inspect the digital devices of co-accused Sameer Mahendru and Arun R Pillai. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is investigating the case, had found nothing incriminating in them, and both the co-accused objected to Dhall's demand.

"No such parallel investigation should be allowed by any accused, as this would otherwise lead to an endless cycle of such proceedings. After all, every accused in a criminal trial claims that he was prejudiced by an unfair investigation concerning him and by the omission of facts that may have favoured him," said

Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh in his order.

"Requesting inspection without a specific or justified reason, or simply hoping to find something useful, amounts to a fishing expedition. Such a broad, unfocused search without clear limits or scope amounts to a roving inquiry. It not only wastes the court's time but also risks violating privacy rights and could amount to harassment or oppression of the device owners," the judge added.

"The reason accused 9 (Dhall) inspects others' devices is to find something that he can use to build his defence. If he is not planning to use any content from those devices, then why does he need to see them? The purpose of inspecting the devices is to find evidence that can be used to support his defence, which poses a serious risk to accused 5 (Mahendru), accused 7 (Pillai) and others," the court said. Just because the

two accused and others voluntarily disclosed their passwords to the investigating agency, they cannot be

"unfettered right". The court was dealing with a question of the fundamental rights—the right to privacy and the right to a fair trial—of two sets of people conflicting with each other.

"Since the CBI could not find anything related to the dispute in those devices, allowing a parallel inquiry would be equivalent to conducting a separate trial for each device, which could be extremely risky for a criminal court to undertake. No such pre-trial inquiry should be permitted," the court stated.



compelled to reveal them again for Dhall or anyone else, the court noted. It added that courts had to be "especially cautious when digital devices containing sensitive, private or personal data" are examined and that such an inspection, which could violate privacy, can not be considered an

The CBI arrested Dhall in April 2023. The Delhi High Court granted Dhall bail in the money laundering case related to the alleged scam in September 2024, and later, the Supreme Court in October 2024 granted him bail in the CBI case.

## 2 Nigerian nationals found dead in Delhi's Uttam Nagar, police wait for autopsy report

### Agency New Delhi.

Two Nigerian nationals were found dead at a rented flat at Uttam Nagar in Delhi's Dwarka Sunday morning. The bodies were discovered on the first floor of a building, located behind a clothing godown, at Chanakya Place.

The deceased were identified as Josheph and Chibitem. According to the police, they were residents of Burari and reportedly came to Chanakya Place a day before. A man named Henry had taken the premises on rent, said the police. Upon receiving the information about the deaths, personnel from the Dabri police station reached the scene and secured the area. A forensic team and the crime team inspected the premises, the police said.

"Prima facie, no external injuries were found on the two bodies. No foul play was noticed. The bodies were shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital mortuary and we are waiting for the post-mortem report," said a senior police officer.

The police are currently looking into CCTV footage of nearby areas to trace the movements of the duo and establish a complete timeline of events. They are also questioning the tenant, Henry, to verify his connection with the deceased and his knowledge of their visit.

The Nigerian Embassy has been informed to assist in contacting the families and coordinating any required consular support, the police said. They also said that although no foul play has been detected so far, all possible angles are being probed. Updates are expected after the post-mortem and forensic reports become available, they added.

## Tamil Nadu Lok Sabha MP's gold chain snatched in Delhi's high-security Chanakyapuri area

### Agency New Delhi.

Congress Lok Sabha MP R Sudha's gold chain was allegedly snatched by a bike-borne man near the Polish embassy in New Delhi when she was out on a walk early Monday. R Sudha, elected from the Mayiladuthurai Lok Sabha seat of Tamil Nadu, wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying the incident was shocking considering that the area is considered a "high-security zone".

In her complaint, the Congress leader said she was out for a morning walk with another MP from Rajya Sabha when the incident happened. "On August 04, 2025 (Monday), another woman Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Rajathi, and I stepped out of Tamil Nadu House for a walk. At around 6.15 am to 6.20 am, when we were near the Polish Embassy's Gate-3 and Gate-4, a man wearing a full helmet and thereby covering his face entirely and riding a Scooty approached us from the opposite direction and snatched my gold chain and fled," she said.

The MP alleged she also suffered injuries on her neck, and her dress was torn as the snatcher fled on the speeding bike. She then saw a mobile patrolling vehicle of the Delhi Police and rushed to them for help.

"A while later, we spotted a mobile patrol vehicle of the Delhi Police and complained to them. We were advised to give a complaint in writing and approach the jurisdictional police station for the purpose," she said in the complaint. "If a woman cannot walk safely in this high-priority zone in the national capital of India, where else can we feel safe and do our routine without fearing for our limbs, lives and valuables? Sir, I have suffered injury on my neck, lost my gold chain weighing more than 4 sovereigns, and I am highly traumatised by this criminal attack," she added.

"I, therefore, request your good self to direct the authorities concerned to ensure that the culprit is tracked down with the help of umpteen CCTV cameras in this 'high-security' zone, and arrested." Sudha lodged a complaint at the Chanakyapuri Police Station, and the police said they have registered a First Information Report (FIR).

## Loudspeaker to patrols: Here's how residents of Delhi's Okhla are battling trash at their doorstep

### Agency New Delhi.

"You are under CCTV surveillance. If caught throwing garbage, a complaint will be sent to the police and MCD."

For the past 15 days, from 10 pm to 12 am, this recorded warning has been broadcast from a loudspeaker affixed to the first-floor balcony of a building in Zakir Nagar, in Southwest Delhi's Okhla.

The speaker has not been installed by the MCD or any government agency, nor is the message from the authorities. It's been set up by a group of residents, frustrated by the daily dumping of garbage on a large vacant plot in front of their homes. They have even resorted to standing guard to stop people from throwing trash.

At 10.45 am on Friday, Salman, one of the men on watch, dashes out of his grocery shop near the 'dumping ground' after spotting a man on a bike pause briefly, fling a paper bag, and speed off before he could intervene. "We've submitted multiple complaints, both verbal and written, to the MCD

and DDA," he says. "This is a 1,200 sq ft plot, but in the past 30 years, I've never seen it free of garbage. It's hard to even walk past it."

This plot is now higher than the adjacent road due to layers of garbage — from



broken furniture, torn mattresses, kitchen waste, to construction debris — that has accumulated over the past 20 years. Flies swarm around the fresh heaps as residents toss polythene out of their kitchen windows and passersby stop their vehicles to dump bags of waste — especially when the 'guards' are not on duty.

Residents claim this land is owned by the

DDA, as a board indicating ownership was erected there until a few years ago. A few houses away, Saleem Khan, in his 50s, who has lived in the area for 20 years, says the sight of piled-up garbage has remained unchanged for as long as he can remember.

"After work, I keep watch near the plot — usually around 10.30 pm, and again from 5 to 8.30 in the morning," he says. "When we confront people dumping trash, they shrug it off, saying one bag won't make a difference."

Residents, he adds, have long demanded that a park be built on the plot. "We've even tried tying ropes around the area to stop the dumping," he says, "but the police stop us, claiming it's DDA land."

A resident of the nearby Chinar Apartments says MCD garbage collection vehicles used to arrive every three days, but have now stopped altogether. "The MCD doesn't consider this area part of its jurisdiction."

## Op Sindoor flag, bleachers for a better view: What's new at this year's Independence Day event

### Agency New Delhi.

A special flag to symbolically honour Operation Sindoor, an Under Vehicle Surveillance System (UVSS) amid heightened security measures, a tiered seating arrangement so that can guests can have a better view of the ceremony, and interlocking pavements for better movement of vehicles and visitors: these are the among the firsts for the Independence Day ceremony this year at Red Fort in Delhi.

Operation Sindoor was initiated on May 7 this year in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 citizens. It showcased a calibrated, tri-services response, according to the government, and a targeted campaign to dismantle the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control (LoC) and

deeper inside Pakistan. In a symbolic gesture, the valour of the forces will be highlighted during the celebrations on August 15 at the Red

(DCP) on senior police deployment, a two-layered ring security system has been put in place, starting Sunday.

Around 15,000 personnel of the Delhi Police will be deployed at the Red Fort and the surrounding precinct, officers highlighted.

Large-scale mock emergency exercises, hotel inspections, and increased patrolling are among the measures that are already being implemented, said officers. Snipers, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commandos, drones, and 700 AI-enabled CCTV cameras with facial recognition facility will also be a part of the security arrangements.

Specialised cameras can count the visitors and lens blockers obstruct visual access to the high-security targets, said officers, elaborating on the arrangements.

Fort, said officials. In the run-up to 79th Independence Day, the Delhi Police has already stepped up the security arrangements at the Red Fort. With the officers frp, the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police

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## Memories of a Delhi gone by: DDA's oldest housing colony near Hauz Khas, where flats once cost Rs 20k, may be up for revamp

### Agency New Delhi.

"We used to play badminton together, sing songs, and eat with each other," says Mohini Judge, 84, one of the oldest residents of Bhim Nagri Apartments, as she remembers a time that was "much simpler, when this was a community. We were so close that if someone didn't come down for a festival, we used to go into their houses and wake them up."

Located in Hauz Khas, Bhim Nagri Apartments is the oldest housing complex built by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in the National Capital, with its earliest residents moving into their homes in 1969. The first of the quintessential DDA flats — winning the lottery for which has long been a mark of prestige, though it is steadily eroding of late — remains tucked inside the tony Safdarjung Development Area (SDA). Hemmed in on

both sides by villas quickly transforming into monolithic glass-and-steel builder flats, Bhim Nagri stands like an island relatively untouched by the winds of change rushing through Delhi. A joint government-industry task force, constituted by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, recently submitted a report titled 'How to Revitalise Delhi' to the government, recommending ways to unlock the region's "latent real estate potential." Among its key recommendations is the redevelopment of housing societies older than 50 years, which will also cover Bhim Nagri. "These buildings are likely to have significant structural issues and may not meet modern safety and infrastructure standards," the report recommends. Rs 5,000 down payment for flats costing Rs 20,000. Judge was 32 when she moved into one of the 72

flats housed in the eight buildings of Bhim Nagri, and her daughter was just a year old. "When I used to go to the market, I would leave her at the

church nearby without any worry," Judge says, harking back to a time when residents say they had a small but strong community. "I remember Sonu

running around the houses, with his mother chasing and calling him back," Judge adds about Sandeep Behl, another original inhabitant of the society.

Behl remembers that his family had to make a down payment of Rs 5,000 for the Middle-Income Group (MIG) flat and pay monthly instalments of Rs 200 for seven years, making the cost of the flat approximately Rs 20,000. MIG flats today can cost between Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore. The DDA's attempt to create a well-planned and green Capital, while seldom successful across Delhi, is visible here with three parks interspersed with buildings in the society. But Judge says it came later. "Earlier, the spaces between buildings were just vacant. It was all an open area with hard soil. The parks came in around 1975."

## In 1996, Kanpur tailor killed an 8-year-old for ransom, then jumped parole. 26 years later, law catches up

### Agency New Delhi.

In 1996, Raj Kishore, a 25-year-old tailor, was sentenced to life in prison by a sessions court in Karkardooma for the cold-blooded murder of an eight-year-old boy. Three years earlier, he had kidnapped the child, demanding a ransom of Rs 30,000 from the boy's businessman father. The father paid up — but Raj strangled the child and dumped his body in a gutter in Kalyanpuri. He was eventually traced and arrested.

After three years in jail, Raj got out on a six-week parole in 1999. But he never came back. In 2014, he was declared a proclaimed offender on the Delhi High Court's directions.

Twenty-six years later, his luck ran out. On Saturday, a Delhi Police Crime Branch unit, led by Inspector Mangesh Tyagi and ACP Pankaj Arora, finally nabbed Raj from Ghaziabad. The kidnapping

It was in 1990 that Raj came to Delhi from Kanpur, looking for work. After doing odd jobs for about 18 months, he finally landed a gig as a tailor at a small garment factory that belonged to Mohammad Asif, a garment businessman in Kalyanpuri, a police officer said. "The factory made garments for third-party retailers. There were 10-15 workers at the factory, and Asif knew everyone personally," the officer said. Asif would often bring his son and his elderly father to the factory. Police said the child would play around, and the workers mingled with him.

Police said Raj noticed that, though small, Asif's business was booming — with his garments even being exported to other countries.

In 1993, Raj quit and decided to extort Asif.

His leverage? Asif's son.

On December 15, 1993, Raj lay in wait near Asif's house in Trilokpuri. He finally found the child alone and lured him with an ice cream, the officer said. The next day, police said, Raj called Asif. He did not reveal his identity and demanded Rs 30,000 if he wanted his child back.

## Clean air now, government must prepare for winter woes next

### Agency New Delhi.

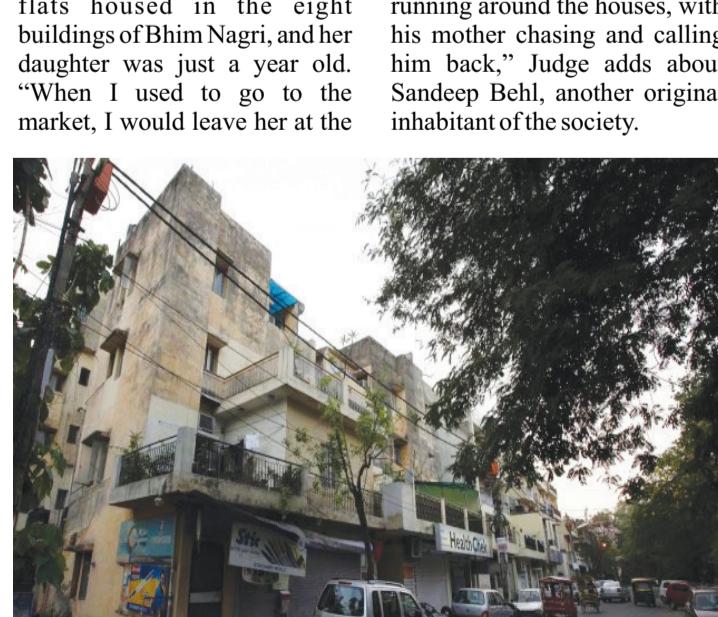
When rains come, winters are not very far away. Delhi government is applauding its efforts of securing 'cleanest and coolest' July in nine years with an average Air Quality Index of 79. This improvement is largely attributable to consistent monsoon showers that have effectively washed away pollutants, leading to AQI levels dropping below 50 in many areas, categorizing the air quality as 'very good'. The bigger question is whether they would be 'securing' Delhi air when winter dawns.

The annual winter crisis is caused by various factors including stubble burning in neighbouring states, vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and unfavourable meteorological conditions that trap pollutants close to the ground.

For the past few years, the BJP-led Centre has repeatedly pointed, and rightly so, at a lacklustre Arvind Kejriwal government for turning the national Capital into a gas chamber during the winter months. The value edition to this claim was done by equally indifferent attitude of the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government in addressing air pollution in the national Capital.

The two Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led state governments to defend their incompetence laid blame, rightly or wrongly, at the doors of the BJP-led Haryana government for turning Delhi into one of the most polluted city globally. Then Haryana had claimed that how was it responsible for the polluted air blowing from Punjab to Delhi.

So discredit have been the Kejriwal and Mann governments about their intent to solve the matter that Haryana government's claim was taken on the face value.



## NEWS BOX

**Harry Brook not Ollie Pope should be Stokes' successor in Tests: Michael Vaughan**

**LONDON. (Agency)**

Harry Brook's on-field presence gives off the vibe of a great leader and he should be the ready replacement for skipper Ben Stokes when the time comes, feels one of England's finest Test captain Michael Vaughan. Brook, a maverick batter, reignited England's hopes in the ongoing Test with an attacking 111 off 98 balls, leaving his team 35 runs away from victory with four wickets in hand heading into the final day.

Vaughan, who won 26 out of his 51 Tests as captain, feels that Ollie Pope is a fantastic deputy but when Stokes decides to call time, Brook is the ideal guy to lead England.

"Harry Brook, to me, looks a leader. He looks a born leader," Vaughan told the Test Match Special podcast. "If Ben Stokes is injured in the future can't Pope stay as vice-captain and Harry Brook gets the leadership role?"

Yorkshire's Brook was appointed England's white-ball captain earlier this year. He won his first series against a below-par West Indies. Vaughan gave his reasons for choosing Brook over Pope.

"I look at someone like Ollie Pope, who looks a fantastic vice-captain. He is a brilliant person to have next to the captain to come up



with ideas. Sometimes vice-captains aren't brilliant captains." He then gave example of his time as leader of England cricket team. "Marcus Trescothick was a magnificent vice-captain for me but you wouldn't want to give him the captaincy." Pope, 27, is leading England in a Test for the fifth time. He previously stood in when Stokes had a hamstring injury last year.

"I don't know well enough and am not in the dressing room. I just want the best captain who is the best leader leading the England side. I don't think a good vice-captain will necessarily be a good captain," Vaughan asserted.

## WI vs PAK: Farhan, Ayub star as Pakistan take series-clinching win by 13 runs

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Pakistan wrapped up a 2-1 T20I series win over the West Indies with a composed 13-run victory at Lauderhill on Monday, August 4. A strong opening stand from Saim Ayub and Sahibzada Farhan set the tone, before Pakistan's bowlers held their nerve in the closing stages. Batting first, Pakistan got off to a flying start with Ayub and Farhan putting together a dominant 138-run partnership that lasted until the 17th over. The pair combined aggression with smart shot selection, frustrating the West Indies bowlers who failed to make early inroads. Alzarri Joseph eventually dismissed Farhan, but Pakistan continued to pile on the runs in the final overs, finishing with a challenging total of 190. In response, the West Indies made a promising start. Openers Jewel Andrew and Alick Athanaze came out with intent, looking to make the most of the powerplay. However, Haris Rauf's raw pace proved too much for Andrew, who found Hasan Ali at



long-on with a mistimed shot. Athanaze continued the counterattack but found little support from his captain, Shai Hope, who struggled to keep up with the required run rate. Hope's struggle ended when Mohammad Nawaz caught him in the deep by Ayub. Sherfane Rutherford then took charge, showcasing the form he displayed in the IPL 2025 season. Alongside Athanaze, he kept the scoreboard ticking. Both batters reached their fifties, but Pakistan struck back just in time. Ayub, now with the ball, deceived Athanaze with a flighted delivery, drawing an edge that was safely taken at short third-man. The West Indies faltered in the middle overs. Roston Chase, unable to rotate strike or find boundaries, retired himself out. The pressure mounted further as left-arm wrist-spinner Sufiyan Muqeem removed Jason Holder, further denting the chase. Although Gudakesh Motie tried to inject some life into the innings with a few boundaries, Romario Shepherd had an off-day, leaving the hosts short of the target.

## Messi has a 'minor' muscle injury, Inter Miami says timeline for return is unknown

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

**FORT LAUDERDALE. (Agency)**

Inter Miami star Lionel Messi is dealing with a minor muscle injury in his right leg after being hurt in the opening minutes of Saturday's Leagues Cup match against Necaxa, the club said Sunday. Messi underwent tests on his right leg after experiencing discomfort following a play in which he fell while being challenged by a

pair of Necaxa defenders, in a game Inter Miami won on penalty kicks. His timeline for return isn't yet known, though it seems unlikely that he will be available for Miami's next Leagues Cup match against



## Shashi Tharoor wants Virat Kohli to unretire. BCCI, Gambhir should coax him back

**Shashi Tharoor's call for Virat Kohli's return to Test cricket comes at a time when India's batting order looks unsettled and leadership gaps are showing in England. As fans debate the timing and merit of Kohli's retirement, the question remains: can the BCCI and Gambhir convince him to reconsider?**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Shashi Tharoor, the wordsmith with a vocabulary so huge that he could write a new Thesaurus, wants to change the script of Indian cricket with a magnificent word: un-retire. Indian cricket needs you, Virat Kohli, please come back, Tharoor wrote on X on Sunday. Tharoor's cricketing cri de cœur erupted on social media as India stumbled in England, reeling from a 195-run Joe Root-Harry Brook partnership and fielding gaffes like Mohammed Siraj's boundary-line blunder. The partnership all but defenestrated India out of the series before the bowlers crept in through an opening provided by Jacob Bethell. Absence makes the heart grow

fonder, and Tharoor seems to be pining for Kohli's return, invoking the spirit of the "60 overs of hell" that defined India's iconic 2021 Lord's Test triumph. The problem, though, is that Kohli abruptly retired from Test cricket just before the England series. Kohli was keen for a new challenge, perhaps captaincy, to re-ignite his passion



for the game. The selectors and coach Gautam Gambhir insisted that he play under a new captain. Unable to summon the motivation to continue playing, Kohli announced his exit. Since the ruling dispensation and circumstances have not changed, despite mounting pressure from fans, Kohli's return hinges on his personal conviction—a factor that even the most persuasive wordsmith may struggle to sway.

**The Case For Kohli**  
India's batting experiments in England reveal a lack of stability. Sai Sudarshan and Karun Nair, shuffled in and out of the No. 3 slot, have struggled to cement their places. Sudarshan's technique against the moving ball has been exposed, raising doubts about his suitability for the top order. Unless he adapts swiftly, his tenure at No. 3 seems precarious. Nair's comeback, while inspiring, has been fleeting. His inability to convert starts into big scores, coupled with his age, suggests the England tour may mark the end of his Test journey. The Indian batting has done well in England, especially in the last two Tests. But it has relied heavily on Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar, two all-rounders whose primary responsibility should be bowling. Because of the lack of spine in the middle order, India have compromised with the bowling, leaving out the attacking Kuldeep Yadav, and putting immense burden on its pacers, especially Siraj Ahmed. At Oval, the selection blunder was amplified by the team's reluctance to bowl Jadeja and Washington, stretching the pacers beyond their limits. Fortunately, rain breaks helped India by letting the pacers rest their tired bodies for one more spirited assault.

## Dinesh Karthik slams Akash Deep, Siraj after India's poor show on Day 4 at Oval

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Former India wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik voiced his disappointment after India's bowlers, especially Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj, struggled on Day 4 of the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval. Karthik didn't hold back in his assessment, pointing out lapses in both bowling and fielding that let England take the upper hand.

Jasprit Bumrah was rested while Shardul Thakur was benched for the match, and the team was relying on the pace trio of Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasidh Krishna for the match. Despite this, Akash failed to deliver when it mattered the most, ending Day 4 with unconvincing figures of 1 for 85 from 20 overs. Akash returned to the playing XI after missing the fourth Test due to injury. His lack of rhythm and pace meant

India couldn't build pressure from his end. He also took a blow on the shin during the innings and looked visibly uncomfortable throughout the day. At one point, skipper Shubman Gill was even overheard asking whether he had taken an injection, hinting that the pacer may not have fully recovered. Karthik, while talking on Cricbuzz, was critical of Akash Deep's performance, saying that the pacer tapered off after his Edgbaston heroics, where he took a match-winning ten-wicket haul.

"For a start, I think Akash Deep could have bowled much better. I don't think he really bowled as well as his talents suggests, because what he showed in Edgbaston was high quality. But then he kind of tapered off, I don't know why. He bowled a lot down the leg, I'm not sure why he hasn't had a good couple of games," he said. The former

cricketer also had strong words for Mohammed Siraj, who dropped a crucial catch of Harry Brook during a key moment



of England's innings. Brook was on 19 when Siraj stepped on the boundary rope while trying to take the catch. Brook went on to hammer a 98-ball 111, shifting the match decisively in England's favour. Siraj and Prasidh bowled their hearts out, no doubt

## Noah Lyles shoved by Bednarek for 'Unsportsmanlike' behaviour after his win in 200 meters at US nationals

**Though they shook hands during that tense post-race, Bednarek was fired up well after the sprinters had left the track.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Noah Lyles landed the day's biggest blow on the track, passing Kenny Bednarek for the win, then looking his way to talk some trash. Bednarek's answer was a two-handed shove in the back after the finish line, some more heated words and a challenge for a rematch that can't come soon enough.

U.S. track championships turned physical Sunday, with Lyles and Bednarek getting involved in a shoving and shouting match as they crossed the finish line of a hotly contested 200-meter final at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

"Like I've said before, Noah's going to be Noah," Bednarek said. "If he wants to stare me down, that's fine." Lyles reeled in Bednarek and crossed in 19.63 seconds for a .04-second victory that sets up a rematch at world championships, on Sept. 19 in

Tokyo. The best action in Round 1 came after the finish line. There was jawing, the shove and, then, Lyles turning around, backpedaling, reaching his arms out and bouncing up and down like a boxer before lobbing a few more choice words at Bednarek. Their argument bled into the start of what is normally a celebratory NBC winner's interview. "I tell ya, if you've got a problem, I expect a call," Bednarek said, as the network's Lewis Johnson moved the mic between the runners.

Lyles replied: "You know what, you're right. You're right. Let's talk after this." Though they shook hands during that tense post-race, Bednarek was fired up well after the sprinters had left the track. "The summary is, don't do that to me," he said. "I don't do any of that stuff. It's not good character right there. That's pretty much it.

At the end of the day, he won the race. I've got to give him props. He was the better man today."

The win itself was no big surprise for Lyles, the three-time defending world champion who

will have to get past Bednarek to make it four in Tokyo. Bednarek was asked what Lyles said as he turned around and gloated after securing his fifth national title at his favorite



distance. "What he said didn't matter, it's just what he did," Bednarek said. "Unsportsmanlike (expletive) and I don't deal with that. It's a respect factor. He's fresh. Last time we lined it up, I beat him, that's all I can say. Next time we line up, I'm going to

win. That's all that matters." Asked to expand on his role in the tiff, Lyles was less forthcoming: "On coach's orders, no comment." As is common in a year after the Olympics — and in an era after Usain Bolt — track is a sport desperately in need of some energy. Who else to provide it than Lyles, the sport's most engaging character this side of Sha'Carri Richardson, who found herself in off-the-track headlines again this weekend. Up to now, track media and the runners themselves have tried to generate rivalries between Lyles and Erriyon Knighton (fizzled), or Lyles and Letsile Tebogo (beat him in the Olympics last year) or, of course, between Lyles and NFL receiver Tyreek Hill (supposed grudge match never took place).

TURNS OUT, they probably should have looked at the lane next to him. Bednarek has won silver and beaten Lyles the last two times they've lined up in the 200 at the Olympics, even though Lyles has had issues at both — in Tokyo with his mental health, then in Paris with COVID.

**Tauson upsets 2nd-seeded Wimbledon champion Swiatek to reach Montreal quarterfinals**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev advanced to an ATP Toronto Masters quarter-final against defending champion Alexei Popyrin as his fourth-round opponent Francisco Cerundolo was forced to retire with an abdominal injury on Saturday. Germany's Zverev secured a 6-4, 1-0 victory, Argentina's Cerundolo taking a medical timeout after the fifth game and finally calling a halt after less than an hour on court.

Australia's Popyrin won his ninth straight match in Canada, beating ninth seed Holger Rune 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. The 26th-ranked Aussie profited from nearly 40 unforced errors from his Danish opponent, who has been taking occasional advice from Andre Agassi. With Popyrin on the horizon, Zverev said he was headed back to the practice court after his abbreviated victory, but he paid tribute to Cerundolo first. "He's an incredible player, we have a close personal



relationship," Zverev said of Cerundolo. "I know about abdominal injuries. You can't serve or accelerate on the forehand. He had tears in his eyes when he had to quit. He didn't want to disappoint the crowd."

"But they can last from a few days to a few months. I have respect for him - he beat me three times before tonight." Zverev, the 2017 champion, will be playing his fifth quarter-final in seven Canadian appearance. Earlier, Popyrin saved a break point with his sixth ace against Rune as he served for victory in the final game, finishing the job with a lob winner which left Rune flat-footed. "This win means a lot," the Aussie said. "I started the week not high on confidence but I knew my game was there."

"I just let go of the pressure and it worked out for me," added Popyrin, who did dropping the first set did not sit well.

"I told myself to keep going and managed to play aggressive on the next break point that I got. From then on I felt much more comfortable."

about it. A very seminal moment in this game came when Siraj dropped that catch. He had just walked into the ground before the start of that over, the masseuse was standing behind him, Arshdeep was just in his corner, maybe he was just chilling, was not expecting anything of that sort to come to him. After that, you can almost see that the Indian team deflated a little," Karthik said. Teammates had even started celebrating the catch, with KL Rahul and Prasidh Krishna visibly excited. But once it was confirmed Siraj had stepped on the rope, the mood on the field dropped. "He did not judge the ball well enough, when you are running behind for a catch, the most important aspect is that you need to quickly get under the ball, and then have a wide base to keep your head still. What Siraj was doing is that he had a bit of a shorter step."

## Buying Dubai property with credit cards Why many Indians are now in trouble

New Delhi.(Agency)

Many Indians are now finding themselves in a tricky spot after using their international credit cards (ICCs) to buy property in Dubai, reported The Economic Times. What seemed like an easy and quick way to pay is now causing them legal and tax problems back home.

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

Several homebuyers either clicked on payment links shared by Dubai-based builders or swiped their credit cards during their visits to the UAE. It felt hassle-free, no paperwork, no visits to the bank, and they believed they could avoid the hefty 20% tax collected at source (TCS) on overseas remittances. But there's a catch. Credit cards, even international ones, are only meant for current account transactions, like booking hotels, downloading movies or buying books. They are not allowed for capital account transactions such as buying immovable property or shares. While there's no specific law banning the use of ICCs for buying property abroad, experts believe it clearly violates RBI's guidelines. So, in effect, these buyers have gone against the rules.

**NOW WHAT?** Worried about attracting attention from the Income Tax Department or the Enforcement Directorate, many of these buyers are scrambling to fix their mistake. They're now remitting money properly under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and asking builders to cancel the earlier credit card payments. Once the new payment is made through the right banking channels, the builder refunds the earlier amount. This way, they hope to stay out of trouble. Some are also preparing to approach the RBI to regularise the payment. This means acknowledging the mistake and paying a penalty to avoid bigger legal consequences—a process known as compounding.

### WHAT IS LRS?

Under LRS, an Indian resident can send up to \$250,000 a year abroad for buying assets or for personal use. But the payment must go through proper banking channels, and the individual must have held an account with the bank for at least one year before the remittance for capital account transactions.

## Dehlivery shares rally up to 5% after Q1 results. Should you buy

New Delhi.(Agency)

Dehlivery shares jumped nearly 5% intraday on Monday, touching Rs 451.50 on the BSE, after the logistics major posted a sharp improvement in quarterly profit. The company reported a 68.5% year-on-year rise in net profit to Rs 91 crore for the April–June quarter, driven by tighter cost controls and improved operating leverage.

Revenue rose a modest 5.6% to Rs 2,294 crore, but the express parcel segment—the company's backbone—showed resilience with a 14% rise in shipment volumes, reaching 208 million deliveries. CEO Sahil Barua, in a post-results call, said the ongoing Rs 300-crore acquisition of Ecom Express is on track, with integration costs expected to be lower than previously estimated. Notably, he said Ecom Express is now retaining 50–60% of its volumes post-deal—well above the ~30% originally guided. The full financial impact of the acquisition will reflect in the July–September quarter. The company also announced board changes: Srivatsan Rajan, its longest-serving independent director, will step down at the end of September. PB Fintech founder Yashish Dahiya and academic Padmini Srinivasan will join as independent directors.

JM Financial's Sachin Dixit termed the performance "decent," highlighting that despite revenue falling 4.9% short of estimates, cost efficiencies led to a margin beat. Adjusted EBITDA rose to Rs 754 crore with a margin of 3.3%, an 80-basis point improvement over the previous quarter.

## JSW Cement IPO price band announced. Check other details

New Delhi.(Agency)

JSW Cement has announced the price band for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on August 7, 2025. The cement company, part of the JSW Group, is planning to raise Rs 3,600 crore through the IPO. This public issue includes a fresh issue of 10.88 crore shares worth Rs 1,600 crore and an offer for sale of 13.61 crore shares worth Rs 2,000 crore. The company had initially aimed to raise Rs 4,000 crore, but later reduced the issue size.

The IPO will close on August 11, 2025. The price band has been set between Rs 139 and Rs 147 per share. Each application must be for a minimum of 102 shares, which means a retail investor will need at least Rs 14,178 to apply.

For small non-institutional investors (sNII), the lot size is 14 lots, or 1,428 shares, which amounts to Rs 2,09,916. For big non-institutional investors (bNII), the lot size is 67 lots, or 6,834 shares, worth Rs 10,04,598. JM Financial Limited is the book-running lead manager for the IPO. Kfin Technologies Limited is the registrar. The allotment of shares for JSW Cement is expected to be finalised on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Shares of JSW Cement are expected to list on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Thursday, August 14, 2025. PROMOTERS AND COMPANY BACKGROUND

The promoters of the company are Sajjan Jindal, Parth Jindal, Sangita Jindal, Adarsh Advisory Services Private Limited, and the Sajjan Jindal Family Trust. JSW Cement was incorporated in 2006 and is known for manufacturing green cement in India. It is part of the larger JSW Group, which has interests in steel, infrastructure, and other sectors.

## 'Mango Millionaire' authors Radhika Gupta, Niranjan Avasthi on SIPs, investing and more

**In this exclusive Q&A interaction, Gupta and Avasthi reflect on the core ideas in their book, the pitfalls of social media-driven investing, why SIPs still matter, and what India needs to change in the way it talks about money and long-term wealth.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

**Mango Millionaire**, co-authored by Radhika Gupta and Niranjan Avasthi, isn't your typical finance book. Instead of stock tips or market forecasts, it offers something more enduring: a practical, jargon-free guide to thinking clearly about money. From earning and saving to investing and borrowing, the book breaks

personal finance down into five essential pillars, and argues that smart money decisions begin not with expert knowledge, but with self-awareness. In this exclusive Q&A interaction, Gupta and Avasthi reflect on the core ideas in their book, the pitfalls of social media-driven investing, why SIPs still matter, and what India needs to change in the way it talks about money and long-term wealth.)

Radhika: That money is personal and it's not about chasing what your friend or neighbour is doing. The goal isn't to become a finance expert, but to understand your own life, your needs, and make decisions that work for you. There's no one-size-fits-all in personal finance.

Niranjan: That managing your money isn't just about investing or saving, it's about getting all five key aspects right: earning, spending, saving, investing, and

borrowing. Neglecting even one of these can throw your entire financial life off balance. The goal is not perfection but doing reasonably well in each area. Focus on the whole picture, not just one part.)



The book has a conversational tone that makes even tough financial concepts feel light. Was that a deliberate choice from the start? Radhika: Yes, absolutely. We wanted this book to feel like a conversation with a trusted friend not a money textbook. Finance is already intimidating for many, so we focused on real stories, simple language, and

frameworks that are easy to remember and apply. Niranjan: Yes, it was a deliberate choice. Over the years, we've come across so many real-life stories of friends, colleagues, and relatives, struggling to manage their money. We knew these situations would resonate with readers, so we intentionally used them to bring financial concepts to life. By using these relatable experiences, we aimed to make even complex topics feel simple and conversational.) Given the explosion of interest in stock markets over the last few years, especially among young investors, what's one common mistake you wish they'd avoid? Radhika: Many first-time investors believe the stock market is a shortcut to quick wealth, but that's a misconception. Chasing fast returns or blindly following social media tips without understanding the risks can do more harm than good. Equity is indeed a powerful wealth-building tool, but only when approached with patience, discipline, and the right knowledge.

## Old vs new tax regime: What's better for you in FY 2024–25

New Delhi.(Agency)

With the deadline to file your income tax return (ITR) now extended to September 15, 2025, taxpayers have a bit more breathing room to decide whether to stick with the old tax regime or shift to the new one. But which is better for you? That depends on how you earn and how much you claim in deductions.

### MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR SALARIED PEOPLE

If you're a salaried employee or a pensioner with no business income, things are fairly simple. You can switch between the old and new tax regimes every year. Just tick the option while filing your return, either ITR-1 or ITR-2. So, if your salary structure changes or your investments vary each year, you can decide which regime works better annually.

### STRICTER RULES FOR BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL INCOME

However, if you earn money from a business or profession, the rules are tougher. You can switch back to the old tax regime only once in your lifetime.

After that, you're locked in.

Also, you must submit Form 10-IEA before filing your ITR if you want to change your regime. If you forget to file this form, you'll automatically fall under the new tax regime, whether you planned to or not.

### KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN



### OLD AND NEW REGIME

The old tax regime allows several exemptions and deductions, such as House Rent Allowance (HRA), Leave Travel Allowance (LTA), deductions under Sections 80C/80D for things like

investments, insurance, and medical expenses, and home loan interest under Section 24(b). The new regime, in contrast, is simpler, with lower tax rates but fewer deductions. It suits individuals who do not claim many exemptions. Under the new system, there's no tax on income up to Rs 4 lakh, followed by 5% on Rs 4–Rs 8 lakh, 10% on Rs 8–Rs 12 lakh, and 15% on Rs 12–Rs 16 lakh, and so on. A full tax rebate is available if your total income after deductions is up to Rs 12 lakh.

### SO, WHICH ONE IS BETTER?

If you're claiming several deductions such as HRA or interest on a home loan, the old regime might be more beneficial, helping you save more in taxes. On the other hand, if you have minimal deductions or prefer a hassle-free filing process, the new regime could work better for you.

One important point to note is that under the new regime, losses from house property, capital gains, or business income cannot be carried forward, which could impact your tax liabilities in future years.

## ED summons Anil Ambani's top aides; probes banks over Rs 17,000 crore loan fraud

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has widened its investigation into the alleged Rs 17,000 crore loan fraud case involving Anil Ambani's companies. Days after summoning Anil Ambani, the agency has now issued summons to several of his top executives for questioning under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Among those called are two of Ambani's closest aides, Amitabh Jhunjhunwala and Sateesh Seth. Both are senior figures in Ambani's business empire and are believed to have had key roles in financial operations. According to officials, at least six summonses have been issued so far. These executives had already come under the ED's radar earlier during searches carried out at various premises. The ED believes these senior executives were actively involved in helping divert funds and defraud banks. Officials suspect that some banks may have received kickbacks for turning a blind eye when the loans given to the group companies became non-performing



assets (NPAs). As part of its investigation, the ED has now written to 39 banks. It has asked why these banks did not report the loans as suspicious or raise alerts with the authorities when the accounts began defaulting.

"The silence of the banks even after loan defaults raises serious questions. These institutions had a legal duty to alert the authorities, which they failed to do," a senior official told *Aaj Tak/India Today TV*. The ED is also looking into whether there was a deliberate attempt by bank officials to ignore red flags. Officials believe that illicit payments may have been made to bank staff in return for keeping quiet about the defaults.

The investigation has expanded in recent weeks, with the ED conducting searches in multiple locations, including Bhubaneswar and Kolkata. These searches are connected to a broader fake bank guarantee racket that the agency believes is linked to the same group of companies.

The fraud case centres around unpaid loans amounting to nearly Rs 17,000 crore, which were taken by various firms linked to Anil Ambani.

## HCLTech CEO earned Rs 95 crore: Here are India's highest-paid IT bosses

New Delhi.(Agency)

HCLTech's C Vijayakumar has become the highest-paid CEO among Indian IT firms for the financial year 2024–25. His total annual pay stood at Rs 94.6 crore. Vijayakumar, who is based in the United States, received a base salary of Rs 15.8 crore, a performance-linked bonus of Rs 13.9 crore, restricted stock units (RSUs) worth Rs 56.9 crore, and an additional bonus of Rs 1.7 crore. According to the company's annual report, Vijayakumar's pay rose 7.9% from the previous year. In comparison, the average salary increase for HCLTech employees (excluding top-level managers) was 3.1%. His total earnings were 662.5 times the median pay of the company's employees in the same period. The report also said that the

HCLTech board has approved a further hike in his pay to \$18.6 million, or about Rs 154 crore, for the current financial year. His new term as CEO and managing director will begin on September 1, 2025, and continue till March 31, 2030.

### STRONG GROWTH UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP

Under Vijayakumar's leadership, HCLTech has seen steady growth over the past nine years. From financial year 2016 to 2025, the company posted a 9.3% compound annual growth rate (CAGR), which was the highest among its peers. Its EBIT (earnings before interest and tax) CAGR stood at 8.1%, the second best among competitors, while its net income CAGR was 6.9%. The company also saw a sharp rise in high-

value clients. The number of clients bringing in over \$100 million in revenue grew from 8 in FY16 to 22 in FY25. Clients in the \$50 million category increased from 19 to 52, while \$20 million clients rose from 75 to 138. HCLTech credited this rise to Vijayakumar's focus on a client-first strategy, an integrated go-to-market approach, and a strong vertical-led structure. "This approach improved client alignment, agility, and responsiveness," the company said in its report. SALARIES OF OTHER IT CEOS While Vijayakumar leads the pay chart, other top IT CEOs in India have also seen healthy earnings. TCS CEO K Krishivasan earned Rs 26.5 crore for the financial year 2023–24. This marked a 4.6% increase from his previous year's pay.

## Vietnam automaker Vinfast opens factory in India, eyeing growth in Asia

THOOTHUKUDI.(Agency)

Vietnam's Vinfast on Monday began production at a \$500 million electric vehicle plant in southern India's Tamil Nadu state, part of a planned \$2 billion investment in India and a broader expansion across Asia.

The factory in Thoothukudi will initially make 50,000 electric vehicles annually, with room to triple output to 150,000 cars. Given its proximity to a major port in one of India's most industrialized states, Vinfast hopes it will be a hub for future exports to the region. It says the factory will create more than 3,000 local jobs. The Vietnamese company says it scouted 15 locations across six Indian states before choosing Tamil Nadu. It's the center of India's auto industry, with strong manufacturing, skilled workers, good infrastructure, and a reliable supply chain, according to Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister T.R.B. Raaja. "This investment will lead to an entirely new industrial cluster in south Tamil Nadu, and more clusters is what India needs to emerge as a global manufacturing hub," he said.

A strategic pivot to Asia Vinfast's foray into India reflects a broader shift in strategy. The company increasingly is focusing on Asian markets after struggling to gain traction in the US and Europe. It broke ground last year on a \$200 million EV assembly plant in Indonesia, where it plans to make 50,000 cars annually. It's also expanding in Thailand and the Philippines. Vinfast sold nearly 97,000 vehicles in 2024. That's triple what it sold the year before, but only about 10% of those sales were outside Vietnam. As it eyes markets in Asia, it hopes the factory in India will be a base for exports to South Asian countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka and also to countries in the Middle East and Africa. India is the world's third-largest car market by number of vehicles sold. It presents an enticing mix: A fast-growing economy, rising adoption of EVs, supportive government policies and a rare market where players have yet to completely dominate EV sales. "It is a market that no automaker in the world can ignore," said Ishan Raghav,

managing editor of the Indian car magazine *autoX*..

A growing EV market in India EV growth in India has been led by two and three-wheelers that accounted for 86% of the over six million EVs sold last year. Sales of four-wheel passenger



EVs made up only 2.5% of all car sales in India last year, but they have been surging, jumping to more than 110,000 in 2024 from just 1,841 in 2019. The government aims to have EVs account for a third of all passenger vehicle sales by 2030. "The electric car story has started (in India) only three or four years

ago," said Charith Konda, an energy specialist who looks at India's transport and clean energy sectors for the think-tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis or IEEFA. New cars that "look great on the road," with better batteries, quick charging and longer driving ranges are driving the sector's rapid growth, he said.

The shift to EVs is mostly powered by Indian automakers, but Vinfast plans to break into the market later this year with its VF6 and VF7 SUV models, which are designed for India. Can Vinfast Succeed? Where Chinese EVs Faltered? Chinese EV brands that dominate in countries like Thailand and Brazil have found India more challenging. After border clashes with China in 2020, India blocked companies like BYD from building their own factories. Some then turned to partnerships. China's SAIC, owner of MG Motor, has joined with India's JSW Group. Their MG Windsor, a five-seater, sold 30,000 units in just nine months, nibbling Tata Motors' 70% EV market share down to about 50%.

# Tamannaah Bhatia

**FINALLY Reveals If She Ever Dated Virat Kohli And Abdul Razzaq: 'Never Even Met...'**

Tamannaah Bhatia, one of the most recognisable faces across Indian cinema, is no stranger to the grapevine. With a thriving career that spans across multiple languages and platforms — from the big screen to OTT — the actress often finds herself at the centre of speculation. Now, in a candid chat with *The Lallantop*, the *Aaj Ki Raat* star has finally addressed the long-standing rumours linking her romantically with two cricketing icons — Virat Kohli and Abdul Razzaq. Taking a clear stand, Tamannaah set the record straight on her alleged relationship with Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli. "I feel so bad because I literally met him for only one day," she said. "I have never met Virat after the shoot. Na maine unse baat ki, na unse mili hoon."

For context, a picture of Tamannaah and Virat from a commercial shoot had gone viral in the early 2010s, sparking relentless rumours that the two were dating. But as she confirmed, it was simply a professional interaction — nothing more, nothing less.

If that wasn't bizarre enough, another internet-fuelled rumour took things a notch higher —



claiming she had secretly married former Pakistani cricketer Abdul Razzaq after the two were spotted at a jewellery store together. "Mazaak mazaak mein Abdul Razzaq! The internet is a fun place," she chuckled. "Yaa, according to the internet, I was briefly married to Abdul Razzaq." Turning to the camera with folded hands, she added playfully, "I'm sorry sir, aapke do-teen bachhe hain... I don't know what your life is!" Calling it "so embarrassing," Tamannaah clarified that the viral photo was from the opening of a jewellery store that they had both attended, completely coincidentally.

Reflecting on the downside of fame and the media's tendency to link her with people she has no connection with, Tamannaah admitted, "It's very awkward. Jab koi bhi taaluuq nahi hota hai aur log bana dete hain. But there is nothing you can do. Waqt lagta hai, you come to accept that aap iske baare mein kuch kar nahi sakte. Jisko jaisa sochna hai, wo waisa hi sochega. Aap sabko baith ke control nahi kar sakte." Despite the tabloid frenzy and absurd rumours, Tamannaah continues to take it all in stride — with grace, humour, and a healthy dose of realism.

# Parineeti Chopra

**Says Raghav Chadha Praised His Mom For Dessert She Made: 'Nakal Main Bhi Akal...'**

Actor Parineeti Chopra and politician-husband Raghav Chadha recently brought their real-life chemistry and comic timing to *The Great Indian Kapil Show*, where they opened up about their early days of marriage, kitchen mishaps, and the constant media buzz about Parineeti's supposed political debut. When Kapil Sharma cheekily asked Parineeti if someone offered her a party ticket at her wedding, she laughed and said, "The media keeps telling me to join politics now. They don't know that I even had to Google about being a Member of

recalled how she was taken by surprise when she was asked to make halwa shortly after the wedding. "I didn't even know how to make a toast. I had to Google how to make halwa, and later I took help from my mother-in-law. I thought it would be a romantic moment to serve Raghav this halwa in the evening. He came, had it, and I was waiting for feedback."

Unfortunately, the romantic plan didn't quite go as expected. Raghav, unaware that the halwa had been made by Parineeti, praised his mother instead. "Nakal mein bhi akal chahiye, thoda sa toh badal dete," he quipped, leaving the audience in splits. Raghav also shared another heartwarming moment from their early married life, "Two-three days after our wedding, when I returned from office, I was looking for Pari and my mom. I couldn't find them, but after some time, I saw they were together in the kitchen, reorganizing everything. She reorganized the entire kitchen."

To this, Parineeti proudly added, "Main ne Bombay ki laaj rakh li." Raghav's mother, who was also present during the shoot, chimed in with her own story, revealing how friends and family would drop by their house just to get a picture with the Bollywood star. Interestingly, the episode was filmed weeks ago amid reports that Parineeti and Raghav had to leave midway due to Raghav's mother being rushed to the hospital. Thankfully, all is well now — and this episode captures the endearing blend of laughter, adjustment, and love in their newly married life.

Parliament. They think I will join politics, but I don't think so."

Reflecting on their wedding, she added, "Our wedding was quite fun because people from two different worlds came together, and our guests loved interacting with each other." But the highlight of the conversation was when Parineeti shared a hilarious anecdote about her first few days as a new bride. She



**Coolie Stars Nagarjuna, Shruti Haasan Watch Sitaare Zameen Par With Aamir Khan**



The team of Lokesh Kanagaraj's highly-anticipated action thriller 'Coolie' starring Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Soubin Shahir, Upendra, Shruti Haasan, Sathyaraj and Aamir Khan recently came together for the trailer launch event held in Chennai. During a break in the event, the actors enjoyed watching Aamir's film *Sitaare Zameen Par* on YouTube! Pictures that have surfaced on social media show Shruti Haasan, Nagarjuna, Anirudh, Lokesh Kanagaraj, Upendra, Soubin Shahir and others watching the movie as it played on a television screen.

On Sunday, Aamir Khan Productions shared a series of pictures on Instagram with the caption, "You say movie night, and your gang pulls up @shrutzaasan @rajnikanth @soubinshahir @nimmaupendra @lokesh\_kanagaraj @anirudhofficial @sivakarthikeyan." Shruti Haasan, Aamir, Lokesh Kanagaraj, Anirudh, Nagarjuna Akkineni and other members of team Coolie were all smiles as they gathered around a television, watching *Sitaare Zameen Par* together. The candid photos show them immersed in the movie, exchanging smiles and reactions. Check out the pictures below!

*Sitaare Zameen Par*, starring Aamir Khan and Genelia Deshmukh, released in theatres on 20th June. After a successful theatrical run, the film was released on YouTube from August 1, through a pay-per-view model. Aamir Khan bypassed traditional streaming platforms entirely, and his movie is now available to watch on YouTube for Rs 100. Meanwhile, the trailer launch of Rajinikanth starrer Coolie turned into a celebration in Chennai on Saturday. In one of the highlights of the day, Rajinikanth stopped Bollywood actor Aamir Khan from touching his feet and instead embracing him with a warm hug. The event saw the presence of several stars and crew members, but Aamir Khan's surprise appearance garnered cheers. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and produced by Kalamithi Maran under the Sun Pictures banner, Coolie features an ensemble cast including Nagarjuna Akkineni, Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir, Upendra, and Shruti Haasan. Aamir Khan will appear in a special role as 'Dhaha'. The music has been composed by Anirudh Ravichander. Coolie is slated for theatrical release on August 14 and is expected to clash at the box office with *War 2*, starring Hrithik Roshan, Kiara Advani, and Jr NTR.

**Yuvika Chaudhary Weighs In On Deepika Padukone's 8-Hour Shift Demand: 'Itna Bhi Ruthless...'**



Deepika Padukone's exit from *Spirit* has stirred a debate surrounding fixed working hours for actors. Several celebrities have been talking about and giving their views on the topic, and now Yuvika Chaudhary, who is also a new mom, has reacted to the ongoing discussion and backed Deepika Padukone on the topic.

In a conversation with *Pinkvilla's* Hindi Rush, Yuvika opened up about Deepika's demand and shared, "Ek toh maa banna aasan nahi hai aur maa banne ke baad kaam karna toh bilkul bhi aasan nahi hai. Unko unki definitely demand hogi. Unko kaam se pyaar hai isiliye toh vo kaam kar rahe hai, kaam pe aa rahe hai vapis." (It is not easy to be a mother, and it is not easy at all to work after becoming a mother. That will definitely be her demand. She loves working and that is why she is working; she is coming back to work.)

"Joh aap industry mein itne saalon se kaam kar rahe ho, utni respect toh milna zaroori hai," (She has been working in the industry for so many years, so she deserves that respect) she added while sharing how Deepika's demands are absolutely right.

She further continued and stated that no one should be this ruthless towards a new mother, saying, "So I think she is right. She should get that time because itna bhi aapko ruthless nahi hona chahiye." (She should get that time and no one should be this ruthless.)

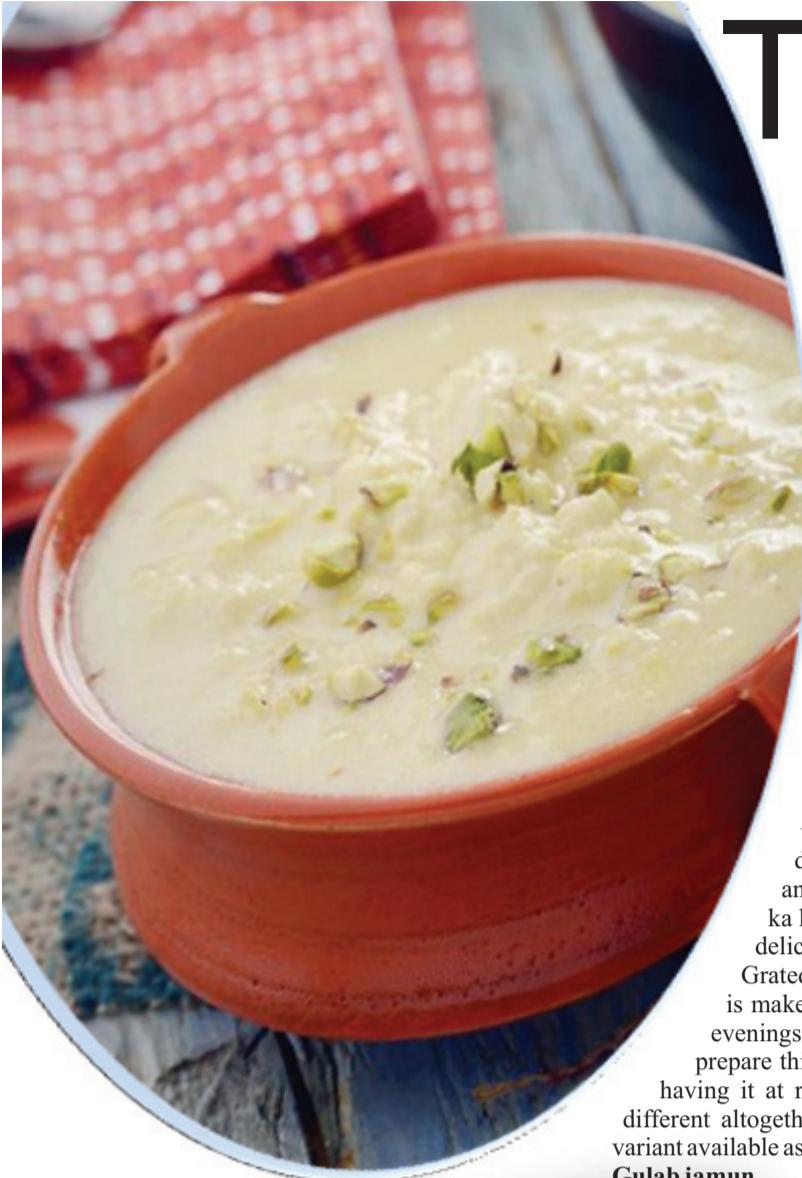
"And I'm sure it's not forever. It's a give and take. When you have done a certain amount of work, I think you should get that respect," Yuvika concluded.

**Bollywood's Ongoing Debate Over Work Hours**  
For the unversed, the debate over work hours in Bollywood started after Deepika Padukone's departure from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming film *Spirit*.

Reports claimed that the actress, who recently embraced motherhood, requested to limit her workday to eight hours — a clause that reportedly didn't sit well with the filmmaker.



# The winter food Saga



my routine every alternate day."

#### Rabdi Malpua with Malai

(Price - Rs 300 per kg)

Want to make someone an offer they can't deny? Ask them to try the delectable combo of rabdi malpua and malai. This sweet dish is drenched in warm sugar syrup and if hot kesariy doodh is had with it, one needn't ask for anything more. Gajar ka halwa Gajar

ka halwa is one of the most nutritious delicacies offered by street vendors.

Grated carrot with sugar and dry fruits is makes it the perfect dessert for cold evenings. Although many homemakers prepare this delicacy at home, the fun of

having it at roadside eateries is something different altogether. Plus, there is a sugar-free variant available as well.

#### Gulab jamun

(Price - Rs 250 per kg)

Another regular delicacy that sells like hot cakes during winters is gulab jamun. This sweet is readily available at all the sweet shops of the city and is a great option to be had along with your group of friends or family

#### Kesariy doodh

(Price - Rs 20-30 per glass)

The thickened milk is the Bhopali night-owl's

preferred delicacy. Saffron, sugar and cardamom powder is added to the thickened milk and it is topped with crushed almonds and pistachios to give a healthy and warm treat. Arif

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During winters, your body requires energy as much as warmth. So, despite the drop in the mercury, Bhopalites can be spotted at the street-side shops selling winter delicacies. These dishes, though exclusively gorged on during the cold season, are light on the pocket. We bring you some of these, that you ought to give a try.

#### Garadu

(Price - Rs 25-30 per plate)

One thing that every Bhopali can have throughout the winter is garadu. Bhopalites not only rush to street shops but also keep a stock of raw garadu at home as remedy to hunger pangs. The dish is garnished with a blend of spices and lemon.

#### Bhutta Ka Kees

(Price - Rs 20-30 per plate)

Bhutta is in demand across the year but during the cold days, the bhutta vendors make phenomenal business. Bhutta ka kees is grated corn blended with spices and garnished with coriander leaves, coconut powder, and jeeravan; served hot to make your winters more enjoyable. Harsita Mangal, a student, says, "Despite having a busy schedule, I run to the nearest shop selling bhutta ka kees, every time I have an urge to have it. During winters, this is

## 6 grilled cheese sandwiches you MUST have

Foreign ingredients are now mostly available in metros, use them to spruce up the humble grilled cheese sandwich to great effect

Triple Cheese and Pesto: Goat cheese, cheddar, and parmesan make up the trio of cheeses in this sandwich. Try making a more budget-friendly pesto with pumpkin seeds as a substitution for pine nuts, which make up the other ingredients.

Grilled Cheese with Pea Shoots and Red Pepper: When you need some fresh greens to balance out an indulgent grilled cheese, pea shoots are a great topping. Add a kick to the comfort food with red pepper flakes and garlic.

#### French Grilled Cheese:

Discover the secrets to the perfect grilled cheese with this recipe using only French cheeses like Camembert, Gouda and other semi-soft cow's cheese.

Pear And Gouda Grilled Cheese: Think fruit and cheese platters



found between the layers. Try adding avocado or kale for more nutritious greens.

## Types of foodies you'll find on campus

there is one thing that everybody has in common it has to be the love for food. While choices may differ when it comes to cuisine and the palate, it is still a binding factor. And if you are a foodie just the aroma is enough before the nom noms arrive. To some people, food must mean value for money and for yet others, the charm lies in the presentation of the dish, so they can photograph it. We list a few such foodies whom you are bound to come across on campus.

#### The photo foodie

This member of this clan believes in 'capturing before savouring' and this is a tradition for him/her. Nobody can stop these people from whipping out the camera and clicking; they are satisfied only when their phone pings to notify them that their picture has been liked. While all this happens, you know of their exploits once you get a notification for the same. And mind you, all this happens at same. And mind you, all this happen bolt speed. Food photography is a genre by itself and this well-established group of foodies cannot stop themselves from adding memories to their gastronomic trips.

#### The fussy foodie

Their list of 'I don't like' reads longer than most restaurant menus. These are normally referred to as the choosy lot. They referred to as the choosy lot. They have a list of things they want to indulge in and the rest they dismiss as items they don't intend having at all. Though they appreciate the food they like, they may not be open to having everything on offer. On seeing



an array of dishes will not have these foodies break into any kind of celebration. The downside

: with so many restrictions, they can never be spoilt for choice.

#### The diet conscious foodie

"Please keep oil content to minimum,..." this is something you get to hear every time this foodie places an order. Sure, it's good to be health-conscious, but they can go a little overboard. Even a drizzle of olive oil in something gets a strong reaction that one reserves for a dish drowning in fat.

Most of the orders are altered, so having authentic cuisine is close to impossible. You can never have butter chicken and greasy naan or even a rich, creamy jalebi with rabdi at a dhaba with this friend, for sure.

#### The vfm foodie

Budgeted food, but really tasty food is what you will get to indulge in with this friend. He or she knows how to spend sensibly. Value for money (VFM) food is their mantra and they may even treat friends on birth days, accordingly. Planning on saving your pocket money this month? Take recommendations from this friend and you're sure to have tasty food without burning a hole in your wallet.

#### The know-it-all foodie

This friend knows about all the new outlets and what should or should not be eaten. If you are in a mood to try out food from a new place, you know who to ping. This pal is sure to be updated about all the restaurants from small shops to big restaurants across the city. Phone apps are in place, they constantly keep abreast of food reviews and best part is, they share their knowledge too. This foodie also doesn't mind travelling to distant locations just to eat something that has been highly rated.

## Simple steps to make great scrambled eggs

Aggs are god's best gift to us. Not only making simple, quick recipes from eggs are no less than a savior on days when you are low, hungover, woke up late on lazy Sundays or simply love eating eggs on given day, they are equally healthy.

However, there are many who always strive to make that scrambled eggs with utmost precision and perfection, but somehow never get that. Here's a simple and easy recipe to help you make that ever succulent and tempting scrambled egg.

#### Ingredients

-4 eggs

-1 tsp of milk/water for each no of egg

-Salt to taste

-Black pepper as per taste

-Grated cheese

-A pinch of mixed herbs

-Olive oil/butter

-A frying pan

#### Method

-In a big bowl, crack open the eggs and add water or milk. While the water will make the scrambled eggs fluffy and light, adding milk will make it creamier and thicker.

-Once you have added the water or milk, add a bit of



## How to reuse Cooking oil?

Are you wary of using your cooking oil after frying a batch of nachos, because of the health implications? Here are some tips to reuse them.

#### Choose the oil

If your frying technique is off, your oil won't be reusable. Every oil has a specific smoking point, - the temperature where the oil starts breaking down. Use oils like canola, peanut or vegetable oils with a high smoking point that won't break down easily. Avoid reusing olive oil as it has a low smoking point and a dominant flavour, which makes it a bad choice for deep-frying in the first place.

#### Filter the oil

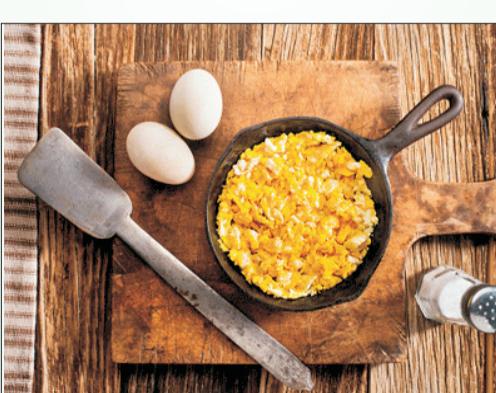
After the first (and each subsequent) fry, drain the oil and filter it. Any impurities and unwanted extras like loose crumbs or bits of batter are going to spoil the oil's integrity, making it burn the next time you heat it. Put a few layers of cheesecloth in a metal strainer to filter out the crumbs.

#### Refrigerate it

Let the oil cool down till it's at room temperature, and then refrigerate it in an air-tight container.

#### Use separate oils according to flavour

The oil is going to take on the flavour of the food you cooked in it, which makes fried fish oil ideal for shrimp, but not good for onion rings. Separate the oils to prevent bad flavour overlaps.



cheese, salt, black pepper and herbs and beat it lightly.

-Beat it lightly with a fork, but don't beat it thoroughly.

-In a pan add a little butter or a teaspoon of olive oil. Once it gets melted on the pan pour in the beaten eggs.

-Once the outside of the eggs is settled, start gently pulling the edges of the eggs to the center of the pan.

-Just gently keeping moving it on a slow flame. In a minute or two turn off the flame and remove the eggs in a plate and serve it with crispy buttery toasts.

## Recipe: Honey Garlic Chicken

A delicious cooked chicken in a honey-garlic sauce. Best served with hot, steamed rice.

#### Ingredients

Chicken Breasts - 2, boneless, skinless

Garlic - 1 tbsp finely minced

Garlic Powder - a pinch

Butter - 4 to 5 tsp



- Sprinkle salt, garlic powder and pepper.

- Toss well to combine.

- Heat butter in a pressure pan.

- Add the chicken and cook until browned and slightly crisp.

- Pour the chicken stock and stir.

- Combine the garlic, honey and soy

sauce.

- Add this to the pan and stir until the chicken is evenly coated.

- Cover with a lid and pressure cook for 10 minutes.

- Switch off the flame and allow the pressure to reduce.

- Serve with rice.