

## PM Modi, Please Save Delhi's 1000 Crore Government Land from Builder-Bureaucrat

► Despite Hundreds of Complaints and Repeated Media Coverage, No Action Yet on Illegal Indira Vikas Colony Encroachment

**The Sikh Times**  
Exclusive Story

New Delhi 6 August : In the heart of Delhi, just a stone's throw away from Raj Niwas (the Lieutenant Governor's residence) and Delhi Vidhan Sabha, a shocking land scam worth 1000 Crore continues unabated. The government's prime land has been brazenly encroached upon by a nexus of builder mafia, property dealers, corrupt bureaucrats, local MLAs, and MCD councillors—while authorities remain silent despite repeated complaints and extensive media exposure.

For years, senior journalist Gurcharan Singh Babbar, Editor-in-Chief of The Sikh Times and *Naumi Patrika*, has been filing

complaints and publishing exposés on this massive illegal encroachment in Indira Vikas Colony, near Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009. Despite this, no action has been taken to stop the ongoing illegal construction and commercialization of this land.

Over the years, hundreds of written complaints have been addressed to DDA Vice Chairman, Lt. Governor of Delhi, Chief Minister of Delhi, Chief Secretary of Delhi, Delhi Fire Chief, Municipal Commissioner of Delhi (MCD), Police Commissioner of Delhi, Director, Vigilance Department, Director, CBI, Director, Enforcement Directorate (ED), Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Home Minister of India, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Delhi

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## CM Rekha Gupta calls books 'Life's Truest Companions'

**The Sikh Times**  
New Delhi, 6 August 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday inaugurated the 29th Delhi Book Fair 2025 with great enthusiasm and pride at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan (Hall Nos. 12 and 12A). Organised by the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), this grand annual event is being held from 6th to 10th August, in collaboration with the Delhi Government.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister expressed her delight at the enduring interest of young people in books, even in the age of digitisation. "It is heartening to see that the digital revolution has not diminished our youth's love for books. This passion for reading and knowledge will be the foundation of India's journey towards becoming a Vishwaguru," she stated.

Also present was Delhi's Cabinet Minister for Art, Culture and Languages, Kapil Mishra, who described the fair as a confluence of knowledge, creativity, and expression. He



emphasised that under the leadership of CM Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government is committed to establishing the city as the cultural and literary capital of the nation. This year, the Book Fair has been expanded to include the 25th Stationery Fair and the 9th Office Automation and Corporate Gifts Fair, transforming the event into a comprehensive forum for literary, educational, commercial, and creative exchange. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described the Book Fair as a deeply

emotional experience. "Books are life's truest and most selfless companions—they ask for nothing and offer everything. This fair is a celebration of that timeless friendship," she said. She further reflected, "Books are not merely collections of printed pages; they are guiding lights that shape generations. The Delhi Book Fair is not just an event—it is a cultural legacy that binds memories across generations." Calling upon students, parents, and the wider public to embrace the culture of reading, the Chief Minister urged everyone to foster a lifelong relationship with books and thanked the organisers for sustaining this rich tradition. Sharing a personal anecdote, CM Rekha Gupta recalled receiving *The Alchemist* as a gift following the unexpected approval of a key project. A line from the book—"When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it"—became a guiding principle in her life. "Every book," she said, "is a journey—one that takes us closer to understanding ourselves." [Continued news page 2](#)

## "Course Correction, Not Concession": Omar Abdullah's Letter For Statehood

Srinagar.(Agency)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to the presidents of all national parties for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. This is an essential course correction, he said in his letter, requesting that a bill be introduced in this regard during the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

"I respectfully urge your kind indulgence in exhorting the Government of India to bring forward legislation in the current session of Parliament to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr Abdullah wrote in his letter.

In his letter, Mr Abdullah said that restoration of statehood is not a concession to Jammu and Kashmir but a course correction by the central government. The very idea of India is undermined if



statehood, which is a foundational and Constitutional right, is reduced to the discretionary favour of the central government, the letter read. "The restoration must not be viewed as a concession, but as an essential course correction—one that prevents us from sliding down a dangerous and slippery slope as a foundational and sacred constitutional right but reduced instead to a discretionary favour bestowed at the will of the Central Government," the letter read.

Mr Abdullah reminded the leaders that the precedent set by downgrading a state into an Union territory will have unsettling consequences for the country, and it is a red line that must never be crossed.

"Federalism is anchored in the recognition of a State's right to exist and function with dignity, autonomy, and constitutional protection. If the Union were to assume and exercise the unilateral authority to downgrade a State to a Union Territory—regardless of the justification, it would mark a fundamental departure from the constitutional scheme. The circumstances may vary, but the precedent it sets is profound and unsettling. This is a constitutional red line—one that must never be crossed," read the letter.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The dharma at Jantar Mantar today is meant to create the political optics of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress party as champions of reservation for the backward classes, attempting to put the BJP-led central government on the defensive. On the face of it, the strategy is to pressurise the central government and President Droupadi Murmu to grant assent to two Bills passed by the Telangana State Assembly in March.

These bills aim to increase reservations for Backward Classes to 42% in education and employment, and also in local bodies. A related ordinance to remove the 50% cap on reservations

under the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act is also awaiting approval. Revanth Reddy and a delegation led by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also plan to personally submit representations to the President. The dharma is part of a larger effort to deliver on a key poll promise made by the Congress party in Telangana, famous as the Kamareddy Declaration. The government has already conducted a caste survey, also called SEEPC, Socio Economic Education Employment Political Caste survey, and based on its findings, approved the 42% quota. The protest is a way to demonstrate the government's

commitment to social justice and the BC community. Revanth Reddy wants to showcase Telangana as a model to the rest of the country, pointing out that the state government got not just the

survey done, but got it approved by the cabinet, and quickly moved the Bills in the assembly, got the governor's assent, and sent it to Delhi.

The issue is time-sensitive. The Telangana High Court has directed the state to complete the process for local body elections by September 30. The Congress government is under pressure to get the quota policy approved and in place before these polls. The dharma serves to highlight the urgency of the situation. Politically, the dharma is a strategic move to blame the BJP-led central government for the delay in approving the Bills. Revanth Reddy has accused the Centre of deliberately stalling the process.

## PM inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan. Ministries get a swanky new address

**Kartavya**

**Bhavan-3, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is part of the government's ambitious project to bring central ministries and departments under one roof.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the Kartavya Bhavan in Delhi in a gala affair as part of the government's ambitious project to bring central ministries and departments under one roof for seamless functioning. Kartavya Bhavan-3, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is the first of the several upcoming Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings as part of the larger Central Vista project.

**ALLABOUT KARTAVYA BHAVAN**  
The state-of-the-art building, consisting of



swanky conference rooms, modern amenities and CCTVs, will house the offices of the ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSMEs, DoPT, Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The Kartavya Bhavan will also have several green features, such as double-glazed glass windows, rooftop solar panels, advanced heating, ventilation, and cooling systems, and rainwater harvesting.

There will also be power-efficient LED lighting to achieve 30% energy savings. The plan for a common central secretariat was mooted by the Modi government as currently key ministries function from ageing buildings like Shastri Bhawan, Krishi Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan, and Nirman Bhawan, constructed between the 1950s and 1970s. However, a few buildings, like the Vanijya Bhawan, which houses the Commerce Ministry, will be retained.

# What this poll result means for the mayor, and MCM governance

**Ghaziabad (Agency)**

Months after she was elected as the only non-BJP mayor in the state, Inderjit Kaur Yadav's faction lost out in the selection of her two deputies, making her task harder. Sources said Tuesday's election tilts the balance of power in MCM House but there is little threat to the mayor. Unlike deputy and senior deputy mayors, who are elected by ward councillors, the mayor is voted to the House's top post by residents. The MCM House, which has a clear BJP majority, cannot remove the mayor with a no-confidence vote. Still, Yadav is likely to face some possible resistance from the opposite faction, which could give rise to disagreements among councillors and affect functioning to an extent. According to the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, the mayor is the presiding officer of the House. Typically, the House is supposed to convene at least once a month and take up agendas presented by



ward councillors for approvals.

All 20 councillors, which includes the two deputies, have one vote each, and the

mayor makes for another vote. Sources said the councillors will have to work for their wards regardless of their political

affiliations. They will need to cooperate and coordinate with each other if they want the House's approval for their agendas. Now that the deputies have been elected, MCM's mayoral team is complete too. It means that key committees such as the finance and contracts committees (F&CC) and ward committees should be formed. These panels — which include the mayor and the two deputies, other than councillors and the corporation chief — make decisions regarding the civic authority's contracts and purchases.

Here as well, the panel members will have to collaborate if they want the town to develop. A source said it could go two ways. Yadav, as an Independent, could also position herself as a "unifying figure" and rise above party politics for the sake of the industrial town. Or disagreements within the MCM House could hamper local governance.

**Back from Nepal, sequestered councillors pick deputies in Manesar mayor's absence**

**Gurgaon (Agency)**

The stage seemed set for high drama, but the poll to elect two deputies to the mayor of Manesar municipal corporation ended on Tuesday with an unopposed victory for candidates pitched by the faction loyal to minister and BJP MLA Rao Narbir Singh.

Parveen Yadav, the councillor from Ward 12, was elected senior deputy mayor while Ward 2's Reema Chauhan became deputy mayor.

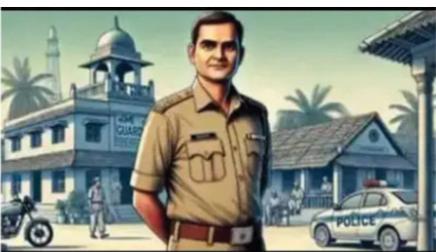
The absence of mayor Inderjeet Kaur Yadav — an Independent supported by the other faction led by Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh — was notable. She cited medical reasons for her absence, sending a letter to MCM commissioner Ayush Sinha just 15 minutes after the election proceedings began around 10.30am. Her absence — along with that of eight other councillors, including five Independents and three BJP members — underscored the factional divide within the corporation. The election saw the participation of only 12 councillors in the 20-member civic body. These 12 councillors — all Narbir loyalists — had been sent on a long tour of Nepal. Although officially termed a religious trip of Ayodhya, Varanasi and Nepal, the tour — which began on June 11 — was reportedly a strategic move to prevent any last-minute defections or cross-voting, a common concern in local politics where horse-trading can sway election outcomes. The tour was organised by Devender Singh Shikohpur, a Narbir loyalist. The councillors arrived in Manesar on Monday evening. Badshapur MLA and cabinet minister Rao Narbir, who arrived in a Tempo Traveller at the MCM office with the dozen BJP councillors around 10.30pm, said he was happy with the outcome. "BJP has won both the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor. This is the first election in which unanimous victory has been attained," he said. The minister, however, denied any factionalism within the party.

## ACB's sting op fails, but digital evidence leads to FIR against SI in Haryana

**Gurgaon (Agency)**

Six months after an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sting to arrest a sub-inspector (SI) failed, an FIR has been lodged against him — courtesy of digital evidence. On Saturday, ACB registered the case against SI Dharmendra after analysing digital evidence in the form of call recordings and WhatsApp chat. This came after another complaint — in May — lodged by Niyamat alias Badshah, a resident of Pinjwan in Nuh, about an alleged bribe demand. The case has been registered at ACB Gurgaon under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. An ACB official said, "Based on the evidence, the bribery charge was found to be true." On Dec 6, 2024, Niyamat reported a bribery-related matter on the ACB headquarters' toll-free number against Dharmendra. Dharmendra was in charge of a police chowki in Nuh. But the ACB failed to catch Dharmendra red-handed as he was alerted about the presence of the sleuths at his police

chowki. The ACB team, after gathering evidence and questioning him, came to Akeda post from Faridabad for a sting operation to catch the SI, "who was ready to take money at the



post", ACB officials said. However, as the team was preparing to arrest the SI, a UP Police team arrived at the post for some official work and Dharmendra got busy with them. The UP Police team took the in-charge with them for some work. Meanwhile, the SI got the information that the ACB team was stationed nearby and might apprehend someone following

which Dharmendra fled. In May, Niyamat filed another complaint along with the evidence alleging that despite his complaint to the SP, no action was taken against the corrupt police officer. In the meantime, Dharmendra was transferred from Akeda outpost to Firozpur Jhirka police station in Nuh district. During the investigation, the statements of the complainant Niyamat and the recordings related to the bribery conversation between the complainant and Dharmendra, then in charge of Akeda outpost, were studied leading to the filing of the FIR. In July, ACB had arrested a woman head constable posted as an investigating officer at the Women police station, Manesar, for accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 in cash. Prameela, was caught red-handed while taking the bribe from the complainant near her vehicle parked outside the police station premises.

In May, ACB had booked an industrial inspector who allegedly took a Rs 60,000 bribe from a youth looking for a job.

## Final Trial Run of NDM-6 Diesel-Hydraulic Loco Conducted Successfully on DHR

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 6th August: The final trial run of the newly procured NDM-6 Diesel-Hydraulic (DSL) Loco for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) was successfully conducted recently, from Darjeeling to Siliguri with three coaches. This follows the earlier successful uphill trial run from Siliguri to Darjeeling. The NDM-6 loco, specially designed for narrow gauge heritage routes like the DHR, is equipped with upgraded safety features and offers improved performance and reliability. The loco has been introduced to enhance operational efficiency on the UNESCO World Heritage section, ensuring safer and more sustainable travel across the picturesque hill terrain. This development marks a significant step in preserving the charm of the DHR while incorporating modern engineering enhancements. The trial runs are a part of routine safety and performance evaluation before inducting the loco into regular service. Further two additional

locos are under procurement and will soon be introduced into the DHR. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR)

remains committed to the preservation and modernization of heritage railway sys-



tems like DHR while continuing to provide safe and comfortable travel for passengers.

## Gangster claims hand in property dealer murder in Gurgaon, threatens Fazilpuria

**Gurgaon (Agency)**

In what is being believed to be an escalation of a months long extortion saga, gangster Sunil Sardhania has claimed responsibility for the murder of Rohit Shokeen — a close associate of singer Fazilpuria. Shokeen (39) was gunned down in a hail of bullets near Palm Hills society in Sector 77 on Monday night.

The brutal killing appears to be the latest chapter in an ongoing dispute involving Fazilpuria, who has been under pressure to pay Rs 5 crore to his former friend and producer Deepak Nandal. The murder follows an attack on the singer's car last month, for which, too, Sardhania had claimed responsibility. Shokeen, a Delhi-based property dealer, was struck by around 15 bullets. Three of them were recovered during autopsy — two from his pelvis and one from the abdomen. The victim suffered multiple entry and exit wounds, leaving his body severely damaged. In a social media post following the murder, Sardhania — believed to be a member of the Himanshu Bhati gang — explicitly took credit for the hit. "I, Sunil Sardhania, got Rohit Shokeen murdered on Southern Peripheral Road in Gurgaon. Fazilpuria



will have to pay our money or else many people will die in this fight," the post declared, mentioning both Deepak Nandal and one Rao Inderjeet Yadav. Cops said they were working to authenticate Sardhania's social media claims. The roots of this violence trace back to a bitter fallout between Fazilpuria and Nandal, who had previously produced the singer's songs. Police

sources said Shokeen had acted as a guarantor for Fazilpuria in his financial dealings with Nandal. Fazilpuria has, however, consistently denied any loan arrangements, saying that only music labels had invested in his career.

The attack was executed by two motorcyclists with covered faces — one wearing a helmet and the other concealing his identity with a muffler.

Shokeen, who had borrowed an automatic car from his elder brother for a trip to Noida, was accompanied by a Delhi-based friend who survived the attack. According to police accounts, the shooting occurred when Shokeen's friend crossed the road to buy cigarettes, leaving the victim alone outside the vehicle. The assailants, who had apparently been trailing the car, seized this moment to strike.

"They were definitely chasing the victim's car and attacked him as he stopped in Sector 77. We have vital clues and will soon arrest the suspects," a police officer said. Investigators briefly detained a food delivery worker who happened to be at the scene, but found no connection to the crime. A witness from a nearby liquor store said he heard "one gunshot initially, followed by multiple bullets being fired continuously". Shokeen was rushed to the nearby Civil Hospital, but was declared dead on arrival.

A case was filed under sections 103(1) (murder), 3(5) (act done by several persons), and provisions of the Arms Act at Kherki Daula police station, based on a complaint by the victim's elder brother, Vijay Shokeen. The body was released to the family following an autopsy.

**News box**

## Three arrested in Gurgaon for performing car stunts in viral reel

**Gurgaon (Agency)**

Police have arrested three individuals for blocking the road and making reels in Sector 108. Three vehicles used during the stunts including two Thars and one Fortuner, were also seized. The event came to light after a video began circulating on social media, showing several young men engaging in risky behavior with their vehicles. "The video featured three boys standing on top of a moving car, while others were seen standing with sunroofs open in approximately eight to 10 other cars near the 75 Feet Road, close to the Shobha City Sector 108 red light," said an officer. Some individuals were also seen hanging out of car windows and recording videos as they performed these hazardous stunts.

The police took cognisance of the viral reel and the threat such stunts can pose to the participants and the public. A case was registered against those involved on August 4, under relevant sections of the law. The arrested individuals are Himanshu (22) from Damdama Road, Khai Ka Sohna, Sagar (24), and Kaushal (24) both residents of Peeragarhi, Delhi.

## UP nod for second Greater Noida to Faridabad link across Yamuna

**Noida (Agency)**

UP govt has approved a second link road between Greater Noida and Faridabad via Manjhawali bridge over the Yamuna to cut travel time between the two cities to just 30 minutes.

With the 56-km Faridabad-Noida-Ghaziabad (FNG) Expressway still under construction — only 50% of the 23km expressway that will pass through Noida is currently ready — commuters currently take nearly two hours to travel through congested Delhi and Noida areas to reach Faridabad.

The new link road, a four-lane corridor off Yamuna Expressway and Eastern Peripheral Expressway, is expected to serve as a crucial link for passengers travelling from Haryana, once flight operations begin from the Noida airport. It is also expected to decongest the Kalindi Kunj flyover and Noida Expressway, a crucial link between Haryana, Delhi and Noida. UP chief secretary SP Goyal approved Rs 65.5 crore for the Faridabad-Greater Noida Integrated Circuit during a high-level meeting on Monday to review the progress of key infrastructure projects under the public works department (PWD).

Under the project, UP will construct a 1.7-km stretch from Atta Gujran up to the Haryana border, where the road will connect with an existing road, the Manjhawali bridge and Jasana in Faridabad. A 3km stretch will also be widened under the project. Though the project was proposed in 2014, it has faced several delays. Construction of the 630-metre Manjhawali bridge itself took over four years to start and missed six deadlines before finally opening in Dec 2022.

Despite being operational, the bridge remained underutilised due to the absence of a connecting road on the UP side, delayed by funding and land acquisition hurdles.

Haryana side of the approach road is ready.

Officials said around seven hectares of land need to be acquired for the project. So far, land registry agreements have been signed with half of the 110 affected farmers.

## Murder accused, facing charges in 20 cases, held after gunfight with cops in Noida



**Noida (Agency)**

A criminal facing robbery, murder and dacoity charges in 20 cases was arrested on Tuesday after a brief gunfight with cops in Greater Noida. Dharmendra alias DK (30), suspected to be a member of the Sundar Bhati gang, and his accomplice were flagged down by cops near the Dixon Company Cut during a vehicle checking drive as their car did not have a licence plate. Greater Noida additional DCP Sudhir Kumar said the two men reversed the car and sped away but were tailed by Ecotech-1 police and SWAT teams. During the chase, the two men got off the car and tried to escape on foot. They also fired at the police team. As cops retaliated, Dharmendra was shot at and subsequently arrested. His accomplice managed to slip away. Cops have impounded the car and seized an illegal pistol and some cartridges from the vehicle. According to cops, Dharmendra was a member of the Sundar Bhati gang. Bhati, who is facing charges in some 55 cases, is serving a life term along with 11 of his accomplices, for the murder of SP leader Harendra Nagar and his gunner Bhudev Sharma in 2015.

Less than 24 hours ago, Sector 20 police nabbed a suspect in a string of chain and mobile phone snatching cases following a gun battle. Harishchandra (44) of Delhi's Pratap Nagar is facing charges in 31 cases, many of them registered in different police stations of Delhi. He was nabbed by a team from Sector 20 police station that was conducting checks near DLF Mall late on Monday night. Asked to stop, the accused and his accomplice sped towards the forest near Sector 18 multi-level parking and fired at cops chasing them.

# CM Rekha Gupta Slams False "Phansi Ghar" Claim in Delhi Assembly

**The Sikh Times**  
**Sourabh Sharma**

New Delhi, 6 August: Speaking in the Delhi Legislative Assembly yesterday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta strongly refuted the previous government's claim that a section of the Assembly building was once a "Phansi Ghar" (execution chamber), calling it a gross distortion of history, an insult to national martyrs, and a betrayal of public trust. The Chief Minister alleged that former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in a calculated attempt to gain public sympathy, had arbitrarily declared a portion of the Assembly premises as a gallows site without any documentary evidence or historical authenticity. "Mr. Kejriwal has always engaged in calculated political theatrics every gesture, outfit, and statement carefully scripted to serve a political objective. Under the guise of honesty, patriotism, and sacrifice, people were misled. It was all a staged drama," she stated. Citing historical records, the Chief Minister clarified that the Assembly building was constructed in 1912 and served as the venue for sessions of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1913 to 1926. The area now being falsely portrayed as a "Phansi

Ghar" was originally a service staircase constructed for British officers primarily

place, was located at what is now Maulana Azad Medical College.

inscribe falsehoods on the walls of an institution where laws are framed in accordance with the Constitution is an unpardonable act." The Chief Minister urged Assembly Speaker Shri Vijender Gupta and the House to immediately remove the misleading signage referencing the "Phansi Ghar" from the Assembly premises. She emphasised that this rectification is especially critical ahead of the All India Speakers' Conference scheduled for 24-25 August, so that dignitaries from across the country are not presented with a falsified version of history and the reputation of the Delhi Assembly is upheld. She further revealed that nearly Rs 1 crore of taxpayers' money was spent on promoting this false narrative, and called for full recovery of the amount, the registration of an FIR against those responsible, and the institution of a detailed inquiry. The Chief Minister reiterated that the Kejriwal government misused public funds on emotionally manipulative and misleading publicity for political gain. "This is not just a political performance, it is a blatant betrayal of the people's trust. Our government is committed to uncovering the truth and preserving the historical dignity of this institution with honesty and integrity," she concluded.

used for tiffin service and logistical purposes. In contrast, the actual site of the old Delhi jail, where executions took

"Misrepresenting history not only misleads the public but also dishonours the sacrifices of our martyrs," she said. "To

## 'Lady Don', 7 others chargesheeted in Seelampur teen's murder case

New Delhi: Feared across the narrow lanes of Seelampur and known to wield more authority than many local gangsters, Zikra Khan, who is widely known in the area as 'Lady Don', is now at the centre of a chilling murder case that has exposed the dark underbelly of Delhi's street vendettas. Once whispered about in fear and rarely named aloud, Zikra now stands formally chargesheeted, alongside seven others, for the brutal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy, Kunal, a crime, the police say, that was plotted with ruthless precision as an act of revenge. For months, her name had instilled silence in street corners. But on July 26, in a courtroom far removed from the world she once controlled, her alleged empire of fear began to unravel as a judicial magistrate took cognisance of the police findings. The chargesheet, filed under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), paints Zikra not just as a conspirator, but also as the architect of a revenge plot that ended in

a teenager's death, all for a grudge rooted in a past assault on her cousin. Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Anmol Nohria took cognisance of the case and said, "From the perusal of material available on record, I take cognisance of the offence." Zikra, along with her cousin Sahil Ansari, believed to be the key conspirators, were produced before the court from judicial custody. The court has also issued summons to the remaining accused identified as Zahida, Shahid, alias Shuaib, Anas, Aneesh, Nafees and Vikas. The matter is now scheduled for further hearing on August 8. The murder dates back to April, when Kunal, a minor, was allegedly stabbed to death in the Seelampur locality. During custodial interrogation, Zikra confessed that her cousin Sahil was attacked in November last year by two individuals, Lala and Shambhu, who were reportedly close friends of Kunal. While Kunal was present during the attack, he was not named in the

FIR due to his minor status. Zikra and Sahil allegedly suspected Kumal of having orchestrated the assault and decided to retaliate. Following her arrest in April, Zikra was remanded to judicial custody by the Karkardooma Court. Sahil was also taken into police custody for two days before being remanded to judicial custody. Investigators believe the revenge plot was meticulously planned, with each accused playing a role in executing the fatal assault. The

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SUSHANT S/o JAI BHAGWAN R/o NO-5, 919, Kishan Ganj, Vasant Kunj, Dist. South West Delhi, Delhi-110007, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as USHA in my minor son YASHVEER YADAV aged 14 years in his School Records and his Birth Certificate Registration No. MCD010-0110-004557103. The actual name of my wife is USHA YADAV.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SANIVAR SULTANA R/o ABDUL SAMIL R/o F-486 khajro khas karwan nager road North East Delhi 110094 HAVE CHANGED MU NAME TO Sanover Sultan

### NAME CHANGE

I, Akhtar Hussain Siddiqui s/o Abdul Hussain R/o H-222, Gali No.9, B-Block, Babu Nagar, Mustafabad, Gokal Puri, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Akhtar Hussain permanently.

### NAME CHANGE

I, HITHERO KNOWN AS KANTIVEER S/o SHIBU KAAMTI, R/o A-3/15, GALI NO-5, HARSH VIHAR, Mandi, PO: Nangri Nagar, North East Delhi-Delhi-110093, have changed my name to Kanta Kaur, for more than a year. They lived in a rented flat. Sharma was married and had two daughters who lived with his wife in the village. His wife was not keeping well for some time, and Sharma would often talk to her, which infuriated Kaur, police said. On Friday night, Kaur saw Sharma talking to his wife, and the couple had a heated argument. In a fit of rage, Kaur stabbed Sharma in the chest with a kitchen knife. He was taken to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival. A friend of the deceased, Vijay alias Sethi, who was reportedly present in another room, is also under the scanner.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Hithero known as VIDYA RANI Alias VIDYA WATI W/O GIRI RAJ DO SOHAN LAL R/O 382, BLOCK-B, J.J. COLONY, RAGHUBIR NAGAR, TAGORE GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110027 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIDYA WATI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hithero known as PREMLATA Singh residing at VILL- PARVARA PASHCHIM, PO-MOHAN-LALGANJ, DIST-LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-227305, have changed my mother's name from PREMLATA SINGH to PREMLATA for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 06/03/1966 instead of her correct date of birth as 06/03/1966 vide Affidavit dated 06/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No-15814118A, Rank-LNK Name-YOGENDRA SINGH residing at VILL- PARVARA PASHCHIM, PO-MOHAN-LALGANJ, DIST-LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-227305, have changed my father's name from MATAPER SINGH to MATAPER SINGH for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/09/1965 instead of his correct date of birth as 15/06/1960 vide Affidavit dated 06/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SONALI VIRENDRA BATRA, W/O UDAYAN TANDAN, resident of C-102 Flex Apartments, Plot No. C-5822, Sector-62, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201301 have changed my name from SONALI VIRENDRA BATRA to SONALI BATRA for all future purpose."

### NAME CHANGE

I, No-15693649M Rank-HAV Name-RAJESH DUBEY Presently residing at VILL-BICH-PURI, PO-BICH-PURI, DIST-AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH-223105, have changed my name from MADHU DUBEY to MADHU BHARDWAJ for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 06/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

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## NEWS BOX

## Four killed as medical transport plane crashes, catches fire on Navajo Nation in Arizona

**CHINLE . (Agency)**

A medical transport plane crashed and caught fire Tuesday on the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona, killing four people, the tribe said in a statement. The crash involving the CSI Aviation company out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, occurred near the airport in Chinle, about 300 miles (483 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix. Those on board were medical personnel who were on their way to a hospital to pick up a patient.

The Beechcraft 300 crashed in the early afternoon while landing at the airport, Federal Aviation Administration officials said in an email.

"They were trying to land there and unfortunately something went wrong," district Police Commander Emmett Yazzie said. Yazzie said the crew was planning to pick up a patient from Chinle Hospital. He declined to offer other details about the crash, saying he was waiting on federal investigators.

The cause of the crash wasn't known, the tribe said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA are investigating. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said in a social media post that he was heartbroken to learn of the crash.

"These were people who dedicated their lives to saving others, and their loss is felt deeply across the Navajo Nation," he said. In January, a medical transport plane crashed in Philadelphia, killing eight people. The National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash, has said the voice recorder on that plane was not working.

## 8 more Palestinians, including a child, starve to death in Gaza as Israel kills another 83 in attacks across enclave

**Manila. (Agency)**

Israel on Tuesday killed at least 83 Palestinians, including 58 aid seekers, in different attacks across Gaza. Meanwhile, eight people, including a child, starved to death due to the blockade of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, raising the death toll from Israel-induced starvation to 188, including 94 children.

Israel has so far killed at least 61,020 Palestinians in its genocidal war on Gaza, with more than half being women and children. The United Nations on Tuesday said that as many as 28 children are being killed daily by the Israeli military in Gaza. "Death by bombardments. Death by malnutrition and starvation. Death by lack of aid and vital services... In Gaza, an average of 28 children a day—the size of a classroom—have been killed," the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said in a post on X on Tuesday. Stressing that that children in Gaza are in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine and protection, the agency added, "More than anything, they need a ceasefire, NOW."

According to the UN human rights office, at least 1,373 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military while waiting for aid near the distribution sites of US-backed and Israel-operated Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). A former GHF guard has revealed to the media that the Israeli military used "automatic machinegun fire, artillery rounds, mortar rounds, and at times, tank fire from the Merkava tank against unarmed, starving civilians, women, children, the disabled" seeking aid. "Never in my military career, 25 years of service in multiple combat locations around the world, have I seen anyone use a 'warning shot' from a belt-fed machinegun," he was quoted as saying by Al Jazeera.

## Stanford University Lays Off 363 Employees Due To Funding Cuts By Trump

**Washington . (Agency)**

Stanford University said on Tuesday it has laid off over 360 employees, citing budget constraints that it attributed to the federal funding policies of US President Donald Trump. The Trump administration has threatened to cut federal funds for universities over pro-Palestinian protests against US ally Israel's war in Gaza, climate initiatives, transgender policies and diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

"Stanford is in the process of making budget reductions," a university spokesperson said in an emailed statement in response to media reports on the layoffs. "Last week, many schools and units made staff workforce reductions. In total, 363 layoffs occurred." The Californian university said in June it had made a \$140 million reduction in the general funds budget for the upcoming year due to "a challenging fiscal environment shaped in large part by federal policy changes affecting higher education." Last week, the Trump administration froze more than \$330 million in funding for the University of California, Los Angeles, after alleging the university failed to prevent a hostile environment for Jewish and Israeli students since campus protests erupted after the start of Israel's war in Gaza. The Los Angeles Times reported on Tuesday that UCLA leaders were preparing to negotiate with the Trump administration over the freeze. The government has recently settled its probes with Columbia University, which agreed to pay over \$220 million, and Brown University, which said it will pay \$50 million. Both institutions accepted certain demands made by the government. Talks to settle with Harvard University remain ongoing. Rights advocates have raised concerns about academic freedom and free speech over the government's actions. The Trump administration alleges universities allowed antisemitism during pro-Palestinian campus protests.

# Plastic treaty at crossroads: UN bets on consensus, not voting

## Despite divisions on key issues, no vote preparations are underway, underscoring member states' commitment to a consensus-based treaty.

**GENEVA. (Agency)**

As the final round of negotiations for a global treaty to end plastic pollution got underway in Geneva on Tuesday, United Nations officials confirmed that the process remains rooted in consensus, not voting. Despite growing divisions on key issues, no procedural preparations for a vote are being made, reinforcing a shared commitment among member states to adopt a landmark treaty through cooperative agreement. Speaking at a packed opening press conference following the inaugural plenary session, Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN

Environment Programme (UNEP), and Ambassador Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), were unequivocal. "We are not preparing for a vote, our spirit is to reach agreement cooperatively," the Chair said, reiterating that consensus would lend the treaty greater strength and legitimacy. Andersen reinforced the point, "Ultimately, this is a member state-led process. The draft rules of procedure are being applied provisionally. The Chair has said he hopes for consensus." The long-standing principle of "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" remains the foundation of these negotiations. The clarification came in response to a pointed question from journalists, asking whether a vote might be needed at the end of the talks if no full consensus is reached by the August 14 deadline. The answer was a resounding no, at least for now. The Geneva round, dubbed INC-5.2, marks the conclusion of two years of intense negotiations aimed at crafting a legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution throughout its lifecycle. With

3,700 registered participants, including 1,800 member state representatives and over 600 observer organisations, this is the largest INC meeting yet. "This treaty, done right, could shape history through



collective action," said Ambassador Valdivieso. Officials said significant progress had been achieved since the last round in Busan. Between sessions, countries met informally in Nairobi and elsewhere to bridge differences. "Groups with opposing views have started collaborating," the INC Chair noted. "We have adopted a schedule. Contact groups will now work with that momentum." Still,

## South Korean prosecutors question ex-first lady Kim Keon accused of graft

**SEOUL. (Agency)**

South Korean prosecutors questioned former first lady Kim Keon Hee on Wednesday over a litany of allegations, including stock manipulation and bribery. The questioning comes as her husband, former president Yoon Suk Yeol, remains in detention over his declaration of martial law in December, which briefly suspended civilian rule before being overturned by parliament.

Prosecutors are expected to seek an arrest warrant for Kim following Wednesday's interrogation, which they said began shortly after 10:00 am (0100 GMT). If granted, the warrant would mark the first time in South Korean history that a former president and first lady were both arrested.

Kim is accused of colluding with traders to inflate the share price of a company between 2009 and 2012. She also allegedly accepted luxury gifts, including a \$2,200 designer handbag, in violation of anti-graft laws. "I

sincerely apologise for causing trouble despite being a person of no importance. I will cooperate fully with the investigation," Kim said before entering the special prosecutor's office in Seoul. Kim's questioning drew



significant media attention, with local journalists following the vehicle she was in as it made its way to the prosecutors' office on Wednesday. Supporters of Kim and Yoon gathered outside the office, waving national flags and holding signs that read "Investigators must be fair".

Controversy has long surrounded the 52-year-old with lingering questions about her alleged role in stock manipulation. A video filmed in 2022 showing her accepting a Dior handbag from a self-proclaimed fan reignited

public criticism. She is also accused of interfering in the nomination process for MPs in Yoon's party, in violation of election law. Yoon, a president, vetoed three special investigation bills passed by the opposition-controlled parliament that sought to probe the allegations against Kim, with the last veto issued in late November. A week later, Yoon declared martial law.

He had claimed the bills were "political propaganda". Yoon, a former top prosecutor, was impeached and removed from office in April over his martial law declaration, prompting the

## Doctor Faces Racism In Ireland, Says Children Mocked Him In "Broken Indian Accent"

### Dr Taimoor Salman claimed that a group of children shouted abusive remarks towards him in a "broken Indian accent"

**World. (Agency)**

An Irish-born doctor of Pakistani origin was racially abused by a group of children, including one as young as 10 years old, outside a shopping complex last week. According to The Irish Independent, Dr Taimoor Salman, a medical registrar at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda, claimed that a group of children shouted abusive remarks towards him in a "broken Indian accent". He also alleged that the children impersonated Apu, an Indian immigrant proprietor in the popular American series "The

Simpsons". According to the outlet, the incident occurred when Dr Salman was leaving Blackcastle Shopping Centre after 9 pm last Thursday. As he stepped into his car, a young boy



cycled in front of him and allegedly shouted "Mr Curry Man". "I said he was being very rude and as I reversed an older boy, a young teen, came up and asked me if I had said something so I told him that his friend had been rude," Dr Salman said. "The older boy told me to shut up and then started doing impersonations of Apu, the Indian

shopkeeper in The Simpsons. I just left. I didn't say anything more as they were children," he continued.

Recalling his experience, Dr Salman said, "I was stunned and upset. I have seen racial abuse and throw away remarks first hand to me and my colleagues at the hospital but I would never expect this from children who are generally very accepting of other nationalities. There seems to be a horrible pack mentality and this incident was insidious." According to The Irish Independent, Dr Salman was born in Ireland, and his parents were born in Pakistan. His father trained and practised as a surgeon and worked in Our Lady's Hospital in Navan before moving the family to work in the UK and Saudi Arabia. I lived in Navan and went to primary school here and have nothing but good memories of the town as a child. I never experienced any racism here.

The transhipment rule does not name countries, but is expected to impact China significantly given its position as a manufacturing powerhouse. Washington likely wants to develop supply chains that are less reliant on China, analysts say, as tensions simmer between the world's two biggest economies and the US sounds the alarm on Beijing's excess industrial capacity. But "it's a little more about the short-term effect of strengthening the tariff regime than it is about a decoupling strategy," said Josh Lipsky, chair of



international economics at the Atlantic Council. "The point is to make countries worried about it and then have them err on the side of not doing it, because they know that Trump could then jack up the tariff rates higher again," he added, referring to tariff evasion.

The possibility of a sharply higher duty is a "perpetual stick in the negotiations" with countries, said Richard Stern, a tax and budget expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation. He told AFP that expanding penalties across the globe takes the focus away from Beijing alone. Alternative supplies

Experts have noted that Vietnam was the biggest winner from supply chain diversions from China since the first Trump tariffs around 2018, when Washington and Beijing engaged in a trade war. And Brookings Institution senior fellow Robin Brooks pointed to signs this year of significant transshipments of Chinese goods. He noted in a June report that Chinese exports to certain Southeast Asian countries started surging "anomalously" in early 2025 as Trump threatened widespread levies.

## Netanyahu hints at expanded war in Gaza but former Israeli military and spy chiefs object

**JERUSALEM. (Agency)**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at wider military action in devastated Gaza on Tuesday, even as former Israeli army and intelligence chiefs called for an end to the nearly 22-month war. The new pressure on Netanyahu came as Gaza's Health Ministry said the Palestinian death toll had surpassed 61,000. Health officials reported new deaths of hungry Palestinians seeking food at distribution points. As desperation mounts, the Israeli defense body coordinating aid announced a deal with local merchants to improve aid deliveries. Among those speaking out were former leaders of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service, Mossad spy agency and the military—and also ex-Prime Minister Ehud Barak. In a video posted to social media this week, they said far-right members of the government are holding Israel "hostage" in prolonging the conflict. Netanyahu's objectives in Gaza are "a fantasy," Yoram Cohen, former head of Shin Bet, said in the video. "If anyone

imagines that we can reach every terrorist and every pit and every weapon, and in parallel bring our hostages home—I think it is impossible," he said.

### Possible tougher military action

Netanyahu convened his Security Cabinet to direct the military on the war's next stage, hinting that even tougher action was possible. However, the meeting wrapped up hours later without any announcements about Israel's plans. U.S. President Donald Trump, asked by a reporter whether he supported the reoccupation of Gaza, said he wasn't aware of the "suggestion" but that "it's going to be pretty much up to Israel."

Netanyahu said his objectives include defeating Hamas, releasing all 50 remaining hostages. Israeli media reported disagreements between Netanyahu and the army chief, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, on how to proceed. The reports, citing anonymous officials in Netanyahu's office, said the prime minister was pushing the army, which controls about three-quarters of Gaza, to conquer the entire territory—a

step that could endanger hostages, deepen the humanitarian crisis and further isolate Israel internationally. Zamir reportedly opposes this step and could step down or be pushed out if it is approved. Israeli officials



shootings around aid distribution that it only fired warning shots at people who approached its forces. The dead include at least 26 people killed in the Morag Corridor, an Israeli military zone where looters and desperate crowds unloaded U.N. aid convoys. Six people were killed in Teina, near a road leading to a site run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American contractor. Morgue records at the nearby Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies, detailed the deaths and locations. The hospital is part of the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians but says roughly half the dead from the war have been women and children. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The United Nations and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of casualty data.

Samir Arafat, a father of seven, described the chaos in the Morag Corridor early Tuesday, saying crowds rushed toward a convoy of U.N.

Three arrested for malpractice during UPSC examination in Kochi



**KOCHI. (Agency)**

Three persons, including a woman, were arrested in connection with attempting malpractice during the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination, using a small device resembling a walkie-talkie, in Kochi. The arrested are Ankit Kumar, 26, and Angad Kumar, 25, both natives of Lodipur in Bihar, and Pratibha Jaisri, 27, of Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The misconduct was carried out during the examination for the Central Armed Police Forces (Assistant Commandants) held at SRV Higher Secondary School in Ernakulam, said an officer with Ernakulam central police station.

Ankit, who was the examination candidate, arrived early at the centre. Following preliminary checks, candidates were allowed entry into the premises. "There were no signs of suspicion or alarm when the candidate passed through metal detectors at the entrance. However, the invigilator grew suspicious of Ankit's behaviour during the exam and conducted a secondary check, leading to the discovery of a small communication device in his possession," the officer added.

Following this, his accomplices were also apprehended, said a source with Kochi city police. "While Ankit was writing the exam, his friend Pratibha assisted him by relaying answers from a nearby hotel using the electronic device. Their associate Angad was also booked and later arrested for aiding the operation," he said. The accused have been charged for breach of confidentiality and privacy under the Information Technology Act and cheating-related charges of the (BNS).

**Not Goa, Sunburn Festival to have its 2025 edition in Mumbai; here's why**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Sunburn Festival, hailed as Asia's largest electronic dance music (EDM) event, will move its flagship edition from Goa to Mumbai this year. While the venue is yet to be announced, the three-day festival is scheduled to take place on December 19, 20 and 21 in Mumbai.

This marks the first time that the festival will be held outside of Goa since its launch in 2007.

As per the official press note, the shift from Goa to Mumbai follows a fan survey conducted by the organisers, which "found that one in two respondents were keen to explore the flagship festival outside of Goa, with a clear preference for Mumbai."

Sunburn's 2025 edition will be held under the theme "Ascend: Beyond the Real", which the organisers describe as an immersive format with upgraded production, stage design and infrastructure. "This next step reflects Sunburn's evolution from a destination-dependent festival to something more profound: a state of mind that can thrive wherever its community gathers," read the press note.

Nearly two decades ago, we set out with a simple yet powerful vision — to create a world-class electronic dance music experience in India," said Karan Singh, CEO of Sunburn. "What followed was the beginning of a movement, with Sunburn becoming one of the first to put India on the global entertainment map. Goa has been an integral part of that story, but building a legacy also means taking it forward. Bringing Sunburn to Mumbai feels like the right step, creating new energy and connections in a city that never stands still."

# 'No group should claim to operate under Akal Takht patronage' Acting Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj after Sikh clergy meet

Certain factions were attempting to gain political advantage by claiming patronage from the Akal Takht, acting Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj said on Wednesday.

**Amritsar. (Agency)**

The acting Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, said on Wednesday that groups that did not accept its December 2, 2024, edict should not "mislead" the community by "falsely claiming" its patronage. "If any group does not wish to accept the order issued on December 2, 2024, then they are free to pursue their own political path. However, no group should mislead the Sangat by falsely claiming the patronage of Sri Akal Takht Sahib. The spirit of the directive issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib cannot be fulfilled if separate factions continue to exist," he said.

On December 2, 2024, the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, had set up a committee for the reorganisation of the Shiromani Akali Dal. The committee is set to elect a new party president on August 11. Gargaj's statement came after a Sikh clergy meeting held at the Secretariat of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, where complaints received through letters from various Singh Sabhas, Sikh political groups, and religious organisations were discussed. "These complaints raised concerns that certain factions were attempting to gain political advantage by claiming patronage from Sri Akal Takht Sahib," Gargaj said, without taking any names. "It was noted that on



December 2, 2024, an order had been issued by the Panj Singh Sahibaan from the platform of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, instructing all Akali Dal factions to set aside their differences and unite. However, no meaningful outcome has been achieved in this regard so far," Gargaj pointed out. "The spirit of the directive cannot be fulfilled if separate factions continue to exist," he added. Saying that Sikhs around the world are devoted to the Akal Takht, and that it "stands to protect the rights and interests of every Sikh", Gargaj said, "After detailed deliberations, it is ordered that no group or committee should claim to operate under the patronage of Sri Akal Takht Sahib."

**Asheesh Sharma appointed BEST General Manager after sudden reversal of earlier decision**



## Trai releases report on mobile network quality in Amritsar; Reliance Jio, Airtel top call setup success rate category

**Airtel and Vodafone Idea recorded a drop call rate of zero in Trai's Independent Drive Test in Amritsar.**

**Amritsar. (Agency)**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has published the results of its Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted in Amritsar to assess the performance of mobile network services offered by various telecom service providers.

"In terms of voice service performance, Reliance Jio recorded the highest call setup success rate (CSSR) at 99.83 per cent, followed by Airtel at 99.31 per cent. Vodafone Idea and BSNL both registered a CSSR of 98.10 per cent," the results revealed.

The tests were carried out between June 17 and June 20 this year under the supervision of Trai's regional office in Delhi.

The drop call rate (DCR) was found to be zero for Airtel and Vodafone Idea, while Reliance Jio recorded a DCR of 0.17 per cent. BSNL reported the highest DCR among the four operators at 3.51 per cent. The assessment covered 343.1 km of city routes, 12 hotspot

locations, a 2-km pedestrian walk test, and inter-operator calling at one location. The evaluation was conducted across multiple technologies—2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G—capturing service quality across diverse real-world usage conditions and handset capabilities.

The purpose of the drive test was to assess mobile network performance in varied environments, including urban neighbourhoods, public transport nodes, institutional zones, and high-speed corridors.

Other voice-related parameters such as call setup time, silence rate during calls, speech quality (Mean Opinion Score), and coverage were also assessed during the test.

For data services, the drive test measured key indicators such as download and upload throughput, latency, jitter, packet drop rate, and video streaming delay. The tests were conducted in real-time conditions using Trai-recommended equipment and standardised protocols to ensure consistency and accuracy.

The drive test route included densely populated areas such as Loharka Kalan, Raja Sansi, Attari, Chheharta, Sangna, Mandiala, Chatiwind, Bhagupura, Nawapind, Verka, Amritsar Cantonment, and Kot Khalsa. In addition to residential and commercial zones, Trai assessed network conditions at several prominent public institutions and landmarks, including the Golden Temple, Golden Temple Market, Durgiana Temple, Atari-Wagah Border, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Gobindgarh Fort, Amritsar College of Engineering and Technology, Guru Nanak Dev University, IIM Amritsar, DAV International School, Baba Deep Singh Gurudwara, and ISBT Amritsar.

A walk test was conducted on June 20 in the Golden Temple market area to evaluate mobile network behaviour in crowded pedestrian zones.

Trai has stated that the detailed results have been shared with the respective telecom service providers.

## 'Didn't initiate or recommend the relocation': Vantara offers to set up rescue centre for elephant Madhuri in Kolhapur

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Vantara said Wednesday morning it will set up a rescue facility for 36-year-old elephant Madhuri, which was relocated to its centre in Gujarat's Jamnagar last week following a court order, in the Nandani area of Maharashtra's Kolhapur for her rehabilitation.

Vantara's statement came amid the ongoing silent marches held by the Jain community in Kolhapur protesting the relocation of the elephant, which was with the Swasthishri Jinsen Bhattacharya Mahaswami Sansthan Mutt or Nandani Matha for over three decades, to Jamnagar.

In a statement, the animal rescue, conservation and rehabilitation centre established by Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation said the decision to relocate Madhuri was taken under judicial authority, and its role was to provide care, veterinary support, and housing as an independent rescue and rehabilitation centre.

"At no stage did Vantara initiate or recommend the relocation, nor was there any intent to interfere with religious practice or sentiment," it said in the statement.

According to the statement, Vantara would work in "close coordination with the Jain Matha and the state government to establish a satellite rehabilitation centre" for Madhuri, who is also known as Mahadevi. "The proposed facility will be developed in accordance with the established

consultation with the Jain Matha and the Maharashtra Government, and after it receives the necessary grants and permissions, its team will begin implementation in close coordination with relevant authorities.

Special facilities for Madhuri elephant

It added that the proposed centre will include a specialised hydrotherapy pond for joint and muscular relief, a second larger water body for swimming and natural movement, laser therapy and treatment room for physical rehabilitation, a covered night shelter for rest and protection, and a lush open space habitat for unrestricted movement without chains for the animal.

It would also include a sand pit for environmental enrichment and natural behaviours, a fully equipped on-site veterinary clinic for round-the-clock medical care, a rubberised flooring platform for safe and comfortable resting, carefully formed mounds of soft sand to support sloped resting positions, aiding recovery from foot rot, relieving pressure from arthritis, and reducing stress on joints. Madhuri was relocated to Vantara's Radhe Krishna Temple Elephant Welfare Trust last week following a court ruling.



animal welfare guidelines, after consultation with experts from the high-powered Committee and consensus of the Matha, while aligned to international best practices in elephant care," the statement read.

Vantara also said the land for setting up the proposed facility will be identified in

**Mumbai. (Agency)**  
IAS officer Asheesh Sharma was appointed the new General Manager (GM) of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking on Tuesday, just hours after the government had named Dr Ashwini Joshi for the role.

Initially, Dr Joshi, a 2006-batch IAS officer from the Maharashtra cadre, was announced to take over the position on an additional charge following the retirement of former GM S V R Srinivas. However, that decision was abruptly reversed.

Sharma, who is currently the Commissioner of Goods and Services Taxes (GST), Maharashtra, will take the additional charge as the GM of BEST until a regular appointment is finalised by the state government, supporting Palestinian liberation.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking has been functioning without a full-time general manager since the beginning of the year. The previous full-time GM, Anil Diggikar, was transferred in December last year following the Kurla bus accident. Since then, the position has seen a series of temporary appointments, with senior IAS officers holding additional charge.

An initial order to appoint Harshdeep Kamble as GM was later withdrawn without explanation. Before this, Srinivas had taken over as the GM in an additional capacity in February 2025.

BEST, which operates Mumbai's public bus services, continues to face mounting challenges, including financial strain, an ageing fleet in need of modernisation, and concerns over service reliability and efficiency.

# Brother duo from Bihar caught in Surat for getting Aadhaar forged to get accommodation, land job

**Special Operations Group officials had on Monday evening reached a flat on the third floor of Shiv Heritage Apartment in Surat's Sagrampura area, acting on a tip-off about the accused**

**Surat. (Agency)**  
Surat police have nabbed a man and his younger brother — both natives of Bihar — for allegedly procuring Aadhaar cards with a fake name to get a house and land a job at a diamond factory in Surat.

While the elder brother was produced before a court on Tuesday and sent to a two-day police remand, the younger one, a juvenile, was sent to a children's remand home in Katargam. Special Operations Group officials had on Monday evening reached a flat on the third floor of Shiv Heritage

Apartment in Surat's Sagrampura area, acting on a tip-off about the accused. They found two persons, who identified themselves as Pradeep Maurya and Pankaj Maurya and claimed that they hailed from Bihar's Katihar district. The duo said they were working at a diamond factory in Katargam. However, they soon confessed to having forged Aadhaar cards. The elder brother was identified as Mohammed Afzad Wajidali (25). The younger brother is 17-year-old, officers said. The accused said they had been facing issues while they were

searching for an accommodation. They said that when they found a house in Sagrampura, they were allegedly told that the owner only rents it out to people from the Hindu community. The accused then got Aadhaar cards made with fake Hindu names and started to live in the flat on rent. They also allegedly used the same Aadhaar card to land a job at the factory, officers said. Police arrested Wajidali under BNS sections 319 (cheating by personation), 336(2) (forgery), 336(3) (forgery with the intent to cheat), 338 (forgery of valuable security

wills and related documents), 340 (using forged documents as genuine). Talking to Athwalines police inspector H K Solanki said, "We have arrested the elder brother and the younger one was sent to a children's remand home. They hail from Bihar and were staying in Surat and working at a diamond unit for the past one year. They had got documents forged to get a place to stay and a job in the city. We are trying to dig out more information. We are also trying to ascertain if they had any other motive."

## Eco sensitive zones, crop insurance: Italia meets Gujarat CM, flags five major concerns

**Ahmedabad.** Newly-elected Visavadar MLA and Aam Aadmi Party leader Gopal Italia on Tuesday met Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, for the first time since being sworn in, according to a statement issued by the party. During the meeting, Italia reportedly raised five questions concerning his constituency and the broader population across the state, the party said in a statement. "I presented five policy issues of the Visavadar-Bhesan constituency before the Chief Minister. The biggest issue of our area is the eco-sensitive zones, which affects a total of three districts, 15 talukas and 196 villages... and is very disturbing to the farmers who are opposing it. I presented a reference from the Assam government that has abolished eco-zones. If this can be done in Assam, it can be done in Gujarat too," AAP quoted Italia as saying. Italia reportedly also discussed the Chief Minister

Kisan Sahay Yojana for farmers during the meeting. "Under this scheme, farmers who have suffered crop damage will be given compensation but this scheme has not been implemented yet. If people, mobiles, houses, cattle are insured, then why not farmers' crops? According to this scheme, a compensation of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, per farmer, has been planned, but this scheme has not been implemented," said the statement. The third issue, AAP said Italia raised was that the Town Planning scheme was being "wrongly" implemented in the new municipal corporations. "...nowhere in the Town Planning law is it written that 40% land should be deducted or government reserved plots should be kept... Since the TP law is not being implemented properly, rainwater gets filled in most of the cities, sewers overflow, and traffic and parking problems arise."

## Cold War camaraderie: Why US refuses to take Pak to task

It was in 1991 that India-US relations began to acquire a strategic shape. With the Cold War concluded and the Soviet Union reduced to a diminished Russia, the US found itself in an unfamiliar role—as a lone superpower with global responsibilities. It recognised the dangers of complacency in victory and quickly began pivoting from its Atlantic preoccupations to the Asia Pacific, anticipating a new set of challengers. The growing rise of China, while facilitated in earlier decades by the US itself, had begun to look less like an opportunity and more like a coming storm. India, geographically positioned next to China, democratically stable and increasingly open to global markets, became a natural component of this new architecture—a potential US partner. Yet, for much of its early strategic phase, the India-US relationship remained cautiously transactional. Military-to-military ties grew at a measured pace, beginning with the Malabar exercises in 1992. Somehow, the trust deficit remained a Cold War legacy. The 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests were a shock to Washington and created an immediate rift. But this proved temporary. President George W Bush's outreach, culminating in the landmark civil nuclear deal, and external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee's 2005 speech at RAND Corporation marked a turning point. India, at that point, became a more serious US partner. The devil in the relationship remained Pakistan. The US equivocation on Pakistan's role in cross-border terrorism has been one of the most vexing elements of this evolving relationship. Despite overwhelming evidence of Pakistan's nurturing of terror networks, Washington has not held Islamabad to account. It has always had the leverage—economic, diplomatic and military—but rarely used it. The oft-cited reason is strategic: an overstated fear of pushing Pakistan further into China's embrace. In reality, it is also an emotional and historical inertia rooted in the Cold War, SEATO, CENTO and years of military camaraderie. This is not speculative. I speak from personal experience, having undergone a military course in the US with officers from the Pakistan Army in attendance, too. The bond between the American and Pakistani militaries is real, deep and difficult to dislodge. They understand each other and work together with comfort. One could argue that part of this stems from shared Cold War experiences or joint operations like the one in Somalia in 1994, when Pakistani troops defended the US embassy in Mogadishu. What is rarely acknowledged, however, is that the eventual securing of the embassy was only possible because a hurriedly assembled Indian half-squadron of tanks relieved the Pakistani armour at the Mogadishu airfield. That moment of quiet Indian support remains under-acknowledged.

The structural flaw in India-US relations has always been that it remains seen through a binary lens—India and Pakistan—as if American favour must always be distributed evenly. For India-US relations to be truly transformational, they must escape this dyad. India and the US have too much at stake in technology, commerce, maritime security, climate and global governance to be held hostage to the remnants of a 20th-century rivalry. This brings us to the present dynamics under Donald Trump. India had initially expected Trump to be both pragmatic and sympathetic to its concerns. His public embrace of the Indo-Pacific construct, his emphasis on strong borders and sovereignty, and his apparent frustration with Pakistan's duplicity seemed like the perfect alignment. Indeed, during his first term, Trump's approach was more empathetic. Despite the shadow of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, the US refrained from sanctioning India over the S400 missile deal with Russia.

COLONIALISM did not just extract wealth—it amputated dignity. It taught subjugated nations to doubt themselves, to defer instinct and to seek validation from distant capitals. For India, the wound was not just of stolen grain or looted treasure. It was the deeper theft of agency: the idea that governance, order and moral judgment were foreign imports. And yet, when Independence arrived, India did not echo its oppressors. It did not adopt vengeance as doctrine or exclusion as policy. In the ashes of the Partition, amid staggering poverty and a fractured subcontinent, India made a radical choice, to trust its people completely. Not just men, not just the educated, not just the wealthy. Everyone. Universal adult franchise was not a gradual concession. It was foundational. Before America passed the Voting Rights Act, before many European powers fully enfranchised their citizens, India gave each of its citizens a voice. At birth, our democracy was not a borrowed idea, it was a civilisational affirmation. But time has a way of testing moral memory. Today, the very powers that once tutored us on liberty now struggle to uphold their own democratic compacts. The markets they once liberalised are now shielded behind digital walls and tariff barricades. The freedoms they once evangelised are selectively withheld, offered to allies, denied to others. Compassion has become conditional. Trade has become a tool of coercion. If democracies now attack free markets, stifle voices, trump tariffs, call names, befriend terror regimes, for sudden bursts of greatness, and evade their own moral compacts, then what price these signatures they proudly affix to charters and conventions? In multilateral forums, we see declarations diluted by design. Human rights reduced to instruments of leverage. Climate promises repeated, then quietly set aside. Refugees are dehumanised. Minorities are policed in plain sight. Wars are judged not by their human cost but by who wields the weapons. India, meanwhile, has remained a paradox to many. Growing and democratic. Chaotic, yet durable. Large, yet rarely imperial. We have absorbed the scorn of those who misunderstood our method. We have tolerated the indifference of those who dismissed our voice. But we did not lose faith in the silent contract we forged, with our people, and with the world.

We are not perfect. We have our faults. But we are not pretending. And that distinction matters. We did not enter the global order to inherit its hypocrisies. We do not seek a seat at the table to mirror its cynicism. And we certainly do not need lectures from those who treat memory as a convenience and justice as a bargaining

## When the elephant trumpets

India will engage with the world, but not at the cost of those who have no voice, no ballot, no recourse



chip. Our restraint has often been mistaken for reticence. Our civility, for servility. But India's civilisational compass does not swing with the tides of global approval. It is rooted in something older than balance sheets and summit declarations. It also has the DNA of self-correct. And now, as the world begins to fracture under the weight of its own contradictions, the temptation will be to retreat, to once again let others narrate the world, while we nod in polite deference. But that age has passed.

### The elephant remembers

It remembers 1947, when we chose democracy over dominion. It remembers 1971, when we stood alone against genocide. It remembers 1991, when we restructured not just our economy, but our self-belief. It remembers 1998, when the haves decided that nukes were global currency, and we broke in, and declared no-first use (NFU). And the world has just witnessed Op Sindoora in 2025. Restraint and Resolve are the key in what we do. We have heard the growls of superpowers, the barks of belligerence, the shrill cries of opportunism. But the world has not yet heard the elephant trumpet, not as a cry of war, but as a call of memory, morality and direction.

### That time is now

Not because we seek to impose, but because we refuse to

imitate. Not to dominate the conversation, but to anchor it in something more enduring than expediency.

The new hypocrisy is strategic: speak of values, act for interest. Raise your voice for Ukraine, but look away from Gaza. Sanction one tyranny, salute another. Trade in freedoms, but partner with regimes that continue rule of uniform and imprison their own leaders who ask for change. India does not roar. It does not bray. It does not echo. But it remembers. And when it finally speaks, not with anger, but with conviction, it does not seek to drown others. Only to remind them. And as democracies begin to blur their own reflection, allying with military regimes, winking at dispossession, and finding convenience in strongmen, they risk abandoning the very ideals they once exported. When the price of strategic access is silence on suppression, when military juntas cloak themselves in the language of order, and when governance becomes the preserve of crypto-familial elites masquerading as reformers, then the compact between the state and its people is no longer democratic. It is dynastic. It is durable only for the few.

### The elephant trumpets

Our partnerships are not transactional. Our friendships are not blind. We will engage with the world, but not at the cost of those who have no voice, no ballot, no recourse. Because memory is not merely about what we recall.

## Ensure the speaker is non-partisan on disqualification

The speaker, by virtue of being elected by the ruling party members, may not—and history is evidence that they did not in many cases—act impartially

Hair-splitting arguments on constitutional matters are unavoidable most of the time, but in some cases, such as the roles of the speaker of a legislative assembly or the chairman of a legislative council and the governors, they are surely unnecessary. For, in the public psyche, the morality of their action or inaction is so glaring that its legality becomes secondary. The recent Supreme Court verdict that set a deadline of three months for the Telangana assembly speaker to decide on the disqualification pleas against 10 MLAs of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), who switched allegiance to the ruling Congress, falls into this category.

The legislators defected after the elections in December 2023, and petitions for their disqualification have been pending with the speaker for over a year now. In between, a single-judge bench of the Telangana High Court directed that the petitions be placed before the speaker to fix a schedule for hearing within four weeks, but then, on an appeal, a division bench of the court set aside the order, prompting the BRS to move the Supreme Court. The judgement of the apex court is another reminder for a relook at the anti-defection law enacted in 1985 to see that



the aaya ram gaya ram culture doesn't undermine our democracy. Drawing from different verdicts over the decades, such as the Kihoto Hollola vs Zachilhu and others, and Keisham Meghachandra Singh vs Speaker of the Manipur Assembly, the apex court held that the speaker must decide on disqualification within a

reasonable time. In the Telangana case, the speaker did not issue even notices for over seven months. The court further suggested that parliament reconsider whether the speaker should be the one deciding on members' disqualification.

This is an important point that we must pay heed to. The speaker, by virtue of being elected by the ruling party members, may not—and history is evidence that they did not in many cases—act impartially. This means only one thing: the anti-defection law's objective stands practically defeated. All political parties, in

power or opposition, are responsible for this. The only way to bring fairness and uphold the will of the people is to ensure that the speaker of the Assembly is non-partisan and above party politics when adjudicating on the disqualification of legislators. The sooner it is done, the better.

## Way to clean our clogged cities

Urban India is tipping into a major crisis with the gap between waste generation and its proper management widening. We should remember that when our cities get clogged even with short spells of rain. While initiatives like Swachh Bharat have made some progress, significant systemic issues persist

With plastic waste clogging the drains, just a pre-monsoon shower was enough to flood parts of Mumbai a few weeks ago, with plastic waste often clogging the drains. This is not an isolated incident. Across Indian cities, growing waste is a major concern and its poor management is becoming an urban emergency. Urban India now produces over 62 million tonnes of solid waste each year, a figure projected to rise to 165 million tonnes by 2030. The growing gap between waste generation and its proper management threatens to disrupt civic services and turn open burning into a major urban issue. With more than 877 million people expected to live in Indian cities by 2050, managing waste effectively is critical to building resilient and healthy cities. While flagship initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission have pushed waste treatment from 18 percent in 2014 to 55 percent in 2021, systemic gaps still persist. Its second phase envisions 'garbage-free cities' by eliminating open dumping, ensuring 100 percent scientific treatment and remediating legacy waste from existing dumpsites. Cities like Indore, Navi Mumbai and Surat are now setting national benchmarks by aligning with these targets through sustained leadership, citizen participation and robust infrastructure. Analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) of well-performing cities under the Swachh Survekshan survey highlights the importance of diagnosing the root causes of persistent urban waste challenges. We recommend four interventions.

First, urban local bodies (ULB) must urgently develop clear waste reduction strategies and set measurable targets. Reducing garbage at the source is among the most effective ways to manage the growing burden of

urban waste. Take Pune, for example—it has committed to a 25 percent reduction in waste by 2025 (compared to 2017 levels) and incentivises citizens through measures such as a 10 percent property tax rebate for green practices like home composting. In Delhi, the municipal corporation is developing zero-waste institutions and also recognising them by providing awards. Such initiatives are not just symbolic. When targets are scaled across residential societies, offices, and institutions, they can shift public behaviour and build momentum for systemic change. But such a change won't take root without citizen buy-in. ULBs must take the lead in creating platforms that empower people to act—through grievance portals, incentives, accessible infrastructure and sustained awareness campaigns.

Second,

ensure at least four-way segregation across the entire waste supply chain. Proper segregation—separating dry, wet, domestic hazardous and sanitary waste—is foundational and is mandated under India's Solid Waste Management Rules. But implementation remains a big hurdle. Without consistent segregation throughout the entire supply chain—from households to waste processing sites—resource recovery remains inefficient and hazardous. Cities are struggling to ensure segregation levels, with average segregation in ULBs standing at 33 percent. But there are shoots of hope. Delhi, in its latest clean air action plan, has set a target of achieving 85 percent segregation. Some of the cleanest cities, like Indore, achieved over 98 percent segregation levels by combining public engagement

with enforcement, infrastructure and tech-enabled monitoring. The ULBs must monitor ward-level data and intervene swiftly where systems break down. Segregation success must become a point of civic pride not a bureaucratic checkbox.

Third, draw up plans to handle recovered and inert waste after bioremediation.

Fourth, leverage India's digital infrastructure to monitor waste management and build trust. The Smart Cities Mission has equipped 100 cities with Integrated Command and Control Centres, which can monitor garbage vulnerable points, optimise collection, track vehicles, and flag fire hazards at treatment facilities and dump sites. Citizen-facing platforms like the Swachhata app and MCD 311 allow the reporting of grievances like illegal garbage dumping, missed pickups, and citizen feedback on local waste services. They must be actively promoted and grievances must be resolved in a timely and transparent

manner.

Urban waste is not just a logistical problem—it's a political and social one. For "garbage-free" cities, we must go beyond surface-level fixes. The ULBs must look deeper and focus on upstream waste reduction and downstream management in tandem. Resident welfare associations, faith leaders, businesses, lawmakers and citizens must all play their part.

construction and as fuel in nearby cement plants. Treating ongoing waste scientifically is equally essential to prevent the creation of new dump sites while remediating the legacy waste. Recent CEEW analysis estimates converting organic waste into compressed biogas could generate an annual economic value of ₹2,800 crore, create around 49,000 jobs by 2030, and cut 44 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

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# Stampede: Karnataka HC seeks Justice

## John Michael D'Cunha report

A division bench of Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Umesh M Adiga passed the order while adjourning the hearing of the petition filed by DNA Entertainment Networks Private Limited to August 7

### BENGALURU (Agency)

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the state government to submit the report of the Justice John Michael D'Cunha Commission of Inquiry on the stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium during the RCB victory celebrations, in a sealed cover to the court. A division bench of Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Umesh M Adiga passed the order while adjourning the hearing of the petition filed by DNA Entertainment Networks Private Limited to August 7. Alleging that the commission seems to have proceeded in a biased manner, as if it is a fault-finding commission rather than a fact-finding commission, DNA Entertainment Networks moved HC, seeking to quash the report. The commission headed by Justice John Michael



D'Cunha, former Karnataka HC judge, probed the June 4 stampede that claimed 11 lives during the RCB celebrations.

Counsel for DNA submitted that the

commission has the power to find fault, but does not have the power to recommend action against anybody. However, the commission recommended action against the petitioner. The commission did not follow the principle of natural justice insofar as the petitioner is concerned. Therefore, the court has to stay the report against the petitioner whose reputation is being damaged, he argued. He said it was the state that offered to hold celebrations in front of Vidhana Soudha. However, the court said procedural aspects and merits of the case can be considered after seeing the report, and adjourned the hearing to August 7, at the request of Advocate-General K Shashikiran Shetty.

### BENGALURU (Agency)

Bengaluru is witnessing a surge in online dating scams, with fraudsters exploiting emotionally vulnerable individuals and drawing them into sophisticated financial frauds. What often begins as a search for love ends in heartbreak and financial ruin, as scammers exploit dating platforms to either extort victims or lure them into fraudulent investment schemes.

Recently, a 32-year-old software engineer lost Rs 79.3 lakh after investing in a fake trading app, following the advice of a woman he met on a matrimonial website. In another case, a 37-year-old businessman lost Rs 5.5 lakh in a sextortion scam after connecting with a woman on a dating app.

A senior officer from the cybercrime police station said dating fraud typically falls into two categories: honey-trap extortion (sextortion) and fraudulent trading schemes that trick victims into transferring money under the guise of investment opportunities.

"These women initiate warm, emotional conversations and gradually build trust," the officer said. "Eventually, they promise a future together, often even marriage."

Once the bond is established, often over several months, the victim is persuaded to invest in a fake trading platform. Many share personal financial struggles, including debts and loans, believing they

urged the public to avoid sharing personal or financial details with strangers online and to be cautious of anyone promising quick financial gains.



The Railway Board approved the transfer of MRTS on July 31. The approval includes the transfer of all MRTS infrastructure assets — tracks, bridges, signaling systems, electrification, land, buildings, and more — as well as operations and maintenance responsibilities to the Tamil Nadu government/CMRL.

A detailed MoU is being prepared, said the railways.

The statement noted that land owned by TN government and in use by MRTS will be returned, while railway-owned land in operational use by MRTS will be leased to the state government.

# Southern Railway to bear Chennai MRTS operational costs for two years during CMRL takeover

### CHENNAI (Agency)

Southern Railway has announced that it will bear the operating costs of Chennai-Velachery MRTS for two years during the transfer of assets and operations to the state government and merger with Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL).

During this period, the railways will also provide the necessary coaches and handle maintenance at no charge.

"If the takeover is not completed within two years, SR may continue to operate the MRTS, but the TN government will be charged for operations and maintenance based on actual costs," said an official railway statement on Tuesday. As part of the transition plan, the train rakes (Electric Multiple Units) owned by the railways will be used in the MRTS for the two-year grace period. "After this, the

EMUs will either be returned to SR or the TN government will pay their depreciated value," the statement added.

During this transition, Southern Railway will support CMRL by training its personnel in operations and maintenance of infrastructure, rolling stock, and other functions. Current railway staff will continue to be deployed during this phase at no cost to the state government. Meanwhile, CMRL will also recruit and train its own staff and develop the necessary maintenance infrastructure.

Certain stretches of SR infrastructure such as the yards at Fort and Chennai Beach will continue to be used by MRTS in the future.



Access terms and related charges will be decided by a joint committee comprising representatives from SR and the TN government.

# Tambaram civic staff suspended for swindling over Rs 1.3 crore in tax payments; fraud exposed in audit

### CHENNAI (Agency)

Tambaram Corporation has suspended two staff members attached to its revenue department on charges of swindling over Rs 1.3 crore in tax collected from residents.

The highest swindle was about Rs 1 crore by a staffer in zone 4 during the last financial year. The employee, identified as Rani, submitted fake bank receipts to the corporation without depositing the actual collection. Officials said she allegedly admitted to the wrongdoing during questioning.

The amount was recovered, and departmental proceedings have been initiated against her and others involved.

In another case of misappropriation, a cashier in

zone 5, Murali, diverted Rs 32 lakh between January and March this year by collecting property tax, water tax, and other dues in cash, but recording them as card

from him.

Vijayalakshmi, an official in zone 5, has been issued a memo for failing to monitor the tax collection. A senior official told that further probes are on to determine if more such irregularities occurred.

"Once the full extent of the fraud is known, stringent disciplinary and legal action, including filing police complaints, will be taken against those found guilty," the official said. Officials said the civic body has been ensuring strict action on wrongdoings and will continue with its internal audits.

internal audit of the corporation's accounts, initiated on the orders of corporation commissioner S Balachander.

Murali was suspended, and the amount has been recovered

from him.

Access terms and related charges will be decided by a joint committee comprising representatives from SR and the TN government.

payments in the official system.

Officials said that since card

transactions typically take 24

hours to reflect in the

corporation's bank accounts, he

was able to pocket the funds

without detection as the fraud

was not immediately detected.

The issue came to light during an

switching over to the UDF, the LDF has only 12 members. In the UDF, Congress has nine

councillors while Kerala Congress Jacob and Kerala Congress Joseph have one member each. With Kala and independent PG Sunil Kumar extending support, the UDF has 13 councillors now. UDF councillors took out a march to Congress Bhavan, celebrating their victory. At the same time, the LDF organised a rally in the town in the evening, protesting the "murder of democracy". The CPM has demanded the disqualification of Kala as she violated the whip. However, the UDF argues that the LDF has not issued any whip to Kala. As per procedure, the returning officer will submit a report to the chief election officer regarding the result of the no-confidence motion and the election commission has to issue a 15-day notice for the election of new chairperson and vice-chairperson.

Kala fell off with the CPM local leadership last year, alleging ill-treatment. On January 18, when the first no-confidence motion moved

by the UDF came up for discussion, CPM workers allegedly abducted Kala and held her captive in the party area committee office till 4.30pm. That led to the defeat of the motion.



"After January 18, CPM ostracised me and filed police cases against me and my son. I was afraid to attend the council meetings as they would tease and hurl abuses on me. I was forced to support the no-confidence motion as there was threat to my life," Kala told.

The UDF will select the chairperson and vice-chairperson candidates once the electoral

officer issues the notice, said Opposition leader Prince Paul John. "Regarding the disqualification of Kala, LDF will have to prove their argument in court," he said.

Meanwhile, Sunny Kuriakose alleged the UDF voted out the LDF in Koothattukulam through horse trading. UDF purchased two councillors, offering financial favours. We will expose their anti-democratic activities before the voters.

The allegations regarding abduction of Kala Raju are baseless. UDF ousted LDF to derail the development projects," he said.

### THE SIKH TIMES

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# China's 'Super Dam' isn't a threat to Brahmaputra flow, analysis finds

**Agency New Delhi.**

Chief ministers of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam strongly disagree on whether China's "Super Dam" will affect the Brahmaputra river's flow in India. While Pema Khandu has called it a "ticking water bomb", Himanta Biswa Sarma downplays the fear. Who is right? While the mega dam will undoubtedly give China the capability of weaponising the water of Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo in China), it is unlikely to make any consequential alteration to the river flow, according to an analysis by India Today's Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) team.

Brahmaputra is a complex river system, consisting of several tributaries. Its mainstream traverses a total distance of 2880 km. Out of which, 56 per cent falls in Tibet, 43 per cent in India and 337 km in Bangladesh. The majority (nearly 50.5 per cent) of the Brahmaputra river's catchment area falls in China.

## Video: Over 400 Kinner Kailash pilgrims rescued using daring rope technique

**Agency New Delhi.**

Over 400 pilgrims were rescued by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in a daring operation after a flash flood struck the Kinner Kailash Yatra route in Himachal Pradesh. It came as neighbouring Uttarakhand battled a similar disaster, with a devastating flash flood in Dharali leaving at least five dead and scores missing. The flash flood in Himachal's Tangling area, which came amid heavy rain, stranded hundreds of pilgrims on the treacherous mountain trail. On Wednesday, 413 pilgrims were rescued by ITBP personnel using a unique rope-based traverse crossing technique, a high-risk method often employed during emergencies in high-altitude areas. The flash flood, triggered by incessant rain in the upper reaches, cut off the narrow and steep path used by devotees participating in the Kinner Kailash Yatra.

On receiving a distress call from the Kinnaur district administration this morning about stranded pilgrims, the search and rescue teams of the ITBP and NDRF were mobilised to the site. Himachal has been receiving moderate to heavy rain since Monday, with landslides blocking as many as 449 roads. The worst affected is Mandi district, with 295 roads being closed to traffic. The key Chandigarh-Shimla National Highway has also been closed due to landslides at Chakki Mor in Shimla. The weather department has issued an orange alert for very heavy rain in four districts - Una, Kangra, Mandi and Sirmour. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), as many as 1,738 houses have been fully or partially damaged in the state, which has witnessed 55 flash floods and 48 major landslides so far.

## India's indigenous guns to perform 21-gun salute on Independence Day



**Agency New Delhi.**

This year's traditional Independence Day 21-gun salute is set to feature the Indian-made 105mm light field gun, which recently proved its mettle during Operation Sindo. The 21-gun salute is a traditional military ceremony that is performed every August 15 to honour soldiers. This year this ceremony will showcase the might of the indigenous 105mm light field guns. These indigenously made weapons have replaced the British pounder guns that were earlier used for the ceremony. The gun is also the first indigenous gun with a range of 17.2 kilometres and can fire up to six rounds per minute. It was first developed by the Ordnance Factory Board in 1982 and, since, various versions of the gun have been deployed on the borders of the country.

The 105mm light field gun is an upgraded version of the previously used Indian field gun and weighs approximately 1000 kilograms less than its predecessor.

Another significant aspect of this year's Independence Day is that it will mark 100 days of the success of Operation Sindo, which targeted and lethally attacked numerous terror camps and airbases based in Pakistan. The operation underscored the lethality of Indian weapons, including the artillery guns that were deployed along the western front.

On August 15, eight light field guns will fire 21 shots in 52 seconds to the melody of the national anthem, while the national flag is unfurled at the Red Fort by PM Narendra Modi.

A river's flow is sustained by mountain springs, glacial melt, upland wetlands or peat bogs, aquifers, and perennial tributaries. Though most of these sources of water fall in China-controlled Tibet, the Brahmaputra gets an estimated 70 per cent of its water from rainfall.

As with many major rivers, Yarlung Tsangpo appears as a stream at its point of origin near Mount Kailash but continues to grow in size further downstream. It becomes the mighty Brahmaputra after absorbing three tributaries, Luhit and Dibang near Assam's Sadiya.

### IMPACT ON INDIA

The contribution of Yarlung Tsangpo to the Brahmaputra's total flow is barely 10-15 per cent, Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh of Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) points out. "So the problem might not be with scarcity but with surplus," he



tells, pointing out the possibility of China suddenly releasing water from the dam to flood areas in India. "Although it is a very remote possibility since it's a run-of-river project," data shows the river's annual mean discharge jumps significantly after entering India, indicating that its major sources lie more in India than in China. Some hundred kilometres upstream of the "Super Dam" site, over 31 billion cubic meters (BCM) of water flows annually at Nuxia in Tibet. Its discharge increases to

78 BCM at a point where the river leaves China, further to 185 BCM at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh, and 526 BCM in Guwahati's Pandu, Assam.

Data compiled by researchers Sayanangshu Modak & Nilanjan Ghosh shows the Brahmaputra river basin receives more rainfall in parts falling in India. For example, the mean annual rainfall record at Tibet's capital Lhasa is pegged at 400 mm, which rises to 767 mm at Tuting near the Tibet border, and 1561 mm in Guwahati.

The diverse precipitation patterns are attributed to factors like climate, altitude, temperature, pressure, latitude and orography. While the northern parts of the Tibetan plateau remain dry, the southern parts received some rainfall due to moisture making its way through the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon, the deepest on the planet, Chinese researchers wrote in a 2015 paper.

## Electricity bills to rise as Supreme Court orders states to clear dues in 4 years

**Agency New Delhi.**

Electricity consumers across India should brace for a hike in power bills as the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed all states and Union Territories to clear long-pending dues owed to power distribution companies (DisComs) within four years. The dues, classified as "regulatory assets", have been accumulating for decades and now exceed Rs 1.5 lakh crore across the country. A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Atul S Chandrakar passed a sweeping order asking State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) to submit a time-bound roadmap for recovery of these amounts, while also tasking the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) to supervise the implementation of this directive.

The court came down heavily on the regulatory commissions and APTEL itself for failing to curb the unchecked

growth of regulatory assets over the years.

"Disproportionate increase in long-pending regulatory assets ultimately puts burden on the consumer," the bench noted, adding that "inefficient and improper functioning of the



Commission and acting under dictation can lead to regulatory failure".

Regulatory assets refer to the shortfall between the actual cost of electricity supplied by DisComs and the lower tariffs approved by state regulators. To keep consumer tariffs affordable,

regulators often defer these payments to DisComs, creating a backlog. Over time, these deferred payments attract interest, turning into ballooning liabilities.

Although the case began with petitions filed by Delhi-based DisComs, the Supreme Court expanded its scope and issued notices to all states with pending regulatory assets. Senior advocate Shri Venkatesh, appearing for Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd, told India Today TV that "for years various commissions and state governments, due to lack of political will, allowed the regulatory assets to grow. The SC has now ordered that all such dues must be amortised over four years". The top court affirmed that Parliament had vested electricity regulators and APTEL with sufficient authority under the Electricity Act to manage tariff and payment structures, but lamented the failure to use these powers effectively.

## Don't lose your mind: UP Minister scolds engineer for opening bridge without his nod

**Agency New Delhi.**

Uttar Pradesh Transport Minister and Ballia Nagar MLA Daya Shankar Singh publicly reprimanded a Public Works Department (PWD) executive engineer for opening a newly constructed bridge over the Kathar Nala without informing him. The altercation took place during a surprise midnight inspection by the minister.

Singh accused the engineer of acting on political instructions, hinting at a possible link to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLA from Rasra, Umashankar Singh, though he refrained from naming him directly. "Are you contesting elections from here? Is the BSP giving you a ticket? Maybe the MLA is helping you get one," he



snapped at the officer, news agency PTI reported.

The minister claimed the same engineer had previously refused to inaugurate the bridge, citing pending administrative approvals and lack of safety testing. "But suddenly, under the influence of someone who interferes in PWD affairs and dictates terms to engineers, the bridge was opened —

just so we don't get the credit," Singh told reporters, vowing to escalate the matter to higher authorities.

"Don't lose your mind. I am the MLA and the minister here. You opened the bridge without informing me. I know whose direction you're working under," Singh said during the confrontation.

The BJP leader also raised concerns about the overall functioning of the PWD in Ballia, alleging that despite sanctioned funds, even basic infrastructure like drains hadn't been built since 2015. "How can any officer in this government be so powerful? He is ignoring the minister, the MLA, and even the municipal chairman. There must be some higher protection," he added.

## Staff Crunch At AIIMS: 40% Faculty Posts Vacant Across India, Says Centre

**Agency New Delhi.**

Government data tabled in the Rajya Sabha has revealed a persistent staffing shortfall across India's premier All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), with over 2,800 faculty positions vacant across 20 functional institutes in the 2025-26 period. The data submitted in written response on Tuesday by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, to a question by MP Javed Ali Khan reveals that more than 40% of faculty positions across various AIIMS remain vacant, with some institutions reporting faculty vacancy rates exceeding 50% in 2025-26. The information, provided in a detailed annexure, outlines state-wise data on sanctioned, filled, and vacant positions for both faculty and non-faculty roles in AIIMS institutes from 2022 to 2025. The situation remains critical even in older and better-established AIIMS like Raipur, Rishikesh, and Jodhpur.

At AIIMS New Delhi, the oldest and most established, 462 of 1,306 faculty posts

remain vacant in 2025-26, which indicates a 35 per cent vacancy rate, up from 29% the previous year. Several posts remain vacant at AIIMS Jodhpur, 186 vacancies, Rishikesh (147), Raipur (116), Nagpur (139), and Kalyani (139).

Newer AIIMS campuses such as Rajkot, Madurai, and Awaripura are operating with minimal or no permanent faculty in teaching positions in place. AIIMS Rajkot has 76 faculty filled out of 183 sanctioned, Madurai has 49 filled out of 183, while Awaripura has 0 faculty filled out of 94 sanctioned.

While the faculty situation is alarming, non-teaching positions also show gaps. AIIMS New Delhi has 3,106 non-faculty vacancies out of 13,911 sanctioned posts. AIIMS Raipur and Bhubaneswar each have more than 900 non-faculty positions vacant. Across the newer institutes, many have non-teaching staff vacancy rates between 30-50 per cent.

AIIMS Guwahati and Madurai, in particular, continue to show low filled-to-

sanctioned ratios. In his reply, the minister stated that "creation of posts and recruitment is a continuous process" and outlined several ongoing initiatives to plug the staffing gaps. There are Standing Selection Committees at each AIIMS for expediting faculty recruitment. A



provision to appoint retired professors on a contract basis, in the new AIIMS, up to the age of 70 years, from Institutes of National Importance (INIs) and Government Medical Colleges (GMCs). A visiting faculty scheme has also been

## Man who snatched Congress MP's necklace arrested, chain recovered

**Agency New Delhi.**

A person suspected of having snatched a Member of Parliament's necklace has been arrested and the piece of jewellery recovered, the Delhi Police said on Wednesday morning. Congress MP M Sudha was the victim of the chain snatching that took place earlier this week. "The case of snatching of the chain of Hon'ble Member of Parliament has been solved," the Delhi Police wrote in a post on the social media platform X. They also added that the snatched chain has been recovered.

The incident occurred on August 4, when an individual snatched the chain from a member of the Parliament in the high-security Chanakyapuri area of Delhi, while also injuring her in the process.

Sudha, a Lok Sabha member from Tamil Nadu, was walking near the Poland embassy early morning when the suspect, riding a two-wheeler, snatched the chain off her neck.

Sudha remarked on the lack of security for a woman in a diplomatic neighbourhood. Home Minister Amit Shah, saying, "Sir, I have suffered injury on my neck, lost my gold chain weighing more than four sovereigns, and I am highly traumatised by this criminal attack." Several teams of Delhi Police were engaged in the investigation and caught the accused, who turned out to be a resident of Okhla.

## KT Rama Rao urges EC to restore paper ballots starting with Bihar elections



**Agency New Delhi.**

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday urged the Election Commission of India to bring back paper ballot voting instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Speaking after a meeting with the Commission in Delhi, he said several developed countries like the US, UK, Germany and Italy had moved away from EVMs due to public distrust, and India should consider doing the same. "We formally requested the EC to conduct all elections using ballot papers. This should start with the Bihar Assembly elections and be extended to the 2026 General Elections," KTR said after a meeting with the EC in Delhi.

KTR said that doubts over whether votes are actually going to the intended candidate could damage trust in the electoral process. "If people begin to question whether their vote counts, that's a serious threat to democracy," he said. He emphasised that for a country with nearly 100 crore voters, transparency in the voting system was essential. During the meeting, KTR also raised other concerns with the Commission. He said political parties should be held accountable for making false promises during election campaigns. Referring to the Congress, he alleged that the party had made 420 promises in Telangana, including guarantee cards and public oaths at temples, but failed to deliver on them. He demanded that the EC take action against such misleading claims.

He also flagged concerns over the removal of around 65 lakh names from the voter list in Bihar. According to KTR, names of the deceased, migrants and inactive voters were removed without transparency. He urged the EC to involve all political parties at the booth, village and mandal levels during the voter list revision process to ensure fairness.

## NEWS BOX

**Mohammed Siraj ready to be India's bowling leader with or without Bumrah: Chappell**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India coach Greg Chappell feels that Mohammed Siraj is ready to be the actual leader of the Indian attack, with or without Jasprit Bumrah in the side. Siraj produced a stunning performance on Day 5 of the Oval Test to hand India the win and help them level the series. This happened in the absence of Bumrah, as the star pacer was rested for the game as part of his workload management. Siraj bowled a total of 185.3 overs during the Test series and ended as the highest wicket-taker with 23 scalps to his name. Writing in his column on ESPNcricinfo, Chappell said that the 31-year-old's performance at the Oval was a true coming-of-age performance.

"To be fair, he has turned in many fine performances before, at the MCG, the Gabba, Perth, Lord's, Cape Town and Birmingham, but what he did at The Oval was his true coming of age. With or without Bumrah, he is ready to be the spiritual as well as actual leader of Gill's attack," said Chappell. While the Indian batters, led by Shubman Gill, scored a lot of runs, Chappell said that Siraj was the main reason why the visitors remained competitive in the series.

"I don't think it is unfair to say that, despite the many wonderful batting efforts, Siraj was the main reason that India was competitive in the series," Chappell wrote. "Carrying the attack in the absence of Bumrah is heroic."



Chappell also found Siraj's ability to bring his A-game during key moments as a standout feature of the pacer. "He bowled like a man possessed, but also a man who had learned the art of pacing himself, of understanding the moments that matter." "What impressed me most wasn't the effort - which was immense - but the evolution. He started as a bowler with passion. He ended as a bowler with passion and purpose. That's the difference between a player and a leader," Chappell explained the bowler's gradual growth, "said Chappell.

## Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal in contention for Asia Cup call-up: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan are in the fray for selection in India's Asia Cup squad, which is expected to be picked in the third week of August. Jaiswal and Test captain Gill have not featured in the last few T20 assignments owing to a packed calendar, but their one-month rest period post the five-Test series



against England is expected to make them available for the continental tournament.

As per sources in the BCCI, the national selectors are keeping options open even as the Test series against the West Indies at home starts in less than a week's time if India qualify for the final of the continental T20 event, which is slated on September 28. The first Test against the West Indies at Ahmedabad starts on October 2. It must be mentioned that Jaiswal scored 559 runs at a strike-rate of 160 in the last edition of the IPL, while Gill had 650 runs in 15 games at a healthy strike-rate of 155-plus. Gill's opening partner at Gujarat Titans, Sudharsan, was the Orange Cap winner with 759 runs at a SR of 156. "There is a five week break and with no cricket around, these three should walk into any T20 squad despite stupendous show by Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma. In 21 days in Asia Cup, if one plays till final, there are 6 T20 games and that's not much of a workload. But obviously with 17 member squads allowed for the Asia Cup, selectors will weigh options carefully," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity. Keeping the tracks of UAE in mind and also the T20 World Cup in six months time, Jaiswal, Gill and Sudharsan should logically form the core of the top order. Sudharsan, who made his ODI debut in late 2023 has been in tremendous T20 form.

# From 4-1 to 2-2: How England let a glorious Test series win slip away

**England lost the fifth Test at the Oval by 6 runs**

**Stokes and Co. missed a golden chance to win in Manchester**

**England will tour Australia for the Ashes later this year**

New Delhi. (Agency)

England will look back on this series with a sense of utter disbelief—not just for what happened, but for what could have been. This wasn't a 2-2 series. This was a 4-1 victory that got dressed up as a draw. Twice, in Manchester and at The Oval, England stood on the brink of triumph—only to watch India claw back from near-certain defeat with the defiance of a team that simply refused to die. At Old Trafford, they let slip a 311-run lead as India batted out nearly five sessions, with Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar

grinding the hosts into frustration. Then came The Oval, needing just 35 runs with four wickets in hand on Day 5, England imploded in broad daylight, undone by a Mohammed Siraj spell for the ages. These weren't just missed chances—they were psychological blows. England dominated four of the five Tests, yet ended level. This series will be about what a young Indian side achieved, but it will also be remembered about what England let go.

**Tiny Cracks, Deep Fractures**

England had both hands on the series. In Manchester, they posted a colossal 669—a total that should crush any opposition under its weight. The hosts tightened the screws with a humongous lead. Then came the dream start with the ball: India 0/2, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan gone in the first over. The series looked wrapped. But somehow, inexplicably, England let it slip. What followed was a test of patience—and England failed it. Shubman Gill and KL Rahul batted through the entire fourth day, with incredible energy and belief. But there were no breakthroughs, no imagination, no change in intensity from the



hosts. By Day 5, Jadeja and Washington Sundar scored unbeaten hundreds, and India walked away with a draw that felt like a heist. But the real gut-punch came at The Oval. Chasing 374, England were cruising at 301/3, needing just 73 runs with Joe Root and Harry Brook set. Then came the collapse—six wickets for 66 runs. England's tail fell down like a house of cards, and India snatched a six-run win. England were the better side for long stretches of this series. But dropped catches, and a baffling inability to finish the job left them with a 2-2 draw that feels like a loss. Two Tests thrown away. A series squandered. A summer of

regret. Harry Brook regrets Brook's innings at The Oval was thrilling yet ultimately went in vain. After leading the charge in a fierce 195-run stand with Joe Root and scoring a fluid 111 off 95 balls, Brook attempted to repeat two consecutive boundaries off Akash Deep.

On the next ball, he charged down the wicket and lofted the ball towards midoff, misjudged the shot, lost his bat as it flew from his grip, and was caught by the fielder. Brook later said he regretted playing that shot, calling it a misjudged risk rather than intelligent aggression. "My thought process was just to try and hit as many runs as quickly as possible. Like I said, the game's done if we need 40 runs with me and Rooty in there; if I get out there [with 40 to win], the game's still done. Obviously, it didn't work. Hindsight is a beautiful thing, and obviously, I wish now that I didn't play that shot and get out," Brook said at the post-match presentation ceremony. Later on BBC, Brook said, "I had no idea that we were going to lose seven wickets for 60 runs."

## Mukesh Kumar is a bowler for all formats: Sourav Ganguly on pacer's England Test snub

**Former India captain Sourav Ganguly said that Mukesh Kumar is well-suited to bowl across all three formats and backed the pacer to be in contention for a spot in India's squad for the 2025 Asia Cup.**

London. (Agency)

Former Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly said that Mukesh Kumar is an excellent bowler and is someone who's suited to all formats. The 31-year-old Mukesh was left out of India's Test squad for the five-match series against England even after leading performances for India A. The pacer took three wickets in his only unofficial Test versus England Lions at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, yet he couldn't find a place in the squad, even as an injury cover. Just two days before the first Test against England, Mukesh posted a cryptic



Instagram story that read: "Karma bides its time. You will always have to watch out. Karma is unforgiving and always gets payback." Speaking on the matter, Ganguly said that Mukesh, being a consistent performer in the domestic circuit, deserves more opportunities. "Mukesh should definitely play. In these conditions, he's an excellent fast bowler. He consistently takes wickets in domestic cricket and deserves a chance," Ganguly told India Today in an exclusive interview. Mukesh Kumar needs to be patient. Ganguly also expressed hope that Mukesh would be selected for the upcoming Asia Cup, scheduled to take place in the United Arab

Emirates from September 9 to 28.

"Since there's no Test cricket at the moment, let's see if he gets picked for the T20s or the Asia Cup. He's a bowler who can perform across all formats. His time will come—just needs to be patient," Ganguly added. Born in 1993, Mukesh debuted in first-class cricket in October 2015 and delivered a breakthrough Ranji season in 2019/20, including a six-wicket haul in a semifinal. In 2023, Delhi Capitals (DC) signed him for Rs 5.5 crore in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. He played 32 IPL matches by 2025, taking 36 wickets at an economy near 10.39. In a space of 14 days between July and August 2023, he made his Test, ODI and T20I debuts against West Indies, and has since taken wickets across all formats at respectable averages. In the three Tests he has played so far, Mukesh has 7 wickets. When it comes to the ODIs, Mukesh has 5 wickets from six matches and in T20Is, he got 20 scalps to his name from 17 matches. Mukesh last played a game for India in July last year during the tour of Zimbabwe.

## Siddhant Sharma and Harsh Tyagi's journey fuels Outer Delhi Warriors in DPL 2025

New Delhi. (Agency)

There's something truly special about young Indian cricketers in the making. As the game becomes tougher with each passing level, the scrutiny only grows—with thousands of eyeballs always watching, no matter the stage it's played on. The fierce competition in the Indian landscape, where nearly every kid wants to be a cricketer, makes the journey even more demanding. Getting into the Indian jersey is a long waiting game. With only select spots available at any given time, most players end up playing a very long waiting game, sometimes patiently, sometimes painfully, for their moment of glory. While representing the country is the ultimate dream, cricket across the world now provides alternate pathways to play at the highest level of the game. With franchise tournaments blooming all across the world, players now get a chance to show their talent much before getting a reckoning to the national team. For a high-quality T20

league, you do not have to look that far. In New Delhi, the Delhi Premier League has offered some exceptional standards in its



season of inception. Digvish Rathi, Priyansh Arya, Suyash Sharma, Ayush Badoni have taken part in the 2024 season of the tournament, delivering high standards in the league. Take, for example, Priyansh Arya, who was drafted straight into the Indian Premier League after an exceptional outing in the opening season of

the tournament. Priyansh is set to play for Outer Delhi Warriors, a newly drafted team in the tournament. Priyansh, however, will not be leading the team, as the side has trusted the duo of Siddhant Sharma and Harsh Tyagi to be at the helm of the matters. But why did a team, in its opening season, hand leadership roles to two unknown commodities in domestic cricket? India Today caught up with the franchise in a promotional event ahead of the tournament, where the team's mentor Parthiv Patel explained the team's unique calls at the auction table. Big Punt at the Auction Table

The core group of Outer Delhi Warriors looked sharp and switched on at the auctions held ahead of the second season. As teams broke the bank on proven IPL talents like Simarjeet Singh (Rs 39 lakh) and Digvish Rathi (Rs 38 lakh), Outer Delhi Warriors went about their business silently.

"The electric fire on the ninth floor, the entire hotel became smoky and everyone had to evacuate the hotel before it became difficult to breathe," ChessBase India reported. The organisers told PTI that the timings of the tournament will remain the same and the tournament will end on August 15. However, a rest day has been taken away from the schedule.

"The timings will be the same, and the tournament will end on August 15 itself. There was a rest day in between, and that is no longer part of the schedule," they said. The Chennai Grand Masters carries a prize money of one crore and will feature Erigaisi, alongside Vidit Gujrathi and Anish Giri from the Netherlands. Erigaisi is all set to start his campaign against American Awonder Liang. Erigaisi and Gujrathi will take place on August 14 in Round 8. The tournament will see participation from 19 Grandmasters and offer crucial FIDE Circuit points.

Meanwhile, after another prolific season at home, Brook will face the tougher terrain of Australia for the first time in his career in the Ashes later this year in November. He will be eager to continue his golden run and help England end their 14-year-long drought for a win in the country.

I got a quick 30 in the next couple of overs, then the game is done. That was my thought process. I always try and take the game on

**England batter Harry Brook revealed that he felt undeserving of the Player of the Series award of the England vs India five-match Test series. Brook scored 481 runs from five matches at an average of 53.44.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

England batter Harry Brook feels he was undeserving of the Player of the Series award of the recent five-match Test series between England and India. The right-handed batter said that Joe Root deserved it more for



consistently scoring throughout the series. Brook was the fifth-highest run scorer of the series with 481 runs from five matches (nine innings) at an average of 53.44 with two hundreds and as many fifties. On the other hand, Root was the second-highest scorer with 537 runs from nine innings at an average of 67.12 with three hundreds and one fifty. Despite scoring fewer runs than Root, Brook was chosen as Player of the Series by India head coach Gautam Gambhir, which left him surprised. I didn't score as many runs as Rooty (Joe Root), so I probably think he should be Man of the Series or Man of the Summer. He has been for many years," Brook told BBC Sport.

Furthermore, Brook revealed his thought process before the dismissal in the fifth Test

and said that he was looking to whittle away the deficit by scoring some quick runs. He also rued the fact that he couldn't finish the game. "At the time, I was very confident. If

and put them under pressure I wish I was

there at the end. I've played all right. I could

have won that game yesterday, which is

devastating, but I'm just happy to contribute

to as many games as I can," he added. Brook was dismissed for a well-made 111 (98) leaving England on 301/4, requiring another 73 more runs to win the fifth Test and take the series 3-1. However, following his dismissal, the England batting collapsed and they were bundled out for 367 as India won the match by six runs and leveled the series 2-2.

Meanwhile, after another prolific season at home, Brook will face the tougher terrain of Australia for the first time in his career in the Ashes later this year in November. He will be eager to continue his golden run and help England end their 14-year-long drought for a win in the country.

## Should you hold or sell NSDL shares after stock market listing Details here

### MUMBAI (Agency)

Shares of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) listed on the BSE at Rs 880 on August 6, delivering a 10% premium over the issue price of Rs 800. The strong debut comes on the back of robust demand for the Rs 4,012 crore IPO, which was subscribed 41.02 times. The offering, entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 5.01 crore shares, attracted heavy institutional interest. QIBs bid 103.97 times their quota, while non-institutional investors subscribed 34.98 times and retail investors 7.76 times. The anchor book, closed on July 29, raised Rs 1201.44 crore, underscoring institutional faith in NSDL's fundamentals. Founded in 2012, NSDL operates as a Sebi-registered Market Infrastructure Institution (MII), providing essential services such as demat accounts, trade settlement, corporate actions, e-voting, and pledge facilitation. It also has a presence in e-governance and digital banking through its subsidiaries NSDL Database Management Ltd and NSDL Payments Bank. As of March 2025, NSDL managed 3.94 crore active demat accounts and worked with 294 depository participants nationwide. The company reported a 12% revenue growth in FY25 to Rs 1535.19 crore, while net profit rose 25% to Rs 343.12 crore. At its IPO price, the stock was valued at a price-to-earnings multiple of 46.63 and a price-to-book value of 7.98, levels that some analysts consider fully priced.

### HOLD OR BOOK PROFIT?

Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said: "National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) made quite a good, solid debut on the stock market with a listing gain of approximately 10% over its issue price of Rs 800, listing at around Rs 880. The company is expanding its horizon with more value-added services and options. It posted steady growth in its top and bottom lines, and investor interest was overwhelming with a 41.02 subscription." She recommends a balanced strategy: book partial profits near the listing level and hold the remaining shares with a stop-loss around Rs 850.

While NSDL may not offer sharp near-term upside post listing, many analysts see it as a core holding in India's market infrastructure play, particularly as digital finance expands and retail participation deepens.

## NSDL shares debut with 10% premium over IPO issue price

### New Delhi (Agency)

Shares of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) made a strong debut on the BSE on August 6, listing at Rs 88, marking a 10% higher than the IPO price of Rs 800. The listing marked a positive start for one of the most anticipated public issues in the financial services space this year. The IPO, which was entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 5.01 crore equity shares, was subscribed 41.02 times. Institutional buyers drove the frenzy, with the qualified institutional buyers (QIB) portion subscribed 103.97 times, followed by non-institutional investors at 34.98 times and retail investors at 7.76 times. The anchor investor portion, allotted on July 29, raised Rs 1,201.44 crore, signaling strong institutional confidence ahead of the listing. Founded in 2012, NSDL is a Sebi-registered Market Infrastructure Institution (MII) and plays a central role in India's capital market ecosystem. It facilitates a wide array of functions including demat account services, trade settlements, corporate actions, e-voting, pledge services, and consolidated account statements. Through its subsidiaries NSDL Database Management Ltd and NSDL Payments Bank, it also operates in the domains of e-governance and digital banking. As of March 2025, the depository serviced 3.94 crore active demat accounts and worked with 294 depository participants across the country. The IPO, with no fresh capital infusion, was aimed solely at providing liquidity to existing shareholders and achieving the benefits of listing.

## Paytm now as Indian as Tata with zero Chinese ownership, 100% Made in India

### New Delhi (Agency)

Nearly nine years ago, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma had remarked, "We are as Indian as Maruti," in an interview with PTI, responding to queries about the company's ownership structure at that time. That statement, once seen as symbolic, now reflects the reality, one where Paytm stands as a truly Indian company, both in spirit and shareholding. The mobile payments company is 100 per cent Indian-owned after Jack Ma's Ant Financial exited One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, by selling its entire 5.84 per cent stake for around Rs 3,803 crore. A person aware of the contours of the deal said, "Paytm is now as Indian as Tata." This transformation became official with the recent exit of Antfin (Netherlands) Holding BV, which sold its residual 5.84 per cent stake in Paytm for about Rs 3,800 crore through a block deal.

With this, Chinese ownership in the company has been reduced to zero, marking a significant shift in its shareholding pattern. In 2016, Vijay Shekhar Sharma reaffirmed Paytm's deep-rooted commitment to India's growth story, highlighting the company's Indian ethos and its alignment with national priorities. At a time when the startup ecosystem was witnessing robust global interest and strategic investments, Sharma underscored Paytm's steadfast adherence to local regulations, its India-first approach to innovation, and its unwavering focus on empowering Indian consumers and merchants.

# Forgot to e-verify your ITR Here's what to do to avoid penalties

### Even though the new ITR deadline is now September 15, 2025 for several taxpayers, the 30-day e-verification window begins the moment you file your return and not from the due date.

### New Delhi (Agency)

If you've filed your Income Tax Return (ITR) this year, make sure you verify it too. Just submitting your return isn't enough. Unless you e-verify it within 30 days, it will be treated as invalid, according to the Income Tax Department.

### ITR FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED, BUT 30-DAY RULE STAYS

While the ITR filing deadline has been extended to September 15, 2025 from the earlier July 31 for many taxpayers, remember: the 30-day window for verification begins from the date you file your return, not from the deadline.

### WHY E-VERIFICATION MATTERS

e-Verification is the final step that completes the filing process. If you forget or delay it beyond 30 days, your return will be treated as if it was never filed. That could lead to late filing penalties, interest, or even a notice from the department.

"If you do not verify in time, your return is treated as not filed and it will attract all the consequences of not filing ITR under the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, you may

request condonation of delay in verification by giving appropriate reason.



Only after submission of such a request, you will be able to e-Verify your return. However, the return will be treated valid only once the condonation request has been approved by the competent Income Tax Authority," mentioned the Income Tax Department. However, one can still

verify your return online, even after 120 days. However, you'll need to request a condonation of delay by explaining the reason for missing the deadline. Your return will be considered verified only if the Income Tax Department approves your request, said IT Department.

### HOW TO E-VERIFY YOUR RETURN

To e-verify your return, you have multiple options. You can use an OTP sent to your Aadhaar-registered mobile, or generate an EVC via your pre-validated bank or demat account. Other methods include verification through ATM, net banking, or using a Digital Signature Certificate.

Filing your return is only part of the process. Verifying it on time is equally important. A small oversight now could lead to big tax troubles later. So, file it, verify it, and

## From easier claim rules to Jan-dhan scheme: RBI's 3 key reforms for common man

### New Delhi (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday left the key repo rate unchanged at 5.5%, as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) wrapped up its three-day meeting headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The central bank also decided to stick with its neutral stance, suggesting that interest rates may remain steady for now. Alongside its rate decision, the RBI also rolled out several developmental steps aimed at making banking smoother for customers and boosting retail participation in government bonds.

### STANDARDISATION OF CLAIM SETTLEMENT FOR DECEASED ACCOUNTHOLDERS

Currently, banks follow different procedures when settling claims for deposit accounts or lockers after a customer's death, causing confusion and delays for family members. To improve customer service and reduce hardship, the RBI plans to introduce a uniform process across all banks. This

includes standard documentation and streamlined procedures for nominees, legal heirs, or survivors to access funds or retrieve items from lockers. A draft circular will soon be released for public



toschedule both fresh investments and re-investments in T-bills through automatic bids in primary auctions. It helps investors participate regularly without manually placing bids each time. This update builds on recent innovations, including a mobile app launch in May 2024, aimed at boosting retail participation in the G-Sec market.

### RE-KYC AND INCLUSION DRIVES LINKED TO JAN DHAN YOJANA

As the Jan Dhan Scheme marks its 10th anniversary, many account holders are due for re-KYC updates. To manage this, banks are setting up doorstep service camps at Panchayat levels from July 1 to September 30. These camps will help with re-KYC processes, opening new accounts, and promoting social security schemes such as micro-insurance and pensions. The initiative is also aimed at spreading financial literacy and resolving customer grievances, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, enhancing financial inclusion.

## There's still hope for another 50 bps cut in interest rate: Analysts' reaction to RBI policy

### New Delhi (Agency)

Even as the RBI pushed the pause button on rate cut, and maintained the 'neutral' stance, experts are still hopeful of another 50 basis points rate cut in the current financial year given the emerging global trade scenario. The pause in rate cut was expected as the Monetary Policy Committee – the rate setting panel of the Central Bank – had frontloaded the rate cut by going for a 50 bps cut instead of 25 bps in the June monetary policy. Since February, the RBI has cut the repo rate by 100 bps.

"With medium-term inflation now projected to hover around the 4% mark, we expect the terminal repo rate in this cycle to settle near 5%. This points to room for an additional 50 bps reduction, with the possibility of a further 25 bps cut should inflation consistently remain below 4%," says

Sujan Hajra, chief economist & executive director, Anand Rathi Group. The RBI in its policy statement has maintained the GDP growth at 6.5% in



forecast to 3.1% from 3.7% earlier. RBI's decision to keep rates steady emanates from their focus on one-year-ahead expected inflation that's looking comfortably above 4%, while growth in their view has held up well, despite global uncertainty, says Madhavi Arora, Chief Economist, Emkay Global Financial Services. However, she thinks going ahead downside risks to growth would be increasingly evident with new global resets and could still open up space for easing in remainder of the year.

Arsh Mogre, economist, PL Capital, argues that while headline inflation remains benign and June's front-loaded 50 bps cut still transmits through the system, the MPC appears

acutely aware that downside risks to growth from tariff spillovers are not yet

fully priced in.

## Hit by Trump tariff and slowdown, no relief for housing sector as repo rate stays flat

### New Delhi (Agency)

India's real estate sector feels that a repo rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting outcome would have boosted confidence among buyers amidst a slowdown phase and additional pressure caused by US President Donald Trump's new 25% tariffs on Indian goods. The RBI kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.5% and retained its 'Neutral' stance in the August MPC meeting, citing inflation stability and geopolitical uncertainty. The decision follows a cumulative 100 bps rate cut earlier this year and comes as former US President Donald Trump threatens a 25% tariff on Indian exports, a move that could impact nearly \$100 billion in outbound trade and shave 30 bps off FY26 GDP growth.

Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Group said that the Indian real estate weathers unrelenting turbulence as the sentiment is pressured by Trump's new 25% tariffs and a notable 20% plunge in housing sales across top metros, as per the latest

ANAROCK data. In Q2 2025 alone, just 96,285 homes were sold, a steep fall from 120,335 a year ago, indicating increasing buyer hesitancy and market uncertainty. "A rate cut leading to lower interest rate environment would have particularly boosted the affordable housing segment, which has been under considerable pressure in recent years," added Puri. ANAROCK data shows that average residential prices across the top 7 cities combined have increased by 39% in the last two years alone – from INR 6,470 per sq. ft. as of Q2 2023 to INR 8,990 per sq. ft. as of Q2 2025. "The affordable housing segment's fate may be further damped by the ongoing global trade tensions and tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. This is largely because of its impact on the MSMEs – the key target audience of the affordable segment," stated Puri. Samir Jasuja, Founder & CEO, PropEquity said that with the ongoing trade war, geo-political tensions, volatility in global financial market and tech sector layoffs in India may have

some repercussion on India's economic growth going forward including in sectors like exports, real estate etc. Housing sales have also come down from its highs. While the RBI has cut repo rate by 100bps in 2025 to 5.5%, it was, however, pertinent that the apex bank continued its easing stance in its announcement today to provide support to India's growth amidst falling inflation and good monsoon," added Jasuja. G. Hari Babu, National President of NAREDCO believe that to further strengthen the real estate sector, the repo rate should be brought down below 5.5%, and the RBI should consider reducing the repo rate in the next MPC. "The real estate market needs a boost right now. A reduction in the repo rate will encourage developers to start new projects and home buyers to buy homes during the festive season. This move will increase confidence among home buyers due to low interest rates, which will increase housing demand, and especially the affordable housing segment can benefit from it," stated Babu. What realtors and industry experts said

Piyush Bothra, Co-Founder and CFO, Square Yards: "The decision to maintain the repo rate at its current level reflects a 'watchful waiting' approach amidst a mixed economic landscape. Domestically, India's growth remains resilient, and recent inflation figures have been benign, staying below the RBI's target range. However, the global economic environment presents uncertainties, including volatile commodity prices and the monetary policy stances of major central banks, which could have spill-over effects on our economy. For the residential sector, a further cut would have been a welcome festive bonus for homebuyers. This stability ensures that borrowing costs remain manageable and avoids any sudden shocks to the market. The onus now squarely falls on the banks to enhance the transmission of previous rate cuts, ensuring that the benefits of lower interest rates are fully passed on to homebuyers."



# Urvashi Rautela

**'Shattered' After Uttarakhand Cloudburst: 'You Are Not Alone, I Stand With You'**



Urvashi Rautela has expressed shock, concern and grief over the cloudburst in Uttarakhand. The actress, who also hails from Kotdwara in the state, issued a statement on Tuesday afternoon, soon after the tragedy and expressed that even her heart is "shattered" due to the devastation. "As a daughter of Haridwar, every stone, every river, every breath of Uttarakhand is part of my soul. Today, seeing the devastating floods in the Kheer Ganga river in Uttarkashi — my land, my people, my family — I feel an ache that words can barely hold," she stated.

"Homes have been swept away. Roads, shops, memories, and dreams... all washed in seconds. Families are searching for loved ones, children are crying for parents, and parents are praying for their missing children. This is not just a news story for me — this is my home. These are my people," the actress added.

Urvashi mentioned that she will try to help the affected in all possible ways and continued by saying, "To everyone in Dharali and all affected areas — please know that you are not alone. I stand with you, I pray with you, and I promise to use my voice, my reach, and my resources to bring attention and aid to you in every possible way."

"I humbly request my fans, my well-wishers across India and around the world — let's unite. Even a small contribution, even sharing verified relief links, even sending prayers — it matters. It saves lives. Uttarakhand has always risen after every storm. We will rise again. Our rivers may rage, but our spirit is stronger. I will personally be working with local organisations and authorities to ensure that help reaches those who need it most," she said. The actress concluded by saying, "Let us hold each other in love and compassion during this time of unthinkable loss. And let us rebuild — not just with bricks, but with kindness. Uttarakhand, I am with you. Always."

For the unversed, two massive mudslides occurred in Dharali village and over Harshil Army Camp on Tuesday and leading to over four deaths and dozens being washed away. The devastating mudslide triggered by a cloudburst struck the village in Uttarakhand's Kheer Ganga area and sent torrents of debris and water cascading through the settlement.

# Disha Patani's Sister Khushboo Threatens Legal Action Against Trolls Amid Fake Video Controversy

Bollywood actress Disha Patani's sister and ex-army officer Khushboo Patani recently blasted religious orator Aniruddhacharya Maharaj for his remark on live-in relationships, but many misunderstood and assumed that she was questioning Pramanand Ji Maharaj for his statement on youngsters having multiple relationships. After she started getting trolled for this misunderstanding, she put out an official clarification, and now she has shared a video and threatened that she will take legal action if the trolling persists. Khushboo Patani

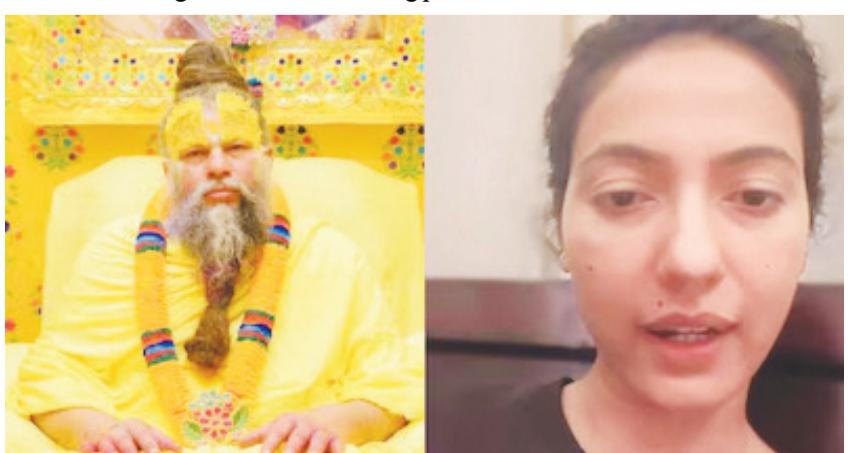
We will be filing defamation under IPC 499 and 500, for forgery and manipulation under IPC 465 and 469, spreading fake news or misleading content under IPC 505(1)(b), hurting the modesty of a woman, cyber crime, and online harassment of me under IT ACT 66, 66D, 67 against you! I will not spare!... other names as follows... @utsavshukla.news, @delhi\_ka\_deepak\_official (sic).

The outrage came after the religious orator was allegedly heard in a video saying, "Ladke laate hain 25 saal ki ladkiyon ko, jo 4-5 jagah mooh maar ke aati hain."

"As his comment went viral, Khushboo reacted to it, saying, "Agar ye mere saamne hota, to main isko samjha deti ki mooh maarna kya hota hai. These are anti-nationalists. You should not be supporting such bastards of the highest order."

Who is Khushboo Patani? A former Lieutenant in the Indian Army and elder sister of actor Disha Patani, Khushboo Patani hails from Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

After finishing her initial education at BBL Public School in her hometown, she pursued a degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the DIT School of Engineering. Later, she cleared a government exam and began her service in the Indian Army as a Lieutenant. Disha had also posted a photo of her sister to congratulate her when she cracked the lieutenant job. The actress affectionately refers to her sister as a Wonder Woman for her service in the military in the past.



captioned her post, "Fake News Against Me! Deliberate effort to defame me! (sic)" and added, "All accounts who are deliberately spreading fake news against me will be sued by me under the law of the land! @yourspiritualgirl this channel has put serious fake news against me which has nothing to do with me and puts me at unnecessary trolling and risk."



**Sara Khan Accuses Fashion Event Organisers Of Mental Harassment: 'Left Me In Shady Hotel'**



Sara Khan has levelled serious allegations against the organisers of the Delhi 6 Fashion Runway Week, claiming she was mentally harassed and placed in unsafe conditions during her visit to the capital. The actress took to social media on August 4 to detail her ordeal, warning others in the entertainment and fashion industry to be cautious while dealing with event organisers.

Khan, who rose to fame with her debut in Sapna Babul Ka... Bidaai, shared a video where she explained her version of events surrounding the August 2 fashion show she was invited to attend. Despite being a regular visitor to Delhi and having fond memories of the city, Khan said this trip was "the most terrible experience" of her career, which spans nearly two decades.

"I've been working in this industry since almost 18 years and this is the most terrible experience of my life. I was supposed to attend the event on August 2 in Delhi, a city I've always loved and they have been so welcoming always. However, the organisers failed to provide the basic safety, hospitality and commitments they promised," she said in the video.

According to her, not only was there a last-minute change of accommodation without any prior intimation, but she was also relocated to what she described as a "shady place" with no proper assistance from the organising team. "The only arrangement was a car with a driver, which I found very unacceptable. When I refused to proceed, one of the organisers threatened my team members," she said, adding that she eventually had to arrange her own return travel for safety reasons.

Without naming individuals, Khan called out the organisers for breaching trust and professionalism, and extended an apology to fans who were expecting her at the show.

"My safety was at risk and I had to prioritise that," she said. "This experience was completely unacceptable and I'm speaking out to warn others in the industry." On the professional front, Sara was last seen in Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya and has featured in numerous TV shows and films, including Bigg Boss 4, Hamari Adhuri Kahani, Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya, and Lock Upp.

**Take Cues From Surbhi Jyoti, Husband Sumit Suri For Your Next Fit Check Reel**



Surbhi Jyoti is spoiling us with back-to-back updates from her London diaries with her husband Sumit Suri. And honestly, we're loving it. Ever since they arrived in the UK to spend a cosy holiday, Surbhi hasn't missed a chance to keep her fans updated with fun and loving experiences. The couple is enjoying the iconic tourist spots in London, including Westminster Bridge. And what's more attractive is that they're serving pure glam in every look of their trip. After sharing a series of stunning pictures from the vacation, Surbhi has now shared a fit check reel on Instagram, and fans are gushing over it.

**Surbhi Jyoti's Fit Check Reel from London**  
Taking to Instagram, Surbhi shared a fit check reel, which shows the couple in different looks and different spots of London. In some clips they are just laughing together and in some they are just relaxing beneath a tree, but we must say that the looks are effortlessly cool. In the caption she wrote, "Living my best life."

Ever since they stepped into the United Kingdom, fans are eagerly waiting to catch every update from their trip. They rushed into the comments section and showered love for the duo.

One fan wrote, "What a lovely reel." while another fan commented, "What is better than real love and simple happiness. The reflection of two united hearts. . Love you both." the third fan added, "Oh my god, So cute."

**Some More Glimpses From Surbhi Jyoti's London Trip**

Right now, her Instagram is full of snaps from London. The actress is regularly posting fun and exciting updates on social media. In one of her latest posts she shared a few more glimpses from their vacation.

In her latest Instagram post, Surbhi Jyoti is seen turning the streets of London into her runway. Dressed in a casual yet chic outfit, she pairs a crisp white top with loose, tan paperbag trousers and white sneakers. Black shades and a grey cap complete her effortlessly cool travel look. With minimal makeup and open hair, Surbhi keeps it easy and elegant.

# The science behind a Happy Marriage

They say opposites attract. Like ones, repel. However, marriage is a different set of algorithms. It's far more complex, and calculated. Relationship counsellors claim that there are measures to make this fragile bond an ever lasting one. Here are six tried-and tested methods. Spend similar

If you like to keep your wardrobe up to date with the latest fashion magazine in sight, and he prefers to live off his four pairs of jeans and shirts, this, according to the laws of love, is detrimental to your marriage. A recent study suggested that people who were financial opposites had greater conflicts over money and lower marital satisfaction in the end than those whose spending tendencies were similar. Even though a spendthrift will have greater debt when married to someone similar than when married to a tightwad, the spender is less likely to argue about money with the partner.

## Be grateful about us

Be grateful for what you have, and the Universe will give you more opportunities and situations to be grateful for. Most feel gratitude, but seldom relay these feelings to their partners, assuming he or she just knows. Individuals who feel appreciated by their partners often hold less

resentment over any imbalance in labour and more satisfaction with their relationships. A study also suggested, spouses who use couple focused words such as 'we', 'our' and 'us' when talking about a conflict show more affection, fewer negative behaviours such as anger, and lower physiological stress levels during the disagreement. Using words that expressed separateness, such as 'I', 'you', and 'me', during the discussion was associated with dissatisfaction.

## Have a rollicking time in bed

You've likely met a neurotic in your lifetime, the person who gets upset easily, often has mood changes and worries constantly. Turns out, that personality trait doesn't mix well in relationships and is strongly tied to negative marital outcomes than any other personality type. Frequent sex could be a solution. Even if the sex isn't good now, keep at it. Another study found, it may get better with age. Men in their 50s are more satisfied with their sex lives than men in their 30s and 40s as it increases the bond.

## Make it quick



another mad, not to worry, says a researcher who has found that some marriages actually thrive on negative behaviours. For couples with serious problems, the best way to breed a happier marriage, it seems is by placing blame on each other, telling the other person to change, and being less forgiving. In fact, a research has found that if unhappy couples practise same positive thoughts about behaviours, their relationships seem to get worse over time. There is evidence to suggest placing blame and other negative exchanges can motivate partners to change. A research suggests marriage counsellors might do well to encourage troubled couples to be more critical of one another.

## Work hard at it

Love can stand the test of time if you apply elbow grease. In a study, researchers analysed surveys of several people, including new relationships and marriages that had lasted at least 20 years. A high number of people were still much in love with their long-term partners, though the researchers drew a distinction between romantic love, which can endure, and passionate or obsessive love, which tends to fade away soon.

The key to keeping that romance alive: hard work. Research has suggested these couples spend time and care about the relationship; they seem to be able to resolve conflicts relatively smoothly. Studies have also shown novel experiences can stimulate the production of the neuro-chemicals dopamine and norepinephrine, which show up in the brain in the early, blissful stages of a relationship.



If your spouse puts you off now, the future is bleak. According to a study showing that couples view one another as more irritating and demanding, the longer they are together. Researchers asked 800 individuals about their level of negativity towards their partner, children and friends. Spouses and partners took the top slot as the most annoying. And the negative views of spouses tended to increase over time. However, that increase in negativity could be a normal part of relationships.

## Be strong

While on the subject of spouses driving one



## Pamper your pets with the best care this winter



As winter sets in, everyone is busy pulling out shawls, coats and heaters out of storage. But for pet lovers, winter care for their furry pals can be a complicated matter. To help their pets in bearing the chilly winters of the city, Nashikites are giving an extra dose of care to them.

If it is too cold for you to stand at the door without your coat, it is probably too cold for your pet as well. Though some breeds have dense undercoats that protect them against very cold temperature these days there are insulated coats available for the other breeds. "As it is cold I purchased coats for my dog and they are quite useful. After all Brownie (her Pomeranian) is also part of the family," said Rajni Kharbanda, a homemaker. "For some, pet booties, jackets, scarves and caps might seem silly but these come in very handy for protecting your pet from the harsh winters," she added. Limiting your pet's time outdoors on cold days is certainly the most important

thing to do this winter. And doing that is very easy; just provide your four-legged companion with a warm and cozy indoor shelter. A comfortable chair, basket or even a box is all he needs to make a perfect bed. If keeping your pet indoors doesn't work for you, then make sure that their surroundings are lined with old rugs and linens to keep them warm.

Your pet needs to remain hydrated as he can get dehydrated just as quickly in the winter as summer. The water in the bowl kept outside can turn icy cold and the pet might not feel like drinking it. So keep replenishing the bowl after regular intervals. Another

important aspect to keep in mind

is that animals move around lesser during winters and so they need less food to eat.

Dr Dipti Barve, a dentist and proud owner of Alan, a Great Dane and Simba, a Labrador, informed, "Although your pet needs an extra layer to keep warm during winters, they don't need extra layers of fat. In fact, they move around lesser in the winters, so they need a little less food. I always feed my dogs with the highest quality natural pet food available to ensure they have a healthy coat and energy levels during winters."

Your pet won't mind if it's cold and dark because he still needs to be taken for a walk. Likewise bathing your pet is also absolutely needed.

Ask your vet on the frequency of giving your pet a bath. Apurva Jain, a student, shared, "I make sure I bathe my pet and spend quality time with him in the mornings so that he gets ample amount of sunshine to dry up." This is important because otherwise your pet will often seek heat by snuggling too close to heating sources like fire places, space heaters and lamps that pose a major threat to them.

With the increasing number of pets and pet owners, pet grooming has taken centrestage. Priyanka Kharbanda, another pet owner, said "I plan to start a grooming salon and spa services for pets. Dog training

and day care facilities at affordable rates is also the need of the hour." Dr Patil, a vet from the city, informed, "Fever, cough, constant sneezing and nose discharge are the most common problems among cats and dogs during this season. To prevent these, taking utmost care of your pet is necessary." So this winter, make sure your furry friend gets most of your attention and the best perks to stay healthy and enjoy the season.

## Tough jobs may protect memory

If you hate your job because it requires complex work with other people or data, you may now discard the negative thoughts as researchers have found that complex jobs help people retain their memory and thinking skills even after retirement.

The study found that people who held jobs with higher levels of complexity with data and people, such as management and teaching, had better scores on memory and thinking tests. "These results suggest that more stimulating work environments may help people retain their thinking skills, and that this might be observed years after they have retired," said study author Alan Gow from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Our findings have helped to identify the kinds of job demands that preserve memory and thinking later on," Gow added. For the study, the researchers tested memory and thinking abilities of 1,066 Scottish people with an average age of 70. The tests looked at memory, processing speed and general thinking ability. Researchers also gathered information about the jobs participants held. The job titles were assigned scores to the complexity of work with people, data and things. For example, complex jobs might involve coordinating or synthesizing data, while less complex jobs might involve copying or comparing data. In terms of working with others, more complex roles might involve instructing, negotiating or mentoring, while less complex jobs might involve taking instructions or helping. The analysis used levels of complexity according to the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

Examples of jobs that score highly for the complexity of work with people are: lawyer, social worker, surgeon. Examples of jobs that score highly for the complexity of work with data are: architect, civil engineer, graphic designer or musician.

