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## Nitin Gadkari's dare on E20 petrol row: Show a single instance of cars facing issue

► Speaking at a session during the Business Today India@100 Summit, Nitin Gadkari said no complaints had been reported so far and accused detractors of spreading misinformation about the government's ethanol-blending programme.

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday dismissed concerns over ethanol-blended petrol, challenging critics to produce even a single instance of it causing vehicle problems.

► Nitin Gadkari dismisses concerns over ethanol-blended petrol

► No reported vehicle issues from 20% ethanol blend so far

► Ethanol blending cuts oil imports and

Speaking at a session during the Business Today India@100 Summit, Gadkari said no complaints had been reported so far

and accused detractors of spreading misinformation about the government's ethanol-blending programme. "By putting 20% ethanol-blended petrol, has there been any car in the country that has faced issues? Just name one," he said, asserting that both the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) had issued statements supporting the rollout.

"There is no example of any car facing issues due to ethanol-blended petrol," he added. Gadkari also highlighted the economic and environmental benefits of ethanol blending. By reducing the country's crude oil import bill and curbing vehicular emissions, the programme, he said, supports both

energy security and climate goals.

He pointed out that ethanol production has created new income opportunities for farmers as well. "Corn was selling at Rs 1,200 per quintal. Now it's used to make



ethanol, and it fetches Rs 2,600 per quintal," he said, adding that this price jump was directly benefiting rural agricultural incomes.

Gadkari described the ethanol push as a "diversification of agriculture towards energy and power." He further suggested that some of the criticism may be driven by vested interests. "Some people may have vested interest in criticising this, but we do not need to worry about that," he said. "All these things are tested by the ARAI, there are reports, and then our ministry determines the standards."

His comments come days after the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued a detailed clarification addressing rising public concerns over the impact of 20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20) on vehicle performance. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the ministry dismissed these fears as "largely unfounded and not supported by scientific evidence or expert analysis."

## Rahul Gandhi slams EC for asking affidavit under oath, says he has taken oath in Parliament

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, speaking at the 'Vote Adhikar Rally' in Bengaluru on Friday, doubled down on his allegations of electoral malpractice and took a sharp dig at the Election Commission. He accused the poll body of working in tandem with the BJP to "steal the Lok Sabha election from the people." Responding to the Commission's demand for an affidavit under oath regarding his claims, Gandhi said, "The Election Commission is asking me to submit an affidavit and give information under oath. But I have already taken an oath inside Parliament while holding the Constitution."

Today when the people are questioning the Election Commission based on data he released, the EC has shut its website, Rahul Gandhi said. According to Rahul Gandhi, the EC websites in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar were taken offline because the authorities feared that if people started scrutinizing the data, the entire system could collapse.

The former Congress president further said, "In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, our alliance emerged victorious. However, just four months later, the BJP won the Maharashtra Assembly elections, which was a surprising outcome. Upon investigating, we discovered that 1 crore new voters, who had not participated in the Lok Sabha polls, cast their votes in the Maharashtra Assembly election." He alleged that these new votes primarily went to the BJP, indicating possible irregularities.

"Wherever these new voters cast their ballots, the BJP won. The vote count for our alliance remained unchanged, matching exactly the numbers from the Lok Sabha elections. It was these new voters who boosted the BJP's success in the Assembly elections," he added.

## Not a single objection filed by parties on Bihar poll revision: Poll body

The Election Commission of India said no political party has submitted any claim or objection so far.

### New Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission of India on Friday said that not even a single claim or objection has been submitted by any political party in the matter of Bihar electoral roll revision. The poll body highlighted that it has been over a week since the EC asked to submit claims and objections to rectify any errors in Bihar's electoral roll draft, which was published on August 1.

The poll body has been continuously asserting that the commission would ensure no eligible elector will be left out and no ineligible elector will be included in the final electoral roll of Bihar. However, according to news agency ANI, the commission has received 6,257 claims and objections directly from the electors with

respect to the draft roll till today, said the ECI in a daily bulletin on the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has sparked a political row, with the opposition INDIA bloc alleging that the revision process could lead to the deletion of a large number of voters.

Meanwhile, Election Commission of India source while talking to India Today said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has two choices. If he believes his allegations against the ECI are true, he should sign the declaration required by the Commission. If he refuses to sign, it would mean he does not



believe in his own analysis and allegations, and in that case, he should apologise to the nation.

The comments came days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi levelled serious allegations of "vote theft" against the poll body. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha alleged that the elections are "choreographed". Presenting Congress' research on voting in the Mahadevapura Assembly in Karnataka, Gandhi

alleged "vote chori" (vote theft) of 1,00,250 votes.

"Either sign the declaration or apologise to the nation," said poll body source. The Commission also said it wants Rahul Gandhi to sign the declaration and take an oath as per the rules before all facts are made public. This, they said, will prevent him from changing his position later and avoid

repeated incidents of raising claims without backing them up. Meanwhile, according to Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar orders, no name can be deleted from the draft list published on August 1, without passing a speaking order by the ERO/AERO after conducting an enquiry and after giving a fair and reasonable opportunity.

## Rekha Gupta Demands Action Over Rs 5,200 Crore Labour Fund

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi. 8 August 2025

Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta delivered a strong statement in the Delhi Legislative Assembly today, criticising the previous government for making grand declarations regarding workers' welfare without translating them into meaningful action. She revealed that Rs 5,200 crore remained unused in the labour welfare fund, while thousands of workers continued to wait for essential support and benefits. She termed the anti-worker mindset of the former administration, the Chief Minister noted that while the Central Government provides registration and renewal services to workers completely free of charge, the Delhi Government under the previous regime imposed fees Rs 25 for registration and Rs 20 for renewal. This unnecessary burden led to a situation where only 7 percent of workers' data was renewed annually in Delhi, compared to 100 percent renewal at the national level. The Chief Minister recalled how the Supreme Court rebuked the Delhi Government, questioning why only Rs 2,000 had been given to each worker when the approved assistance was Rs 8,000. "What happened to the remaining Rs 6,000?" the court had asked, underlining the

failure to deliver the full benefits owed.

Mrs Rekha Gupta described it as deeply unfortunate that despite having rightful access to these schemes, lakhs of workers in Delhi were deprived of their entitlements. The Rs 5,200 crore remained idle while the working class waited for relief. The Supreme Court eventually had to instruct the government to



credit Rs 8,000 into the bank accounts of 90,000 eligible workers. Quoting the CAG report, the Chief Minister detailed how funds allocated for various schemes such as maternity benefits, disability support, tool purchase, housing assistance, family pensions, accident compensation, and skill development remained either unutilised or grossly underutilised over several years.

Continued news page 2

## Amit Shah to lay foundation for Rs 883-crore Janaki temple at Bihar's Punaura Dham

The Bihar cabinet has sanctioned Rs 882.87 crore for the integrated development of the temple complex on July 1.

### PATNA. (Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will lay the foundation stone for Janaki temple at Punaura Dham in Bihar's Sitamarhi on Friday. He will be accompanied by chief minister Nitish Kumar and his ministerial colleagues at the event. The temple will be developed on the lines of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Punaura Dham is believed to be the mythological birthplace of Goddess Sita. Several saints from across the country have already reached the venue. Amidst the chanting of mantras, the foundation stone will be laid for the grand temple, to be constructed over an area of more than 67 acres. The temple complex is likely to be completed within 11 months.

The Bihar cabinet had sanctioned Rs 882.87 crore for the integrated development of the temple complex on July 1. Of the total, Rs 137 crore will be spent on the development of the old temple and premises, Rs 728 crore on tourism-related development, and Rs 16 crore for comprehensive maintenance over 10 years. The Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC) will implement the project. The state government has created a nine-member trust, "Shree Janaki Jann Bhumi Punaura Dham Mandir Nyas Samiti" at Punaura village in Sitamarhi district. Nitish Kumar unveiled the final design for the grand temple on June 22, 2025. A total of 17 acres of land is already available at the site, while 50 acres is being acquired to develop the complex on a massive scale. The state cabinet had on July 29 sanctioned a revised estimate of Rs 165.57 crore for the 50-acre land acquisition for tourism-related development and infrastructure at Punaura Dham. Beautification of Maa Janaki Kund will also be carried out.



### New Delhi. (Agency)

India must consider reviewing its strategic partnership with the US which has "changed its attitude" through the imposition of 50 percent tariff on Indian goods, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, the Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram said India has its own self interests and suggested the country look for new markets instead of solely relying on the US.

"What is happening is concerning. A country with which we had close relations, and we were working as strategic partners, if that country has changed its attitude, then India will have to think about many things," he

said.

His remarks came days after US President Donald Trump on Wednesday escalated his tariff offensive against India by slapping an additional 25 percent duty and subsequently doubling it to 50 percent on Indian goods over New Delhi's continuous imports of Russian oil. India condemned the "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" move that is likely to hit sectors such as textiles, marine and leather exports hard. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, said New Delhi would not back down in the face of economic pressure.

With this action singling out New Delhi for the Russian oil imports, India will



attract the highest US tariff of 50 percent along with Brazil.

"If this is just a negotiating tactic, we have heard of Mr Trump's style of inking deals, and whether we can hold talks and find a way out in the coming two to three weeks, we don't know. But India also has its own self interests, our

## "A Country That Has Changed Attitude...": Shashi Tharoor On Trump Tariff

## Tamil Nadu unveils State Education Policy, counters NEP with two-language system

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday unveiled the State Education Policy (SEP) at the Anna Centenary Library Auditorium in Kotturpuram, positioning it as a clear alternative to the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP).

A 14-member committee headed by retired Justice Murugesan was constituted in 2022 to draft the new policy. The panel submitted its recommendations to the Chief Minister in July last year, and the document has now been formally released.

The SEP will retain the state's two-language policy, rejecting NEP's three-language formula, and recommend undergraduate admissions for arts and science courses based on consolidated marks from Classes



11 and 12 instead of a common entrance exam, as per sources.

It also pushes back against NEP's proposal for public exams in Classes 3, 5 and 8, calling it regressive, anti-social justice, and a potential cause for higher dropout rates and commercialisation of education.

The committee has proposed a big push for science, artificial intelligence, and English, along with substantial investment in state-run institutions.

It has also recommended bringing education back under the state list from the concurrent list.

Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh said, "Till 10th standard, across all boards, including CBSE, ICSE, and the State board, students will study Tamil. We are dead against the three-language policy in NEP."



## Rekha Gupta Demands Action Over Rs 5,200 Crore Labour Fund

For instance, under the Tool Assistance Scheme, not a single worker received the promised Rs 20,000 between 2018 and 2024, despite the importance of such support in ensuring worker self-reliance. Similarly, financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh under the Permanent Disability Scheme saw zero disbursement for several consecutive years. In the case of medical assistance, no benefits were extended in the years 2018, 2019, 2022, or 2024 figures that the Chief Minister called "shocking".

Other schemes such as coaching support, skill training, travel passes, and emergency aid for female workers during miscarriage were also reduced to mere token gestures. Reiterating the unfair registration and renewal charges, CM Gupta stated that such policies further discouraged workers from staying enrolled in the system. Calling this situation a reflection of AAP's "elitist mentality", the Chief Minister demanded that the matter be immediately referred to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). She further urged that stringent action be taken against all responsible officials and ministers who failed in their duty to uphold the rights and welfare of Delhi's workers.

## Why NCR's gateway to hills is the deadliest highway stretch

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Two stretches of NH-44 in Haryana — Sonapat to Ambala and Faridabad to Palwal — have emerged among the most dangerous segments of India's longest highway. This 266-km section of the highway in the state witnessed 813 accidents and claimed 486 lives in 2024 alone.

According to officials of road transport ministry and NHAI, a 2023 survey by SaveLife Foundation ranked Haryana and Delhi sections of the highway as the most unsafe stretch in the country. Meanwhile, the stretch between Sonapat and Ambala, which is the gateway to the Himalayas, has 40 designated blackspots — areas identified as particularly prone to accidents. The Faridabad-Palwal corridor has also reported a high frequency of fatal crashes. The major causes behind these accidents include speeding, reckless and wrong-side driving, illegal parking of trucks, drunk driving, and unauthorised road cuts. Inadequate pedestrian infrastructure, such as the absence of footbridges and subways, also contributes to the death toll, forcing people to cross busy lanes and exposing them to high-speed traffic. According to a 2024 police report, five blackspots in Sonapat alone were the sites of 30 accidents that resulted in 29 deaths and 11 injuries. These zones include the area near the ESI dispensary, the Pahar Nutrition to Antil Auto stretch on GT Road, the segment between Chiranjiv Hospital and Today's Diaries India, the Gulshan Dhaba to Siddharth Punjabi Dhaba stretch near Murthal Flyover, and the area from Madan Dhaba to Jhilmil Dhaba. Most of these accidents were linked to speeding, poor road conditions, and heavy traffic. NHAI has confirmed that foot overbridges are being planned for some of these locations in Sonapat.

In Panipat, the traffic police identified ten accident-prone areas along the highway. These include areas near Aggarwal Bhaji Samalkha to Kesar Dhaba, from Ram Lal Chowk to Laal Batti Chowk and Hotel Sky Lark, and near Abinandhan to the Nexa Showroom at Nangal Kheri. From Jan 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025, these locations recorded 227 accidents, with 135 of them taking place in 2024 alone. These resulted in nearly 100 deaths, with 84 being fatal crashes.

## Poor construction or upkeep After staircase collapse, blame game begins

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Days after a staircase collapsed at Green View Apartment in Vasundhara, a blame game between UP Housing Board and RWA of the society has begun.

On the one hand, RWA says UP Housing Board is responsible for the incident, citing poor construction, while on the other, the board has laid the blame on the former, saying it "failed" to carry out its duty to maintain the society. On Wednesday, UP Housing Board issued a notice to the RWA to carry out an inspection of its apartments and undertake repair and maintenance work of the common area. The notice says, "In case of any untoward incident due to lack of maintenance of the apartment, the responsibility will be on the RWA, which could also invite suitable action against the concerned RWA."

This has triggered a debate between the board and the RWA. UP Housing Board executive engineer Nikhil Maheshwari said, "Notices have not been issued to the Green View Apartment only but a few other apartments as well and we expect affirmative action on the part of the RWA, which will preempt incidents like the one that took place in Green View Apartment in Vasundhara, in which the staircase collapsed and residents had a providential escape." Early on Sunday, a father-son duo and their pet dog were rescued after the staircase leading to their third-floor apartment came crashing down.

Pankaj Sharma, a resident and auditor of Green View Apartment, while reacting to the notice, said, "The board is shirking from its responsibility by issuing such notices. It was the UP Housing Board which, about 27 years ago, developed the society and the staircase collapse incident is proof enough that during the making of the society, the structural safety was compromised. We demand that a structural audit of such buildings be conducted by the UP Housing Board, which administers Vasundhara township, and give us in writing how many years a particular building is safe to inhabit." Reacting to this, Maheshwari said, "The incident took place because of poor maintenance. The society is about 27-28 years old, and there is a functional RWA there, which should have taken up maintenance work from time to time, which it didn't. To add to the problem, about 250-300 flower pots have been placed on both sides of the staircase, including the one that collapsed. They have even converted the terrace into a terrace garden against the norms and the RWA remained a mute spectator to this."

# Avoid these 9 hotspots to dodge stray cattle, snarls in MCG, MCM areas

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

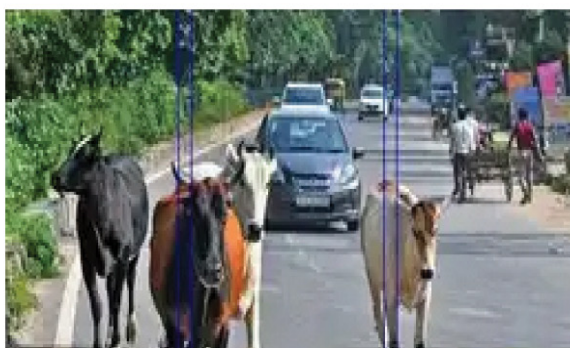
The stray cattle problem on the city's roads doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon. But municipal agencies — MCG and MCM — have identified nine hotspots that you can keep in mind when you drive around. These places, according to the agencies, see higher cattle concentration because of bovines converging at these spots from different areas. Among the hotspots is Wazirabad traffic signal, Anaj Mandi, New Colony and Hero Honda Chowk, which all report heavy traffic snarls. Accidents and traffic chaos are common at these places because of the unexpected appearance of cattle on the roads. The hotspots for stray cattle identified by the civic agencies include — besides the above four areas — Badshapur Sabzi Mandi, Sector 90, Sector 50, Faridabad-Gurgaon Toll and Manesar Bus Stand. As the millennium city reels under the cattle menace,

residents bear the brunt.

Poonam Kumar, a resident of Sector 14, said stray cattle are a big problem all across the city. "You go to any part of the city and one will find stray cattle sitting in the middle of the road, causing congestion," said Kumar, adding that in some cases, stray cattle become aggressive, posing a risk to the lives of commuters, particularly pedestrians and two-wheeler riders. Prabhjot Singh, a resident of Sector 10A, said Hero Honda Chowk is one of the busiest junctions in the city and the presence of stray cattle further adds to the chaos at the junction. "It is strange that authorities do not see the stray cattle and they have failed to do anything about the issue," said Singh.

During the last five years, MCG has spent around Rs 150 crore on catching stray cattle, but it has hardly had any significant impact on the city streets. The civic

officials put the blame on local herders. They say the agency capturing the stray cattle is facing resistance from local herders. "Our drive to catch the stray cattle



faces stiff resistance from the local herders. They even attack the team and vandalise the vehicle," said an MCG official, adding that the MCG has requested police protection during the

drive. The civic agency has also requested the animal husbandry department to tag all the cattle at dairies in the city. Around 2,000 stray cattle — including cows, bulls and calves — were captured by the civic agencies during the last six months. MCG hired two agencies and MCM hired one agency for catching stray cattle. The civic bodies pay Rs 1,000 for catching one stray cattle. Gurgaon has two gaushalas in Caterpuri and Chauma, which house around 3,500 cattle. Besides, MCG sent more than 3,000 stray cattle to three different gaushalas in Nuh at Silani and Sangel. The MCG spends around Rs 50 lakh every year on fodder for cattle kept at these shelters. Manesar also has a cow shelter, but it has no space left for additional cattle.

## Audit flags irregularities in Gurgaon civic body's accounts, rule violations

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Flagging financial irregularities worth Rs 9.1 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal year, a govt auditor in its report said that the corporation's accounts were "in a miserable condition" and in "need of improvement and closer supervision".

The Haryana Local Audit department, said in the report released on Wednesday, that the corporation made advance payments of Rs 5.8 crore to other govt departments for development work. These advances, the report said, were often "drawn arbitrarily", even if they weren't required, reflecting a "sorry state of affairs". On this, the auditor recommended that unutilised advance amounts should be refunded by the departments to MCG. Another Rs 3.2 crore was spent by MCG for projects awarded on quotation by the contractors instead of following the mandatory bidding process. This, the auditor said, was a clear violation of norms. The report, accessed by TOI, is set to be tabled at the MCG House when it convenes on Aug 11 to form the civic body's finance and contracts committee (FCC). The state auditor raised questions about other practices by MCG. It pointed out that the contract for treating waste at Bandhwari landfill site was originally given to Ecogreen Envirotech. Later, work at the landfill was sub-contracted to other firms and the cost was to be borne by Ecogreen. The auditor has sought a response from MCG and said that, if required, the corporation should recover from Ecogreen the amount spent on the sub-contracts. The report noted that MCG went beyond its financial limit of Rs 2.5 crore a year in operating two of its cow shelters. "No concrete action was taken on the last audit report (2022-23); cases of temporary advances were noticed; excess/irregular and avoidable expenditure were noticed; irregularities noticed in works accounts of the MC (municipal corporation); cases of non/short recoveries and losses were pointed out; defective maintenance of record."

## Locals protest Pachgaon toll plaza plan, want underpass

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Construction work on the proposed new toll plaza at Pachgaon came to a standstill on Thursday after local villagers staged a protest, demanding that the govt first fulfil its promise of constructing an underpass at the site. Residents from 30 villages gathered for a panchayat and warned of intensified agitation if the toll plaza project was not scrapped. They claimed that the highway authorities earlier started the construction of a flyover at this location but the plan was shelved and replaced with a toll plaza without consultation with them. Later, the authorities said that an underpass would be constructed to ease traffic movement but no work on it has started till date, they said. "The authorities promised to make an underpass here. Now, they have put that plan on hold and have started building a toll plaza. A panchayat was held on the issue, and it was decided that we will intensify our protest if the underpass is not constructed here," said Mahavir Singh, a

resident of Pachgaon. Last month, NHAI started the process of relocating Kherki Daula toll plaza from its current location on NH-48 to Pachgaon. The decision to shift the toll plaza was taken by the



Haryana govt after years of public outcry over traffic bottlenecks and financial burden at Kherki Daula, especially affecting residents of new sectors and commuters working in the Manesar industrial area. However, locals in Pachgaon and surrounding villages now say they are being burdened without adequate infrastructure being provided in

return. Leaders from several villages and farmer organisations will convene for a meeting on Sunday and decide the next course of action, residents said.

"There is no crossing on NH-48. The underpass needs to be constructed as promised. If a toll plaza comes up here, pollution and traffic in the area will increase. Within a short distance, there will be three toll plazas, including two on KMP. How is this justified?" asked Ramehar, another resident of Pachgaon.

According to NHAI officials, a flyover was initially proposed at the site. However, after the Haryana govt requested that the toll plaza be shifted from Kherki Daula to Pachgaon, the flyover works could not be taken up. "As per the renewed configuration, it was conveyed to the villagers that construction of an underpass was being considered. The sub-ground level design is undergoing feasibility assessment," an NHAI official told TOI.

## Build roads first: Industry owners protest YEIDA's deadline notices

**Noida. (Agency)**

Industrial allottees of plots along the Yamuna Expressway have raised serious concerns over the lack of basic infrastructure such as roads in YEIDA's first industrial sectors — 32 and 33. Industrialists also alleged that many allottees have not received possession of their plots even after more than a decade, despite paying in full. This development comes after the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) had issued notices asking industrial allottees to submit timelines for completing their projects. Industrialists noted that roads in the sectors are still incomplete, plots are waterlogged during rains, and essential services like electricity, sewerage, drainage, and water supply are either missing or non-functional. YEIDA's expectations of immediate construction are unrealistic given these conditions, they said. The Yamuna Expressway Entrepreneurs Association (YEEA) has now urged the Authority to first complete

infrastructure development before enforcing project deadlines on entrepreneurs. In a letter to YEIDA CEO RK Singh, the association said that at least 115 industrial allottees from the 2013 schemes (Schemes 01 and 02) are still awaiting their checklists, which are a prerequisite for lease deed execution and possession. Despite it being 12 years since, many plots in sectors 32 and 33 remain inaccessible, while allotments from more recent schemes have already received possession, the association added. A total of 821 plots were allotted in the industrial plot schemes in 2013 in the two sectors. The association also raised the issue of incomplete land acquisition, pointing out that around 20-30% of land in the two sectors is yet to be acquired.

A proposal submitted in 2024 for land acquisition was withdrawn during YEIDA's 85th board meeting on June 18. As a result, development in these sectors is being carried out in bits and pieces, with unconnected roads, unlinked drainage

systems, and unfinished infrastructure. Crucial road links such as the 75m entry road to Sector 33 and the 30m internal connector road remain unconstructed. Entrepreneurs said that, after a joint inspection with YEIDA officials in April 2023, they were promised full possession within 90 days, but no substantial progress has been made since. Adding to their woes, industrialists said Sector 32 has no electricity infrastructure in most lanes, and Sector 33, especially the MSME zone, is also without a functioning supply. Entrepreneurs claim they are forced to rely on diesel generators for construction work, increasing pollution and operational costs. They further said that while YEIDA claims to have completed the infrastructure, UPPCL has not taken possession, stating that the facility is incomplete. "Expecting factory construction in sectors where there are no roads or electricity is completely unrealistic,"

# Greater Noida bagged Rs 6,870 crore from land allotments in 2 years

**Noida/Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Noida: Greater Noida Authority has allotted 105 plots spanning 8.6 lakh sqm across various sectors since 2023, generating over Rs 6,870 crore in estimated premium.

In the 2024-25 financial year alone, GNIDA allotted eight builder plots covering 2 lakh sqm to earn Rs 2,054.5 crore. Officials said large-scale residential and mixed-use real estate projects are to come up on the plots.

Last year, 17 commercial plots across 80,155 sqm, which will be used for shopping centres, offices and mixed-use facilities, earned the Authority Rs 993 crore. In the industrial segment, G N I D A allotted 37 plots with a cumulative area of 3.29 lakh sqm since 2023 and earned over Rs 203 crore. Most of these industrial plots are



located in Ecotech-XI, which has evolved into a preferred destination for industries in sectors such as textiles, electronics, packaging, lighting, footwear, and food processing.

To accelerate industrial growth, GNIDA floated a scheme in May 2025 offering 39 additional industrial plots sized between 450 and 8,000 square meters through e-auction. These plots together cover an area of 17.84 acres, and the allotment process is currently underway. In one of the largest industrial investment deals, GNIDA allotted a plot to Avaada Electro

Pvt Ltd on Nov 21, 2024, under the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Investment & Employment Promotion Policy 2022 for a solar ingot wafer manufacturing unit with a proposed investment of Rs 8,000 crore. The allotted plot, purchased at a cost of Rs 44 crore, is expected to generate employment for 7,200 people. GNIDA is also preparing for the establishment of a Multimodal Logistics Park across 174 acres of land. Several companies, including Adani Ports, have applied to be part of the project. A minimum investment of Rs 1,200 crore

has been mandated, excluding the land cost, which is estimated to be around Rs 800 crore. Once approved, this park is set to become a major logistics hub in North India, supporting freight, warehousing, and allied services. In the institutional category, GNIDA has allotted 26 plots since 2023, covering an area of 2.4 lakh sqm (59 acres) and generating an estimated revenue of Rs 3,357.5 crore. These plots are spread across sectors such as KP-3, Sector-10, Techzone-4, and Omega-1, and have been allotted to a mix of educational trusts, hospitals, private institutions, cultural organisations, and religious bodies. The single largest institutional plot was allotted to JSS Mahavidyapeetha, which received a 1,14,200 sqm plot in Techzone-2. The upcoming campuses, hospitals, and research centres as a part of the proposed project is expected to generate Rs 2,958 crore, accounting for nearly 88% of the total institutional revenue since 2023.

GNIDA also recorded its first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2024 with the allotment of land to Vision Source LLP, a global eye care hospital chain. The land, allotted last Sept for a proposed investment of Rs 475 crore, is expected to create 4,500 jobs.

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# India's semiconductor sector poised for lift-off: Smartphones to space tech

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: A state-of-the-art national research and development centre for next-generation display devices and optical technologies based on semiconductors is being established by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) in Chandigarh. This centre, named Opto Microelectronic Research Centre, will address the needs of strategic sectors like defence and space, as well as healthcare, telecommunications, and automotive sectors. The facility, the first of its kind in the country, will initially focus on the design, assembly, testing, and packaging of mini-displays and later move on to other equipment like new types of head-up displays

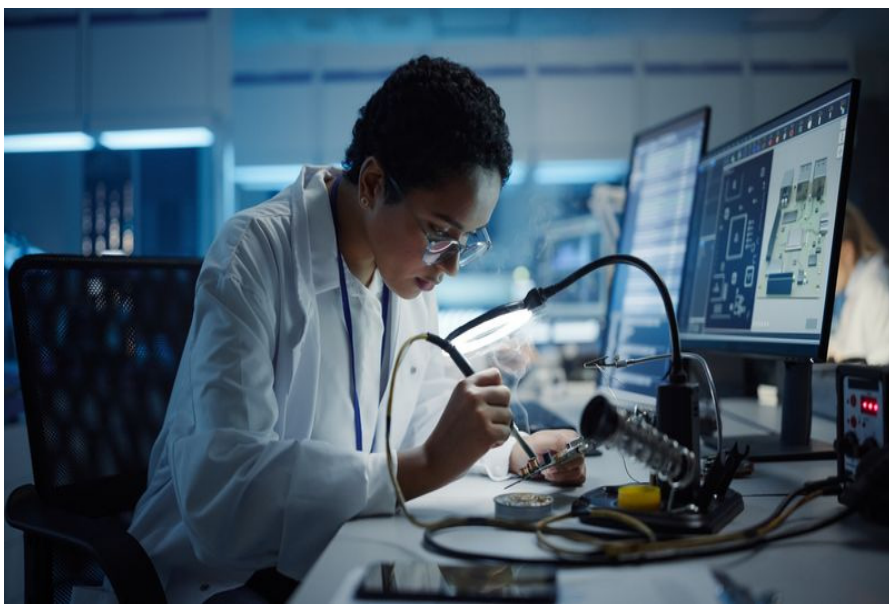
for aircraft. This will fill the gap in the indigenisation of futuristic high-technology gadgets. "Our aim is to address the existing and future challenges obstructing indigenisation in strategic and commercial display devices and optical technologies and to take a step forward in providing a well-versed research and development ecosystem for the rising semiconductor industries in India," a scientist at CSIO said. Semiconductors have become a critical part of the industry because they are the foundational building blocks of modern electronics, acting as the "hidden brains" that make devices work. They are crucial for a vast array of technologies across different disciplines. Acting as a brain, semiconductor chips help machines take decisions while processing

heavy data, giving them iterative direction. Their ability to control electrical conductivity makes them ideal for use in virtually all electronic devices, ranging from smartphones and computers to cars and spacecraft. Semiconductors are materials whose electrical conductivity lies between that of conductors and insulators. They can behave as either, depending on the conditions and requirements, making them ideal for electronic devices. Semiconductors are also essential for the development of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, edge computing, and 5G communication. A great deal of resources is

being devoted to semiconductor technology, and its

tronic devices. With greater digitalisation and automa-

independence. The acute shortage of chips during



advancement is fuelling innovation in various fields, leading to smaller, faster, and more powerful elec-

tronic devices. With greater digitalisation and automa-

independence. The acute shortage of chips during

## Delhi Police SI held for taking Rs 40,000 bribe

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday apprehended a Sub-Inspector (SI) of the Delhi Police for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a complainant, the agency said. The Sub-Inspector, Vijay Singh, who was posted at the North Rohini police station, has been suspended with immediate effect. "The CBI apprehended SI Vijay Singh, who was posted at the North Rohini police station, while accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 in a case being investigated by him. SI Vijay and his supervisory officer, SHO of the North Rohini police station, have been placed under suspension with immediate effect and departmental proceedings have been initiated against them," the Delhi Police said in a statement on X. The CBI registered a case against the SI on Tuesday based on a complaint alleging that the officer had demanded a bribe of Rs 50,000 for not arresting the complainant's cousin and also helping him to secure anticipatory bail. After negotiation, the SI agreed to accept the bribe of Rs 40,000. A trap was laid and the SI was caught red-handed while accepting the money, an official said. The official said further investigation was on in the case. The CBI has urged people to report any instances of corruption or bribery by government officials.

### Lost & Found

LOST ORIGINAL PARTITION DEED BETWEEN SAGAR CHAND CHAWLA AND SUBHASH CHANDER CHAWLA OF PROPERTY NO. 71/34, FREEM NAGAR, JAWAHARPUR, NEW DELHI 110058. If found Contact - 9811451551

### Lost & Found

Lost property documents of property no. 5/3, Facility Center Mayapuri, Phase-2, New Delhi - 110064 in the name of Satpal Singh s/o Ajit Singh. If found contact 9818521210

### DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, AVTAR SINGH Father of No-13700688, Rank-NK, Presently residing at PATI TANGER, VILL & PO-VAIN POIN, DISTT-TARN TARAN, PUNJAB-143401, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 26/04/1967 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/10/1970 vide Affidavit dated 08/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, NINDER KAUAR Mother of No-13700688, Rank-NK, Presently residing at PATI TANGER, VILL & PO-VAIN POIN, DISTT-TARN TARAN, PUNJAB-143401, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/08/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/10/1970 vide Affidavit dated 08/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, DIPTI DEVI W/O RATTAN LAL R/O A-485, GHAROLI DAIRY FARM, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-3, SECTOR-20, FARIDABAD HARYANA 121006, have changed my name to DIPTI for all future purposes.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given owner of House/Flat No. 1538/IGGF, Situated at Housing Board Colony, Sector-20, Faridabad Haryana "Said Property", vide the General public on behalf of our client i.e. ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. that Mr. Mukesh Mittal is the Transfer Deed dated 27/08/2024 registration No. 5255 executed by Mr. Rajender Kumar alias Rajender Mittal, has lost/misplaced the said property deed dated 09/04/2010 registration No. 422 with respect of the said property. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has had any transaction, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present, has already carried out or being carried

### For Kumar & Associates

Advocates & Consultants) 200, Second Floor, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-16 legal@knalgal.com, 011-4112527-28

### NAME CHANGE

I, SIVAKAMI mother of NO-14669638L, Rank-NK Name-BALA-I KANNAN residing at VPO-VEERAPANDI, TEH-KANDIYUR, DIST-VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-605758, have changed my name from SIVAKAMI to SIVAGAMY P for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/07/1969 vide Affidavit dated 08/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, No-14845570A Rank-NK/MT Name-DHANALYOT, Presently residing at VILL-GOBOARD-HANPUR, PO-CHAPDA, TEH-TAMLUK, DIST-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL-721154, have changed my father's name from MOHAN CHANDRA HALDAR to MOHAN CHANDRA HALDAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 07/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Iqbal Khan S/o Noor Mohd R/O Tauru Road, Near Bye Pass, Ward No.4, Nuh, Mewat, Haryana-122107, have changed my name to Iqbal Khan permanently

### NAME CHANGE

I, Urmila Devi Alias Chanchal Bharti W/O Amar Prasad, R/O H. No. 30/5-B, Hari Om Street No. 1, Babar Pur, East Delhi, Delhi - 110032 Adhar No. 8981 7265 7723 and PAN: ADEPCT7880J inform that Urmila Devi Alias Chanchal Bharti is same and one person

### PUBLIC NOTICE

be it known that my client Sh. ARUN SACHDEVA S/O late BASANT LAL SACHDEVA, R/o. B-114, 3RD FLOOR, FRONT SIDE, VIKAS PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI -110059, Sh. JAYANT KUMAR S/O late BASANT LAL SACHDEVA R/O. PLOT NO-78, 3RD FLOOR, BLOCK-A, GALI NO-4, VIJAY NAGAR, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI -110059, and Sh. PANKAJ SACHDEVA S/O KIRAN KUMAR SACHDEVA R/o. B-35 -B SUBHASH PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI -110059 are filing an application in NDMC for appointment of successors-in-interest/substitution of the property no. SHOP NO -21, NEW CENTRAL MARKET, NEW DELHI, DELHI -110001, in the names of the above persons, on the grounds of relinquishment deed, surviving member certificate, copy of Aadhaar Card, if there any objections/ claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to NDMC with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting NDMC or through an email at so.estate@ndmc.gov.in within 30 days of publication of this notice.

### ADVOCATE

VIJAY AGNIHOTRI Advocate Emil No-D-569/2022 KARKARDOOMA COURT DELHI-110032 Email:- vijayagnihotri971@gmail.com

## Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood defends Fee Regulation Bill amid protest

New Delhi: Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood on Tuesday stated that transparency, accountability and fairness are the core values of the School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fee) Bill, 2025. Sood, addressing a group of concerned parents, reiterated that the Bill represents a landmark reform aimed at establishing a transparent, fair, and accountable framework for the regulation of fees in all unaided private schools. The Minister alleged that certain groups were spreading misinformation about the Bill, and dismissed claims that it would reduce government oversight of private educational institutions. On the contrary, the Bill supplements and strengthens the existing statutory framework under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, and the rules have been framed under the Act. "It neither supersedes nor derogates existing law, but rather introduces additional interest of students and parents," he added. Notably, parents under the banner of United Parents Voice, staged a protest in front of the Assembly and also launched a signature campaign demanding immediate withdrawal of the Bill and the resignation of Education Minister Ashish Sood. The AAP has backed the protest, with its Delhi chief Saurabh Bharadwaj joining the demonstrators. "No consultation was held with parents before introducing this Bill in the Delhi Assembly to regulate fees in private schools. The parents have rightly demanded audits of all private schools. The BJP government claims it has conducted audits of every school, but this new Bill includes no provision for auditing private institutions," he said.

### NAME CHANGE

I, AISHWARYA P is Spouse of No. 15721938A, Rank- LNK, Presently residing at PRASATH D, R/O VPO-AGRAHARAM, TEH-NATRAMPALLI, DIST-VELLORE (TAMILNADU)-635651 have changed my name from AISHWARYA P to AISHWARYA M for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated 08/08/2025 Before Notary Public New Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, JAYASHREE Spouse of No. 2804335H Rank- HAV Name- JADHAV AJIT ASHOK, R/O VILL- GONDOLI POST- SHERE, TEL-KARAD, DIST-SATARA, STATE MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415108, have changed my name from JAYASHREE TO JAYASHRI AJIT JADHAV for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06.08.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Naran Das is the owner of Freehold Residential Entire Third Floor with rooftop terrace rights in left side, Built-up Property Bearing No. B-211 (WZ-428), area measuring 75 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village Bassa Darapur in the Abadi of Janta Colony Raghubir Nagar, Know now as Shivaji Vihar, New Delhi- 110027, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 11.10.2021, as Document No. 11277, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 25896 on Pages 69-76, dated 11.10.2021, in the chain document below mentioned document not available i.e. Original Gift Deed dated 28.01.2019 executed by Mr. Mohit Sachdeva S/o Mr. Late. Sanjay Sachdeva in favour of Mrs. Divya Goswami W/o Mr. Yogesh Sachdeva now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold too be Mrs. Varsha and same has been financed by SIFGS India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Noida Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

### [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09598871432

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mrs. Anju Rani and Mr. Yogesh Kumar intend to purchase the residential built-up property bearing No. 4/154 (Old No. 70-C/10), measuring 85 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 1077461, Khate No. 10191061, situated in the area of Village Chandrawali alias Shandara, in the colony known as Old Tejaji Mill, Bhola Nath Nagar, Ilaga Shandara, Delhi-110032, from the current owner, Mr. Rakesh Kathuria. Mr. Rakesh Kathuria acquired the said property from Mrs. Satya Wanti through a Gift Deed dated 05.06.2014, registered as Document No. 1986. Please note that one of the original chain documents has been lost, specifically the Irrevocable Power of Attorney registered as Document No. 5536, Book No. 04, Volume No. 240, on Pages 156-158, dated 23.03.1974, at the office of Sub-Registrar, Delhi. An online FIR (Lost and Found No. LR 257026/2025) has been registered on 09.02.2025 with the Crime Branch, Delhi, regarding the loss of the aforementioned document. Kindly also note that the said property is currently being mortgaged with GIC Housing Finance Ltd., Branch: UCF-10 A-E, Kanchari Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

### [ASHWANI KUMAR]

Advocate Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Sultane Rameshvar Baburoo S/o Baburoo Bhivsan Sultane, Permanent R/O At Post- Lonwa, Edu. Silind, Lonwadi, Aurangabad, Maharashtra-431151 and Present R/O QTR No-1131 CM, Second Floor, CISF Family Quarters, Baprola, New Delhi-110043, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Narmadabai in my 10th Class Educational Documents and name of my mother has been wrongly written as Narmadabai in My Service Book. The actual name of my mother is Sultane Narmadabai Baburoo, which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Harleen Kaur D/o Talvinder Singh R/O 406 First Floor, Four Store Vishal Market, Tagore Garden Extension, Tagore Garden Rajouri Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Harleen Duggal in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is Harleen Kaur

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RUCHIKA MITTAL AGGARWAL alias RUCHIKA AGGARWAL D/O PAWAN KUMAR AGGARWAL Ex. Wife of ANKIT MITTAL R/O 3628/6, FIRST FLOOR, NARANAG COLONY, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 declare that I got divorced from my husband vide Court Decree No. HMA No. 1473/2024 dated 5-6-2024 Further I have changed the name of mine and my minor daughter namely HARSHITA aged 11 years and we shall hereafter be known as RUCHIKA AGGARWAL and HARSHITA AGGARWAL.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Mohd Sajid S/o Jamil Ahmed R/O H.No-947, Kucha Rohilla Khan, Tiraha Behram Khan, Darya Ganj, Central Delhi, Delhi-110002 declare that name of mine, My wife and my minor son has been wrongly written as Md. Sajid, Shahin and Mohd. Umar in my minor son Mohd Umar aged 8 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine, my wife and my minor son are Mohd Sajid, Shaheen and Mohd Umar.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MADAN MOHAN LAL SONI S/O HAJARI LAL SONI R/O H.NO-08, FIRST FLOOR, GALI NO-1, SAMASPUR JAGIR, PANDAV NAGAR, PATPARGANJ, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110091 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as M. M. SONI in my minor daughter namely SADHANA SONI aged 15 years in her school record. The actual name of mine MADAN MOHAN LAL SONI which may be amended accordingly.

### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

#### Tender Notice no. 07 of Year 2025-26

Sealed open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), N.E. Railway, Itanagar for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works :- Description of works:- 1. Provision of Double Distant Signal & other miscellaneous S&T works for raising the sectional speed to 130 KMPH in RMU-KGM section of IZN division, Approx. value:- ₹ 6,49,45,326.36, Earnest Money:- ₹ 4,74,700, Completion Period:- 12 Months, Date & time of closing of e-tender:- 29/08/2025 at 11:00 Hrs. \* The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. \* All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering.

Sr. Div. Signal & Telecom. Engineer CPRO/Signal-39 Itanagar Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, HEMANTH RAJU SARAVANAN S/O GN SARAVANAN R/O F-233, SHUBHAM APARTMENT, POCKET-4, DWARKA, DIST SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as HEMANTH RAJU S and SARAVANAN GN in my 10th, S HEMANTH RAJU in my service book and name of mine has been wrongly written as HEMANTH RAJU S in my Diploma in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) and as HEMANTH RAJU S in my driving License No. KA04 19890004159. The actual name of mine and my father are HEMANTH RAJU SARAVANAN and GN SARAVANAN respectively which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Rajaram Rathor S/o Chaudh Rathor, R/o J-70, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as HEMANTH RAJU S and SARAVANAN GN in my 10th, S HEMANTH RAJU in my service book and name of mine has been wrongly written as HEMANTH RAJU S in my Diploma in Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) and as HEMANTH RAJU S in my driving License No. KA04 19890004159. The actual name of mine and my father are HEMANTH RAJU SARAVANAN and GN SARAVANAN respectively which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client BABY DEVI & DHARM NATH THAKUR BOTH R/O HOUSE NO D-58, SHAHBAID DAIRY SHAHBAID DAULATPUR, NORTH WEST, DELHI-110042 have sever all their relations and their daughter DEEPA THAKUR W/O VANSI GOLI from all their movable immovable properties due to her misconduct. My clients will not be responsible for her any acts/deeds.

### TANUJ KUMAR SHARMA

ADVOCATE CH No. 604, 6th FLOOR, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK, ROHINI COURTS COMPLEX, ROHINI COURT DELHI

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:

| S. N. | Tender No. | Brief Description                        | Qty.       | Closing Date |
|-------|------------|--|------------|--------------|
| 01    | 07250201   | Ball Joint Traction Lever for Fiat Bogie | 14086 Nos. | 04.09.25     |
| 02    | 09252720   | Top Side Bearer Liner                    | 8640 Nos.  | 05.09.25     |
| 03    | 09252471   | Rubber Buffer Spring                     | 6350 Set   | 08.09.25     |
| 04    | 16254508A  | Ceramic Resistor                         | 35 Nos.    | 08.09.25     |
| 05    | 08245784   | Supply Of Digital Axle Counter           | 24 Set     | 15.09.25     |
| 06    | 07253461   | Yaw Damper For Lhb Coaches               | 4724 Nos.  | 22.09.25     |
| 07    | 07251067   | Axle Box Housing                         | 3714 Nos.  | 22.09.25     |
| 08    | 09252220   | Distributor Valve Including Adaptor      | 454 Nos.   | 24.09.25     |

NOTE: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. 38/2025-2026 Dated: 08/08/2025 2431/2025

#### SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

### KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

#### Introduction of New Amrit Bharat Express Train between Delhi Jn. - Sitamarhi - Delhi Jn.

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to run the New Amrit Bharat Express Train No. 14048/14047 Delhi Jn. - Sitamarhi-Delhi Jn. (weekly) Express Train as per schedule given below:-

| Train No. 14048/14047 Delhi Jn. - Sitamarhi - Delhi Jn. Amrit Bharat Express (Weekly) |       |       |                  |                 |
|---|-------|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| Train No. 14048   | ARR.  | DEP.  | STATIONS         | Train No. 14047 |
| ----  | 14:00 | 22:40 | Delhi Jn.        | ARR. DEP. ----  |
| 14:40   | 14:42 | 21:25 | Ghaziabad        | 21:27           |
| 16:53   | 16:55 | 17:20 | Tundia Jn.       | 17:22           |
| 20:05   | 20:10 | 13:45 | Kanpur Central   | 13:50           |
| 22:10   | 22:20 | 11:25 | Lucknow Jn.      | 11:35           |
| 00:25   | 00:30 | 08:45 | Gonda Jn.        | 08:50           |
| 01:50   | 01:53 | 07:20 | Basti            | 07:23           |
| 03:15   | 03:25 | 05:25 | Gorakhpur Jn.    | 05:35           |
| 04:10   | 04:12 | 04:06 | Kaptanganj Jn.   | 04:08           |
| 04:50   | 04:52 | 03:46 | Siswa Bazar      | 03:48           |
| 06:33   | 06:35 | 02:28 | Bagaha           | 02:30           |
| 07:15   | 07:20 | 01:25 | Narkatiaganj Jn. | 01:30           |
| 07:43   | 07:45 | 00:38 | Sikta            | 00:40           |
| 08:10   | 08:15 | 00:10 | Raxaul Jn.       | 00:15           |
| 09:08   | 09:10 | 22:40 | Bairgania        | 22:42           |
| 10:45   | ----  | 22:15 | Sitamarhi        | ----            |

DAYS OF RUN: 14048 Ex. Delhi Jn. on every Saturday from 09.08.2025 and 14047 Ex. Sitamarhi on every Sunday from 10.08.2025. ACCOMMODATION: Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

2428/2025

Please join us on

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 Always at your service  
 Visit us at : [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Gurvinder Kaur W/o Mr. Kulbir Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential First Floor without terrace rights area measuring 80 Sq. Yds i.e. 66.88 sq. mtrs. built on Property No. 1410-F Gali No. 13 out of Kharsa No. 600/93, situated at Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, by virtue of Gift Deed dated 04.11.2024, duly registered in the office of S.R. South East, Mehrauli, as Doc no. 2024/10/17760, Book no. 1, Vol no. 18258, Pages 163-178, dated 11.11.2024, in the chain document below mentioned document i.e. SMC of Late Sh. Swarn Singh now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Kalkaji Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

### [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09598871432

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Gaharav Mahavidyalay through Jai Ma Vindhyavasini Sewa Sansthan through its Manager Mrs. Seema Singh D/o R. Racheer Shyam Singh and others, is the owner of NON-AGRICULTURE LAND AREA MEASURING 0.2960 HECTARE, OUT OF KHARSA NO. 1715KA AND 1715GA, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF SEMRI KALA, PARGANA DIKSHIT TELI, FARABGANJ, DISTT-GONDA, U.P. (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property") Ownership of the Said Property is based on a Sale Deed as Doc. No. 509, Book No. 01, Volume No. 3881, On Pages No. 271-286, On Dated 20.01.2016, SRO-Tarabganj, Gonda and Correction Deed as Doc. No. 5753, Book No. 01, Volume No. 4038 On Pages No. 191-200, On Dated 03.08.2016, SRO-Tarabganj, Gonda. Further, Gaharav Mahavidyalay through Jai Ma Vindhyavasini Sewa Sansthan has mortgaged the Said Property to Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd., located at 102 Sky High, Park Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow, U.P. - 226001, as security for a loan/credit facility. The charge of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd. on the Said Property continues to subsist. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

### [ASHWANI KUMAR]

Advocate Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

### RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,

1/4, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Pahar Gani, New Delhi - 110 055.

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]

(For Immovable property)

### Whereas:

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank Ltd. under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read



NEWS BOX

## Israeli army will 'take control' of Gaza City: PM statement

**JERUSALEM. (Agency)**  
Israel's security cabinet has approved a plan proposed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the military to "take control" of Gaza City, his office said in a statement Friday.  
Under the plan to "defeat" Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army "will prepare to take control of Gaza City while distributing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population outside combat zones", the statement said."The security cabinet, by majority vote adopted five principles for concluding the war: the disarming of Hamas; the return of all hostages -- living and dead; the demilitarisation of the Gaza Strip; Israeli security control in the Gaza Strip; the establishment of an alternative civil administration that is neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority.  
"A decisive majority of security cabinet ministers believed that the alternative plan that had been submitted to the security cabinet would neither achieve the defeat of Hamas nor the return of the hostages," it added, without giving further details.  
As he convened his security cabinet on Thursday, Netanyahu said Israel planned to take full control of Gaza but did not intend to govern it.Nearly two years into the war in Gaza, the Israeli leader faces mounting pressure at home and abroad for a truce deal to pull the Palestinian territory's more than two million people back from the brink of famine and to spare hostages held by Palestinian militants.

## 4 more Palestinians die from Israel-induced starvation; acute malnutrition reached 'highest levels,' says UN

**Brussels. (Agency)**  
Four more Palestinians died from starvation on Thursday, amid Israel's continuous blockade of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. This has raised the total number of hunger-related deaths in Gaza to 197, including 96 children.Meanwhile, the United Nations has on Thursday warned that acute malnutrition in Gaza's children has reached the "highest levels" recorded to date, with over 12,000 children identified as acutely malnourished in the month of July.  
"Acute malnutrition among children in Gaza has reached the highest levels recorded to date," Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, reported Al Jazeera.  
Haq pointed out that UN partners were able to reach only 8,700 of the 290,000 children under age five who needed feeding and nutrient supplements, due to "constraints on humanitarian access" amid Israel's



blockade and continuous attacks on the enclave.  
"Israel continues to block necessary assistance from entering Gaza... Aid that has entered remains by far insufficient, and our convoys continue to face impediments on their way to delivering aid," he said.  
Israel's genocidal war in Gaza has so far killed at least 61,258 Palestinians, more than half of it being women and children. It has also targeted and killed over 200 journalists, more than 1000 healthcare workers and aid workers.

## US Man Accused Of Stealing Rare Chinese Manuscripts Worth \$216,000

**WORLD. (Agency)**  
A California library user who allegedly took home rare Chinese manuscripts and returned fake ones in their place has been charged with \$216,000-worth of theft, US officials said Thursday.Jeffery Ying used a number of aliases to get access to classic works, some over 600 years old, at the library at the University of California, Los Angeles, the Department of Justice said.Ying, 38, would check the works out and return days later with dummy manuscripts. He would frequently travel to China shortly thereafter, charging documents say."The library noticed that several rare Chinese manuscripts were missing, and an initial investigation revealed the books were last viewed by a visitor who identified himself as 'Alan Fujimori,'" the DoJ said.When detectives raided the Los Angeles area hotel where Ying was staying, they found blank manuscripts in the style of the books that had been checked out.Law enforcement also found pre-made labels known as asset tags associated with the same manuscripts that could be used to create 'dummy' books to return to the library in place of the original books."Libraries allow rare, one-of-a-kind works to be examined on site; they are not permitted to be taken home like regular paperbacks.  
Ying, from Fremont, in the Bay Area, was also found to have a number of library cards in different names.  
If convicted of the charge of theft of a major artwork, Ying, who is being held in state custody, faces up to 10 years in federal prison.China is home to one of the world's fastest-growing art markets, with a booming number of state-sanctioned museums as well as a lively private market, as an increasingly wealthy and nationalistic middle class looks to claim the country's cultural heritage.

# Aussie Husband suspected wife of poisoning him before she killed 3 relatives with toxic mushrooms

## Erin Patterson was convicted by a Victoria state Supreme Court last month of murdering her parents-in-law, Don and Gail Patterson, and Gail's sister with a lunch of beef Wellington pastries containing toxic death cap mushrooms.

**MELBOURNE. (Agency)**  
The husband of a woman convicted of killing three people with a meal laced with deadly mushrooms suspected his wife had been poisoning him more than a year before the fatal meal, an Australian court has heard.A judge on Friday lifted a gag order on pretrial evidence that triple murderer Erin Patterson, 50, had wanted kept secret while she attempts to overturn her convictions.  
The evidence included the suspicions of Patterson's estranged husband Simon

Patterson that she had previously attempted to kill him.Husband says he feared estranged wife would poison himSimon Patterson testified at a pre-trial hearing that he had declined the lunch invitation out of fear. "I thought there'd be a risk that she'd poison me if I attended," the husband told the court months before the trial in testimony that was not presented to jurors.Simon said while he had stopped eating food prepared by his wife, from whom he had been estranged since 2015, he never thought others would be at risk.Erin Patterson was convicted by a Victoria state Supreme Court last month of murdering her parents-in-law Don and Gail Patterson, and Gail's sister Heather Wilkinson at her home in Leongatha with a lunch of beef Wellington pastries contained toxic death cap mushrooms.She was also found guilty of attempting to murder Ian Wilkinson, Heather's husband, who survived the meal but spent weeks in hospital.Erin Patterson was initially charged with attempting to murder her husband by inviting him to the lunch in July 2023. He had accepted the invitation then cancelled.She was also

initially charged three counts of attempting to murder him on three occasions around Victoria between November 2021 and September 2022. Prosecutors dropped all



charges relating to the husband before her trial began in April.Simon Patterson testified before the trial that he suspected his wife had deliberately made him seriously ill with dishes including penne bolognese pasta, chicken korma curry and a vegetable curry wrap. No poisons were ever found.The three alleged poisonings occurred during family camping trips. Simon shared his poisoning suspicions with his doctor, who encouraged him to create a spreadsheet listing what he had

eaten around the time he became sick.Disclosures come as Patterson plans to appealJustice Christopher Beale ruled for lawyers representing media who sought to overturn the gag order, ordering that the evidence that jurors had not seen would be made public.Erin Patterson's lawyers wanted all the evidence that was not deemed admissible at her trial kept secret until an appeals court decided whether to overturn her convictions.Their reasons included that media interest in the case was unprecedented. Defense lawyer Colin Mandy argued that reporting of the suppressed evidence as well as references to it in books, podcasts and a planned television mini-series would "leave an indelible impression on the minds of potential jurors in the event that there is a retrial."A hearing will begin on Aug. 25 to determine what sentence she will get. She faces a potential life sentence for each of the murders and 25 years for attempted murder.Prosecutor Jane Warren told Beale on Friday "a lot" of victim impact statements would be presented at that two-day sentencing hearing.

## Trump to nominate top economic aide Stephen Miran to Federal Reserve board

**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**  
President Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate a top economic adviser to the Federal Reserve's board of governors for four months, temporarily filling a vacancy while continuing his search for a longer-term appointment.Trump said he has named Stephen Miran, the chair of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, to fill a seat vacated by governor Adriana Kugler, a Biden appointee who is stepping down Friday. Miran, if approved by the Senate, will serve until January 31, 2026.The appointment is Trump's first opportunity to exert more control over the Fed, one of the few remaining independent federal agencies.  
Trump has relentlessly criticized the current chair, Jerome Powell, for keeping short-term interest rates unchanged, calling him "a stubborn MORON" last week on social media. Miran has been a major defender of

Trump's income tax cuts and tariff hikes, arguing that the combination will generate enough economic growth to reduce budget deficits. He also has played down the risk of Trump's tariffs generating higher inflation, a major source of concern for Powell.  
The choice of Miran may heighten concerns about political influence over the Fed, which has traditionally been insulated from day-to-day politics. Fed independence is generally seen as key to ensuring that it can take difficult steps to combat inflation, such as raising interest rates, that politicians might be unwilling to take.Federal Reserve governors vote on all the central bank's interest-rate decisions, as well as its financial regulatory policies.Miran's nomination, if approved, would add a near-certain vote in support of lower interest rates. Kugler had echoed Powell's view that the Fed should keep rates unchanged and further evaluate the impact of

tariffs on the economy before making any moves.Trump has said he will appoint Fed officials who will cut interest rates, which he says will reduce the borrowing costs of the federal government's huge \$36 trillion debt pile. Trump also wants lower rates to boost moribund home sales, which have been held back partly by higher mortgage costs. Yet the Fed doesn't directly set longer-term interest rates for things like home and car purchases. At its most recent meeting last week, Fed officials kept their key rate unchanged at 4.3%, where it has stood after three rate cuts late last year. But two Fed governors -- Christopher Waller and Michelle Bowman -- dissented from that decision. Both were appointed by Trump in his first term.Still, even with Miran on the board, 12 Fed officials vote on interest rate policy and many remain concerned that Trump's sweeping tariffs could push inflation higher in the coming months.

## Plastics Treaty: Uproar over fossil fuel lobbyists in delegations

**WORLD. (Agency)**  
At least 19 fossil fuel and chemical industry lobbyists have secured places in national delegations at the final round of global plastics treaty negotiations in Geneva, triggering outrage from civil society groups and raising serious concerns over the integrity of the talks.  
The revelation is part of a broader analysis by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), which identified a total of 234 fossil fuel and chemical lobbyists registered to participate in the fifth and final scheduled session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2). This is the highest industry presence recorded in the treaty process to date -- and more than the entire delegation of the European Union and its 27 member states combined (233).  
The 19 lobbyists have been formally included in the delegations of Egypt (6), Kazakhstan (4), China (3), Iran (3), Chile (2), and the Dominican Republic (1). Their inclusion gives them access to closed-door discussions and potentially even a voice in defining national positions on the treaty -- a situation civil society groups say amounts to a direct conflict of interest."The industry is not just observing -- it is actively shaping the outcome," said Rachel Radvany, CIEL's Environmental Health Campaigner. "We've seen them speak in plenary, push their agenda publicly, and align with petrostate interests to weaken ambition."The Plastics Treaty is intended to address plastic pollution across its full life cycle -- from production to disposal -- and many countries, scientists, and communities are pushing for binding caps on production and use of toxic additives. But with lobbyists embedded inside negotiating delegations, critics argue the process is at risk of being co-opted from within.When this reporter asked whether it should not be the responsibility of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to prevent industry representatives from entering national delegations, David Azoulay, Director of Environmental Health at CIEL, responded by pointing out a critical gap in global environmental governance."The INCs are following rules established for earlier agreements, where it's up to Member States to define the makeup of their delegations. But UNEP could still play a more proactive role. They could encourage greater transparency and better conflict of interest policies -- even if they can't directly control who gets in."  
Azoulay contrasted UNEP's approach with that of other UN bodies that have adopted firm safeguards. "UNDP and WHO both have clear conflict of interest policies. UNEP does not. The WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control even bars tobacco industry representatives from participating in treaty implementation or attending decision-making meetings. It shows that if the political will exists, it is absolutely possible to prevent undue influence.

## Japanese Warships Dock In New Zealand For First Time Since 1936

### The last port visit to Wellington by a Japanese naval vessel was in 1936, New Zealand's military said.

**Washington. (Agency)**  
Japanese warships docked in New Zealand's capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in the South Pacific Ocean.Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbor accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury. The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan's military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand,

Australia and other countries.The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions."Our defence force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries," Japan's envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. "Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific.The ambassador's remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia's government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm. While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defense industry agreement between the countries.New Zealand too has sought to shore up its strategic and military relations in Asia

as part of a foreign policy reset in recent years that the government says has turned more attention on Pacific cooperation and security. Officials in Wellington announced in July that work had started on a defense logistics agreement with Japan, intended to make it easier for the countries' militaries to work together.Japanese naval vessels do not often make visits so far south in the Pacific Ocean, but the rich and strategically important waters of New Zealand, Australia and smaller Pacific Island countries are increasingly contested by the world's major powers, making it the site of a fierce battle for influence between Beijing and Western nations.Although remote, New Zealand has recently been drawn into more fraught questions of regional security. In February, live firing exercises by Chinese naval frigates in the Tasman Sea between New Zealand and Australia drew alarm from those countries' governments after flights were forced to divert at short notice.

# All You Need To Know About Netanyahu's Plan To Retake Gaza City

**DHAKA. (Agency)**  
Israel announced early Friday that it plans to take over Gaza City, the largest urban area in the territory and one that has already suffered extensive devastation in repeated Israeli raids.Another major ground operation in one of the few areas of Gaza not already under evacuation orders would likely spark even more mass displacement and further disrupt efforts to deliver desperately needed food in the territory, where experts have warned that famine is unfolding.Israel has faced mounting calls from many of its closest allies to end the war, and the plan faces opposition within Israel from families of the remaining 20 or so living hostages held by Hamas and members of the security establishment who say there is little to gain militarily at this point.Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says more military pressure is needed to achieve Israel's goals of returning the hostages and destroying Hamas.Israel has repeatedly bombed Gaza City and launched major ground operations there

within weeks of Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack that triggered the war. Several neighbourhoods and key infrastructure have been almost completely destroyed.  
It was Gaza's most populous city on the eve of the war, home to some 700,000 people, about the population of Washington, DC. Hundreds of thousands fled under Israeli evacuation orders at the start of the war but many returned during a ceasefire earlier this year.Israel already controls and has largely destroyed around 75% of Gaza, with most of the population of some 2 million Palestinians now sheltering in Gaza City, the central city of Deir al-Balah and the sprawling displacement camps in the Muwasi area along the coast.  
Israel's offensive has already killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical

professionals. The UN and independent experts view its figures as the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them but has not provided its own.



Another major ground operation will almost certainly lead to the killing of more Israeli soldiers in hit-and-run attacks, eroding domestic support for the war, and could endanger the remaining hostages.  
Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7

attack and abducted 251 hostages. Most have since been released in ceasefires or other deals. Fifty remain inside the territory, around 20 of whom are believed by Israel to be alive.Palestinian militants have released videos in recent days showing emaciated hostages, saying they are suffering the same starvation as the Palestinian population. Hamas is believed to be holding the hostages in tunnels and other secret locations and has hinted it will kill them if Israeli forces draw near.  
Former security officials have also spoken out against further military operations, saying there is little to gain after Hamas has been militarily decimated. Israel's military chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, reportedly argued during a Security Cabinet meeting that a more sweeping plan to retake all of Gaza would endanger the hostages and put added strain on the army after two years of regional wars.



## Caught on camera: Criminal poses in cop’s uniform, constable at Govindapura police station suspended

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**  
A police constable attached to the Govindapura police station has been suspended after a notorious burglar, Sheikh Saleem alias Saleem, a native of Mumbai, was found wearing his police uniform.  
Saleem, who was recently arrested in Pune by the Indiranagar police, had his mobile phone seized during the operation. He was arrested regarding a theft case that took place on June 23. While examining the phone, police found images of him posing in a police uniform bearing the nameplate of constable HR Sonar.  
According to officials, Saleem had made a video call to his wife in police uniform to show off. “We are probing the nexus between the suspended police constable and the notorious interstate criminal. We are also checking if Sonar was involved in any thefts with Saleem,” an officer said.  
D Devaraja, DCP (East), suspended the constable for dereliction of duty. Officials revealed that a year ago, Saleem had been arrested by Govindapura police. During a recovery operation, he was kept in a hotel room while in police custody. Constable Sonar, who was accompanying him, had removed his uniform before stepping out. During this time, Saleem put on the uniform and made a video call to his wife. Saleem has committed thefts in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Pune. In 2021, during a raid by the CCB at the Bengaluru Central Prison, he was found operating from within the prison and issuing instructions to his gang via a mobile phone.

## Abducted by fellow engineering student girl drinks poison; dies



**BENGALURU. (Agency)**  
A 20-year-old engineering student who was battling for life after consuming poison over alleged harassment by a fellow student, died in hospital, in Kengeri on Tuesday. She was reportedly abducted on July 31. Ishwarya and Samrat were students of an engineering college on the outskirts of the city. Ishwarya was a resident of NES Badavane in Mandya, while Samrat is a resident of Sathanur.  
Samrat had been pestering Ishwarya to have a relationship. He allegedly took her forcibly to his aunt’s house in Sathanur, and when she turned him down, he gave her poison. Unable to bear the harassment, she drank the poison, then called her parents and informed them that Samrat had brought her to Sathanur. It is said that on July 30, when Ishwarya left home, Samrat forced her to go with him, and kept her at his aunt’s house.  
Ishwarya’s mother and brother found her near a bus stand in Sathanur, and took her to KM Doddi police station. When the police were speaking to her, she started vomiting and only then they found out that she had consumed poison, the officer said. The accused is yet to be arrested.

# AP HC slams state police over illegal arrest of YSRCP leader Turaka Kishore; orders immediate release

**The court reiterated its order for Kishore’s release, adding it would not consider other cases in this matter.**

**VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)**  
The Andhra Pradesh High Court (APHC) strongly criticised the police over YSRCP leader Turaka Kishore’s arrest and remand, calling it a violation of legal procedures. The bench mentioned that there was preliminary evidence of an unlawful arrest and hence it asserted, “No person should remain in custody even for a moment if detained illegally.” It ordered Kishore’s immediate release and advised police to approach the Supreme Court if they disagreed. The remarks came during a habeas corpus hearing filed by Kishore’s wife, Turaka Surekha, who alleged her

husband was illegally detained by Rentachintala police after his release from Guntur jail. The court had earlier asked police to submit all related case records, which were reviewed on Wednesday. The bench slammed the magistrate’s role in the remand, questioning, “Is remand imposed just because a bail petition wasn’t filed? Are other aspects not considered?” It also pointed to inconsistencies, noting the magistrate’s order did not mention the police claim that Kishore refused the remand report. The court remarked, “If

you claim he’s a hardened criminal, would he simply admit to all crimes and sign a confession? What are these contradictory arguments?”



Raising concerns over case timing, the bench questioned, “If an incident happened six years ago, would you register a case and arrest him now?” and accused

police of a deliberate targeting pattern. Government special public prosecutor T Vishnuteja said Kishore faces multiple attempt-to-murder charges, to which the court retorted sarcastically, “Even we can be booked for attempt to murder. Filing such cases has become easy these days.” The bench allowed Surekha’s counsel, Sanepalli Ramalakshmana Reddy, to amend the main petition challenging the remand. A supplementary petition was filed and scheduled for further hearing on Thursday.

# 45K strays in Tambaram corporation to get anti-rabies vaccine

**To ensure complete geographical coverage for the campaign, Tambaram has been divided into five operational zones.**

**CHENNAL. (Agency)**  
While official numbers are yet to be released, primary reports of the Tambaram City Municipal Corporation’s dog survey suggest that there may be 45,000 free-roaming stray dogs in the corporation area. With dedicated teams, TCMC is planning a large-scale Anti-Rabies Vaccination drive for all the 45,000 dogs within 50 days. The drive, titled COHAB (Cohabitation) as part of the city’s public health initiative, is expected to break the rabies transmission among dogs and the risk of transmission to humans. COHAB would also help reduce rabies-related mortality in dogs and promote safer human-animal coexistence, alongside a probable decline in dog bite incidents.  
To ensure complete geographical coverage for the campaign, Tambaram has been divided into five operational zones. Each day, 10 dedicated teams will be deployed across

these zones, which will vaccinate at least 100 dogs, bringing the total to 1,000 vaccinations per day. Each team comprises 10 members, divided into three specialised units- a catching unit (five members with a vehicle) for humane dog capture, a vaccinating unit (two vets with a dedicated vehicle), and a support unit (two assistants and one supervisor) tasked with record-keeping and operational support. The campaign will run six days a week, from Monday to Saturday, over a planned 45-day period. Additional five days have been set aside for mop-up. Although the civic body is aiming at 100% coverage, sources said that by the end of the drive, at least 80% of the dogs would have been covered. It may be

noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a minimum of 70% vaccination coverage to prevent rabies



transmission in the canine population. Besides, around 5,000 household pets, as

estimated from the tentative reports of the survey, will also be vaccinated as part of the drive. Residents have been urged to cooperate with the field teams and ensure that their pet dogs are vaccinated during the campaign. “Through this systematic approach, we aim to eliminate rabies from our city. It’s not just about dogs; it’s about public safety, too,” a senior TCMC official said.  
**ARV goals**  
Break rabies transmission chain (dog to dog)  
Prevent rabies spread to humans (dog to humans)  
Reduce rabies-related mortality in dogs  
Promote safer and harmonious coexistence of dogs and humans  
Ensure probable reduction in dog bites.

## Kochi Metro posts record Rs 33.34 crore operating profit in 2024-25, third straight year in surplus

**KMRL earned Rs 1.56 crore from consultancy services and Rs 13.52 crore from other miscellaneous sources.**

**KOCHI. (Agency)**  
Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) has reported a substantial increase in its operating profit for financial year 2024-25, marking the third consecutive year of achieving an operating surplus. Kochi Metro registered an operating profit of Rs 33.34 crore, which was up a notable Rs 10.4 crore from the previous year. This highlights a remarkable turnaround since the initial years of operation. In 2017-18, when Kochi Metro commenced services, the company reported an operating loss of Rs 24.19 crore. While the loss narrowed to Rs 5.70 crore in 2018-19, it widened to Rs 13.92 crore in 2019-20 and further to Rs 56.56 crore in 2020-21. The loss reduced to Rs 34.94 crore in 2021-22. A major breakthrough came in 2022-23, when KMRL transitioned to operating profit, posting a surplus of Rs 5.35 crore. This positive trajectory continued into 2023-24, with an operating profit of Rs 22.94



crore, and has now further strengthened in 2024-25. In financial year 2024-25, Kochi Metro generated an operating income of Rs 182.37 crore. Of this, Rs 111.88 crore came from ticket revenue, while Rs 55.41 crore was earned through non-ticket sources. In addition, KMRL earned Rs 1.56 crore from consultancy services and Rs 13.52 crore from other

miscellaneous sources. The operating expense for the year stood at Rs 149.03 crore.  
KMRL calculates operating profit after excluding certain capital and financing costs such as interest, depreciation, and expenses related to non-motorised transport infrastructure, including pavement construction. “This consistent financial progress reflects the resilience and efficiency of Kochi Metro. We have not only improved operational performance but also enhanced passenger experience and diversified our revenue streams. Our goal is to build a financially sustainable, commuter-friendly metro system that the city of Kochi can be proud of,” Loknath Behera, managing director of KMRL, said. The improved financial performance underscores the success of the company’s strategic initiatives in enhancing ridership, optimising operations, and strengthening non-fare revenue streams.

## Reduction of PG quota for PHC doctors sparks row in Andhra Pradesh

**VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)**  
The State government has revised its reservation policy for postgraduate (PG) medical admissions for the 2025–26 academic year, reducing the quota for doctors serving in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in clinical disciplines from 20% to 15%. However, the 30% quota for non-clinical disciplines remains unchanged.  
Approved by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the move has sparked debate among the medical community, particularly among PHC doctors, who fear the reduced quota in high-demand clinical specialities may deter service in rural government facilities. For the upcoming academic year, 15% of PG seats across seven clinical disciplines: General Medicine, General Surgery, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine and Radiology, will be reserved for PHC doctors. Meanwhile, nine non-clinical subjects, including Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Forensic Medicine, will



retain a 30% reservation.

As per government data, 272 PG seats are earmarked for PHC doctors this year: 154 clinical and 118 non-clinical. In 2024, after demands from PHC doctors, the clinical quota was raised from 15% to 20%, helping 312 government doctors secure PG admissions. While most clinical seats were filled, nearly half of the non-clinical seats went vacant, with only 53 of 104 seats utilised.

Despite efforts to curb misuse of the quota, irregularities persist. A senior Health Department official told that some doctors take temporary PHC postings just to become eligible, and later leave service after paying fines or skipping mandatory service. Data shows nearly 70 doctors have not served in government facilities after completing PG courses under the in-service quota between 2018 and 2024.  
However, Andhra Pradesh PHC Doctors Association (APPHCDA) spokesperson Dr M Vinod Kumar pointed to discrepancies. “While the government claims only 70 doctors are not working, in reality, only 31 specialists are not working. This has already been reported to the government,” he said, citing reasons like transfer issues, lack of communication, mismatches in postings and redeployment delays. Andhra Pradesh has 1,150 PHCs staffed by 2,280 doctors. Eligibility for the quota requires service of at least two years in tribal areas, three years in rural PHCs, and five years in urban PHCs.

## Aluva river bridge track renewal to affect train schedules; two trains cancelled, several delayed

**KOCHI.** The final phase of track renewal works over Aluva river bridge no. 176 will be completed during the traffic regulations from Friday to Sunday. Two trains scheduled to leave on August 9 and 10 – train no. 66609 scheduled to leave Palakkad Junction at 07.20 hrs, and train no. 66610 scheduled to leave Ernakulam Junction at 14.45 hrs – will be fully cancelled. Train no. 22645 will be delayed en route for 1 hour 55 minutes on August 9 and 1 hour 20 minutes on August 10. Train no. 16308 will be delayed en route for 1 hour and 45 minutes on August 9 and 1 hour and 15 minutes on August 10. Train no. 17230 will be delayed en route for 1 hour on August 9 and 30 minutes on



August 10. Train no. 20631 will be delayed en route for 25 minutes on August 10. Train no. 20910 will be delayed for 45 minutes en route on August 9. Train no. 13351 will be delayed for 25 minutes en route on August 9. Train no. 20632 scheduled to leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 16.05 hrs will be rescheduled to leave Thiruvananthapuram Central at 16.50 hrs, with a delay of 45 minutes on August 9 and at 16.15 hrs, with a delay of 10 minutes on August 10.  
Passengers are requested to check the updated timings on the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) website/NTES mobile application and plan travel arrangements accordingly.



# How an equation in Moscow affects calculus in Delhi

US President Donald Trump’s special envoy for Russia, Steve Witkoff, predicted in an interview last weekend that it would be a success if a settlement of the Ukrainian conflict is achieved by the end of the presidential term in January 2029. The remark signals Washington’s belated awareness that it is futile to press Russia to compromise on its vital national interests.

Witkoff was talking to the media after a 2-month silence during which General Keith Kellogg, Trump’s hawkish special envoy for Russian-Ukrainian settlement, dominated the diplomatic arena advocating a tough stance towards Moscow. The Kellogg line peaked with Trump’s July 14 announcement of a 50-day deadline to Russia to end the war. A fortnight later, Trump said that Russia had “10 days from today” to end its war. The week since then witnessed a breathtaking cascade of US-Russia tensions characterised by some calibrated brinkmanship—transfer of US nuclear weapons to the UK for the first time in 17 years; belligerent posturing vis-à-vis the Russian nuclear base of Kaliningrad; and deployment of US nuclear submarines near Russia.

Last Friday, the Russian response came with the stunning announcement by President Vladimir Putin on the deployment of Oreshnik, the intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile with multiple warheads and a speed exceeding Mach 10 (12,300 km/h) against which the West, including the US, has no defence. The Russian foreign ministry followed through last night with a historic announcement on lifting of Moscow’s moratorium on the deployment of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as a new reality in strategic balance in the face of “a growing number of facts indicating the emergence of US-made weapons in a variety of regions around the globe including the regions that are of particular national security importance for Russia”. Trump, who killed the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019, no longer has space left to hide from the humiliating defeat that Nato faces in Ukraine and the bleak future for the US’s European allies having to live under the shadow of Russia’s Oreshnik hypersonic missile.

The Moscow visit by Witkoff, Trump’s counterweight to American hawks on Russia, signifies that the locus of Trump’s policy is gradually switching back to the Russian track. Evidently, Trump is desperate to reopen peace talks. On July 31, in a radio interview, Secretary of State Marco Rubio calmed the troubled waters by signalling that first, although the sanctions route is an option, “our hope is to avoid that and to sort of figure out a way that we can get the fighting to stop... we’ll continue to be available and willing to participate in something like that, if it becomes available”; and, second, “a war between the United States and Russia is not something we can ever see”. Putin reacted the very next day, saying, “Not long ago, our adversaries were confidently speaking of inflicting a ‘strategic defeat’ on Russia. Today, their rhetoric has shifted: now, their singular and desperate goal is to halt our offensive at any cost.” But Putin won’t relent until the Russian military operation fully realises its objective. In the above fluid backdrop, Rubio, interestingly, also chose to empathise with Delhi’s trade in Russian oil. Rubio said, “India is an ally. It’s a strategic partner. Like anything in foreign policy, you’re not going to align a hundred percent of the time on everything. India has huge energy needs and that includes the ability to buy oil and coal and gas and things that it needs to power its economy like every country does, and it buys it from Russia, because Russian oil is... cheap... So it is most certainly a point of irritation in our relationship with India... We also have many other points of cooperation with them.

# Firm up action plan to tame flood fury

## The solution lies in preparing our cities to be climate-resilient. For this, we need city-specific climate action plans.

THE ongoing monsoon season has witnessed above-normal rainfall across the country, in line with the forecast of the India Meteorological Department. There has been heavy rainfall in many states, with hilly regions reporting rain-triggered disasters like landslides and flashfloods. The Himalayan belt — Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir — has seen persistent, widespread and intense rainfall. One of the worst disasters of the season has occurred at Dharali in Uttarkashi district, where flashfloods supposedly caused by a cloudburst have led to the loss of lives and property. It is a grim reminder of the danger of unbridled development in the ecologically fragile region.

In the plains too, the monsoon is causing havoc, with major cities reporting flooding of roads, casualties and collapse of old structures. Social media is flooded with images of killer traffic jams due to waterlogging; cars and trucks going down in sink holes on city roads and highways; schoolchildren and office-goers stranded for long hours; and tragic incidents such as electrocution. Some newly built airport buildings have not withstood incessant rains. Affected cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai are hubs of significant economic activity and centres of outsourcing activities. Brushing aside rain-related impacts as ‘nature’s fury’ would be fallacious. What Indian cities are experiencing during the monsoon is an accumulated and combined result of poor urban planning, neglect of basic infrastructure, violation of municipal regulations, erosion of green and open areas, large-scale concretisation, etc. On top of all this we have climate change — which itself is a man-made phenomenon. For decades, scientists have been warning of a rise in extreme rainfall events as a result of climate change. An extreme weather event occurs when the amount of rain or snow experienced in one location substantially exceeds the normal quantum, as is happening in many of our cities. The average rainfall for a city or region may remain within the normal range, but some days or places get high rainfall in a short time, resulting in waterlogging and local flooding.

The situation is only going to worsen as India is urbanising at a rapid pace. Nearly one billion Indians



would be living in cities by 2050, as per current projections. But Indian cities will be unable to reach their full potential if they stay on their current development trajectory, warns a recent report from the World Bank. Indian cities, according to the report, are highly vulnerable to climate impacts due to high human density and massive concentration assets. Cities are facing higher climate impacts and disasters compared to villages as they depend on highly interconnected systems. When key infrastructure like a highway or electricity grid breaks down, it can cause a chain reaction resulting in cascading infrastructure failure and paralysing the city. Flooding can cause road closure and disrupt traffic flow, affect electricity lines and lead to economic losses, as being seen currently.

Going by the monsoon chaos every year, it is clear that our cities are ill-prepared for the twin challenges of further urbanisation and climate change. They have limited capacity to manage these impacts. Their planning and management systems are unable to keep pace with rapid urbanisation, climate impacts and the demand for development and services. The existing systems are outmoded — in many cases, they date back to the British and princely eras. For instance, the drainage and stormwater system for Hyderabad was designed a century ago by Sir M Visvesvaraya for a population of about five lakh. The system was considered modern at that time and accounted for future growth and concerns like aesthetics and urban planning. Hyderabad was

considered a city of lakes and gardens with a well-connected natural drainage system. All this has got destroyed due to rapid expansion of physical infrastructure and high density of population. The result is flooding. This is pretty much the story of every major Indian city. Many cities are along the coast or in the floodplains of major and minor rivers. Urbanisation increases impermeability, making areas with previously low flood risk prone to flooding. Cities are encroaching upon floodplains. Between 1985 and 2015, built-up or settlement area grew by 82 per cent in flood-safe areas and 102 per cent in high flood-risk areas, according to the World Bank report. Stormwater-related or pluvial (surface water) flooding risk is projected to rise manifold due to the combined effect of climate change and urbanisation. The solution lies in preparing our cities to be climate-resilient. For this, we need city-specific climate action plans. At present, these efforts are fragmented. All states have generic state action plans, most of which are poorly implemented or just remain on paper. The challenges of urban areas are varied, requiring an integrated approach. Specific strategies need to be devised to address urban flooding, based on the local risk profile. Similar action plans are needed for hilly areas. Cities need watershed-based flood protection plans to regulate floodplain development and stormwater management. Urban authorities must prioritise investments in drains and flood embankments, and in protection or creation of open spaces that can absorb flood water or sustainable urban drainage systems. Chennai has made a start in developing a city-specific Climate Action Plan based on risk assessment. Kolkata is working on a flood forecasting and early warning system. Climate action plans for cities can’t work without related governance reforms. At present, multiple agencies handle issues related to flood protection, urban planning, drainage, etc. often working at cross-purposes. In addition, government agencies will have to work with scientists, civil society and businesses to draw and implement climate action plans. There are no easy solutions to urban flooding or continuing disasters in the hills.

# Hiroshima anniversary: Heed Mahatma’s advice

## Violence in any form is reprehensible, more so when it involves weapons of mass destruction. India’s doctrine of ‘no first use’ implies a massive nuclear retaliation to a first strike to inflict unacceptable damage on the enemy

Eighty years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan became synonymous with the nuclear holocaust that killed an estimated 1.1 lakh civilians instantly, the world is not even trying to engage in disarmament talks. Instead, big powers are deploying nuclear arsenals at whim. Last week, Donald Trump repositioned two nuclear submarines around Russia after Vladimir Putin’s proxy Dmitry Medvedev used incendiary language in his pushback against intense American pressure to end the invasion of Ukraine. Medvedev asked Trump to remember how dangerous the fabled ‘Dead Hand’ can be, a reference to a semi-automated Soviet-era command system designed to launch nuclear missiles if the Russian leadership is eliminated. Russia retaliated to the positioning of US submarines and Nato’s missiles in Germany by calling off its moratorium on deployment of intermediate-range nuclear-capable missiles. As it is, the Doomsday Clock—founded in 1947 to annually warn how close the world is to self-destruction—moved closer than ever to a planet-wide catastrophe in January, 89 seconds to



midnight. Going by the current trend, the clock could advance further in the next iteration. It was rich of Trump to lecture Medvedev on the importance of words, saying they could lead to unintended consequences, given his own

history of loose talk. Sample this: after the US bombarded three nuclear sites in Iran in June, degrading its ability to build a bomb at least in the short run, he insensitively drew a parallel between the Iran operation and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts—thus normalising them—claiming both ended wars, drawing an avalanche of protests. In May, when India called Pakistan’s nuclear-bluff as part of Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam terror strike, Trump claimed credit for averting a nuclear war—annoying New Delhi and harming the bilateral trade talks. Violence in any form is reprehensible, more so when it involves weapons of mass destruction. India’s doctrine of ‘no first use’ implies a massive nuclear retaliation to a first strike to inflict unacceptable damage on the enemy. It has served the country well so far. As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The atomic bomb has deadened the finest feeling that has sustained mankind for ages.” Hatred can be overcome by love and not counter-hatred, he moralised. His preaching of non-violence is relevant more than ever today.

# Remedy for paradox of having umpteen proofs but no identity

## Not just in Bihar, proving identity is a daily challenge for lakhs of Indians. The proliferation of uncoordinated ID systems and lack of a common format have created frustration, enabled fakery and denied livelihoods. A Planning Commission effort from the 2000s could offer an ideal systemic remedy

The Election Commission’s special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and proposal to extend it to other states have stirred the hornet’s nest of identity yet again. But identity challenges being faced by Indians run far deeper than the EC’s periodic revisions. For many, it’s ‘a million mutinies a day’ as different authorities periodically unleash their own dream projects on identifying or improvising on the identification of their subjects.

Consider the nationwide systems. The passport system commenced in 1920 and was revamped in 1967. In 2024, there were 9.3 crore valid passports. Electoral identification dates back to the first general elections of 1951-52. The first major attempt to issue an Electoral Photo ID Card (EPIC) was initiated by the EC during 1993-96. In 2024, there were 97 crore voters with EPICs for many of them. The Permanent Account Number was introduced by the Central Board of Direct Taxes in 1972, initially as an option but made mandatory for taxpayers from 1976. The latest data says there are 78 crore PAN cards. In the mid-2000s came the brilliant idea of a unique ID for every resident—Aadhaar—using biometric imprints. The Unique Identification Authority of India was set up in 2009 and the first Aadhaar card issued in 2010. After a checkered trajectory, the UIDAI has issued Aadhaar cards to about 135 crore residents. EPIC and passports are treated as universal proofs of identity, date of birth, and address. However, they do not offer universal coverage. EPIC is for citizens above 18 years, while passports cover only about 6.5 percent of the population. PAN, though available to a wider demography, is primarily a specific-purpose identifier for tax and financial transactions, and not an address

proof. Aadhaar, with the largest coverage, has become just another ID. While it is accepted for its biometric features, it is neither a proof of nationality nor of date of birth. There are also about 5 dozen other IDs accepted by various state-level authorities.

All these IDs suffer from duplication and fakery due to the incentive structures in our ground-level governance systems. Recent reports of the CBI unearthing 8.5 lakh ‘mule accounts’ across certain banks, likely the tip of an iceberg, and the growing incidence of identity theft in financial crimes reveal deeper structural vulnerabilities of the fragmented and often unreliable identity architecture. This is mainly the result of the unwillingness of the identifying authorities to work together and to have a common format for the basic parameters, or at least a common pattern of writing the name and a few basic parameters. Take the example of writing the name of the applicant in the application forms of four national-level authorities. For EC’s EPIC: “First name followed by middle name and surname [if any]”. For MEA’s passport: “Given name [means first name], followed by middle name [if any] and surname”. For CBDT’s PAN: “Last name/Surname, followed by first name and middle name”. And for UIDAI, Aadhaar: “Fill in name as given in the document presented in support of the PoI, while omitting any titles, honorifics, and aliases.”



As long as these national IDs operated in silos, they posed no significant inconvenience to the people. However, sizable duplications across systems prompted a policy push to interlink them—PAN with Aadhaar, for example. Discrepancies in personal details, especially names, have led to frequent mismatches, making the process of linkage error-prone and frustrating for individuals. As the demand for formal proof and proof of that proof intensified, the spelling and structure of names in official documents became critical. Aadhaar was a great opportunity to bring a structure to identification. Had the UIDAI and EC collaborated on a unified identification framework, many of today’s challenges could have been averted.

They had the benefit of the contours of a multi-application smart card propounded by a committee appointed by the then Planning Commission in 2005. A working group in 2007 amplified the architecture of that system. The proposed model envisioned a smart identity system akin to a multi-storeyed building. The ground floor would house the basic demographic and biometric information of a resident (as in Aadhaar), while successive floors could serve different functional needs—electoral rolls, PDS, MNREGA—each protected by its own set of access controls and verification protocols. The home to nearly a fifth of humanity cannot be governed like a city-state. India’s identity challenges cannot be solved by proliferating plastic IDs and digital apps, the instruments of a burgeoning identification industry. The identity system must be well-designed, structured and orderly from the outset, rather than procrastinating endlessly like a perpetual construction site. The system can still be rebooted if all authorities come on board. It should be accompanied by a campaign to educate every Indian on how to write her name, birth date and address in a consistent manner, and why it matters for their identity, livelihood and rights. No, this must not be yet another ID issued by yet another agency operating in mission mode. It should be only a common format for the existing IDs or a harmonised ID. To be given to the youngest generations. Let the elder generations live in peace with whatever legally issued IDs they have.



# Nethanna Bharosa: CM Chandrababu Naidu launches Rs 25k annual assistance scheme for weavers

**The Chief Minister made this announcement while participating in the 11th National Handloom Day celebrations held on Thursday at Mangalagiri in Guntur district.**

**BENGALURU (Agency)**

**VIJAYAWADA.** Reaffirming that the primary goal of the TDP-led NDA coalition government is to double the income of handloom weavers in the state, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that under the “Nethanna Bharosa” scheme, each weaver family would receive annual financial assistance of Rs 25,000.

The Chief Minister made this announcement while participating in the 11th National Handloom Day celebrations held on Thursday at Mangalagiri in Guntur district.

Naidu further visited the previously established Weaver Shed along with Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh, interacted with the handloom artisans, and reviewed their products. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, CM Chandrababu Naidu asserted that the comprehensive welfare package for handloom weavers and backward communities, which includes three sectors, was aimed at reviving the handloom sector and supporting marginalized communities. The welfare scheme includes free electricity for weavers and power loom units, GST reimbursement and subsidies, and

a thrift fund of Rs 5 crore for the welfare of weavers.

“Starting this month, the government will provide 200 units of free electricity for handlooms and 500 units for power looms.



This will benefit 93,000 handloom families and 50,000 power loom families” he said.

**Amaravati to get Handloom Museum, Pragada Kotaiah statue to be installed**

“The scheme is expected to impose an additional burden of Rs 190 crore annually on the state exchequer. Similarly, 200 units of free power will also be provided to salons, benefiting

around 40,000 Naye Brahmin families,” Naidu explained.

Naidu also declared that the 5 percent GST on handloom products will be reimbursed, costing the state about Rs 15 crore annually. In addition, a thrift fund with a corpus of Rs 5 crore is also being set up to benefit 5,386 weavers. Additionally, the state will revive procurement through APCO and restore yarn and dye subsidies withdrawn by the previous regime. The CM further announced the establishment of a Handloom Museum in Amaravati and declared the official celebration of the birth anniversary of veteran weaver leader Pragada Kotaiah. “A bronze statue of Kotaiah will be installed near the NRI Hospital on the Vijayawada-Guntur highway,” he stated. Recalling the TDP’s consistent efforts both in power and in opposition to support the weaver community, Naidu highlighted that during the TDP’s previous term (2014-2019), Rs 110 crore worth of loans were waived for handloom workers. He also reminded that the TDP government stood by the weavers when the previous regime failed to act, even leading protests personally.

## 47 acres of Kaggadasapura Lake fixed at Rs 10.85 crore

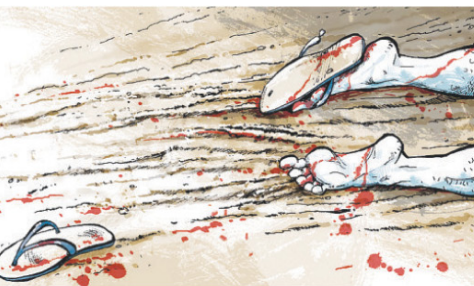


**BENGALURU (Agency)**

The BBMP Lake Division has fixed issues with 47 acres of Kaggadasapura Lake in CV Raman Nagar by fencing, desilting, improving the island, and clearing tanks. The project, which had been going on since 2022, cost Rs 10.85 crore.

Over the next 40 days, the waste weir and kalyani for Ganesha idol immersion will also be fixed. With this, nearly 25,000 Ganesha idols going from CV Raman Nagar to Ulsoor Lake for immersion will be reduced. The lake will also reduce flooding in some areas upstream. “This is because the water holding capacity of Kaggadasapura Lake has been increased. Silt has been removed, sewage diverted and part of the encroachment cleared. We have achieved improved water quality, developed walkways, protected shorelines, developed inlets and fenced the waterbody,” said J Nithya, Executive Engineer, BBMP Lake Division. A senior official said that only setting up of a 5-MLD Sewage Treatment Plant by the BWSSB is pending.

## 17 years after father’s murder, teen kills history-sheeter in Chennai to avenge death



**CHENNAI (Agency)**

A 19-year-old undergraduate student from an Arts and Science college in Kilpauk, allegedly murdered history-sheeter Rajkumar (42) on Wednesday to avenge his father’s murder from 17 years ago. The accused, Yuvanesh, and two of his college friends, including a 17-year-old, surrendered before the Anna Nagar police station on Wednesday night, a few hours after a gang of nine surrounded Rajkumar in his house in TP Chathiram and brutally murdered him with sharp weapons. The TP Chathiram police filed a murder case and took them into custody, sources said.

A B-category history-sheeter, Rajkumar had purportedly quit criminal activities for the last 10 years and was living with his wife and two sons while running a “Shamiana” business. Sources believe that Rajkumar was one of the five men who were involved in the 2008 murder of Yuvanesh’s father Senthil, also a history-sheeter and part of a ganja peddling business in the western part of the city. Three of the other accused in the case had already passed on, sources said. Though Yuvanesh had been spoiling for revenge, a recent incident where Rajkumar supposedly mocked the teenager and warned him to stay off his radar particularly angered him, said police. He allegedly hatched a plan with his college friends, putting together a nine-member gang to murder Rajkumar.

They arrived in three two-wheelers on Wednesday afternoon and three of them chased him and then allegedly butchered him in a neighbour’s house. While the accused escaped the spot, Rajkumar was rushed to the Kilpauk medical college where he was declared dead. A probe is under way.

# Kerala HC warns against ‘mobocracy,’ orders police protection for Kizhakkambalam bus stand works

**KOCHI (Agency)**

If ‘mobocracy’ is permitted, that will be the beginning of the end of our democratic system and rule of law, the Kerala High Court has observed. It was hearing a petition filed by the president of Kizhakkambalam panchayat seeking police protection to remove illegal encroachments at the bus stand and prevent the entry of buses into the stand at Kizhakkambalam junction till the work of the facility is completed and opened to the general public.

The petitioner alleged that the panchayat faces obstruction from political parties and their associates for every developmental work it

undertakes. A former panchayat president and some political leaders trespassed into the



bus stand removing the barricades and buses were directed to access the bus stand. They also forcibly erected a temporary waiting

shed without permission, the petitioner said.

“Those powers who try to take over the administration of a panchayat today may even try to take over the state and Union administration tomorrow. It indeed is a threat to our democratic polity and republic. Police authorities shall not remain mute spectators when such vandalism is unleashed. The police have to handle such situations with iron fist and enforce rule of law,” said Justice N Nagesh.

The HC said that when a duly elected panchayat committee decides to discharge their statutory functions and public duty, the action of the panchayat cannot be permitted to be defeated by physical force.

It noted that certain persons have installed their own bus shed in a public place, removed public signboards and reinstalled the same at places they desire. They have dared even to divert traffic, which is essentially the function of the local self-government institution and the motor vehicle department, it said.

The mob force, in fact, has effectively taken over administration of a public place and even regulation of traffic illegally. “Such act of mobocracy and vandalism cannot be ignored,” the court said. The judge also directed police to provide protection to the panchayat, its officials, representatives, contractors, workers and suppliers to complete the modernisation work of the bus stand.

## Over 500 cases pending as Idukki consumer panel non-functional since December

**Large number of health insurance-related petitions too are pending,” said a lawyer who practised in the Idukki commission.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.**

**(Agency)**

The non-functional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Idukki has left hundreds of people in distress. The commission, with 500-odd pending cases has not conducted a single sitting after December 5 when a member retired.

“Unlike many other district commissions, a significant number of the consumers before the Idukki forum are small-time farmers. Their petitions deal with the disputes over the purchase of cattle or about crop insurance schemes. Large number of health insurance-related petitions too are pending,” said a lawyer who practised in the Idukki commission. As per the law, cases before the three-member district commissions are to be heard by a bench comprising at least two members. Of the three members of

Idukki commission, one had retired a year ago and the second member on December 5. The state government could not complete the procedures for appointing new members immediately after the retirement of both the members.

With the Supreme Court’s direction to the Union government in May to issue new rules for consumer forum appointments, the appointment of permanent members will be further delayed.

“There are two options to resume the commission’s sittings on a temporary basis. One is to depute a member from the commission of a neighbouring district for the time being. The other is to conduct camp sittings by pooling a member from any other commission,” the lawyer said. The non-functional commission is denying justice to prospective petitioners as well.

## NFR’s Lumding Division Enhances Track Safety with New USFD Training Lab

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 08th August: The Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has recently inaugurated a well-equipped

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) Laboratory, marking a significant step forward in enhancing rail safety and technical training standards. The newly established laboratory was inaugurated by Shri Samir Lohani, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Lumding reflecting the division’s commitment

to adopting advanced technologies and improving workforce competency. The Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) Laboratory serves as a vital centre for enhancing the safety and reliability of railway operations by detecting internal flaws in rails and welds. It also

includes standard calibration samples, various types of ultrasonic probes, technical guidelines, procedures and illustrative photographs of fractured components. These



resources are extensively used for hands-on training, enabling personnel to gain practical knowledge in flaw detection and preventive maintenance practices. This modern USFD lab houses an extensive collection of defective sample pieces, including welds, rails and Switch Expansion Joints, which were

detected during past USFD testing. Additionally, it includes standard calibration samples, various types of probes, detailed procedures, operational guidelines and photo-

graphic displays of fractured rails and welds serving as valuable educational resources. The facility is equipped to conduct PowerPoint presentations and practical demonstrations, offering a comprehensive training environment for PWay supervisors and engineers. As part of the initial training schedule, 9 Assistant Divisional Engineers and 95 Senior Section Engineers

from the PWay department are undergoing training, which is expected to be completed by the end of August 2025. This initiative underscores Lumding Division’s on-going efforts under NFR to strengthen track safety and maintenance standards through innovation and training.

## The stretch that takes 25 minutes to cover on regular days took more than 2 hours, commuters complained.

**HYDERABAD. (Agency)**

Just as Hyderabadis were getting ready to head home for the long festive weekend, the evening rains played spoilsport on Thursday. With Varalakshmi Vratam and Raksha Bandhan just around the corner, many had planned an early departure, but the downpour brought the city to a standstill. From choked roads and stranded commuters to missed buses and jam-packed Metro stations, the sudden showers turned what should have been a joyful start to the holidays into a frustrating ordeal.

The IT corridor bore the brunt. Traffic crawled along key stretches in Gachibowli, Kondapur, Madhapur and Mehdiapattanam, with commuters stuck for hours. “I left my office in Kondapur by 5 pm, hoping to catch a bus to Warangal,” an IT employee posted on X. “I was stuck near Gachibowli for over 90 minutes. I missed my bus and had to book another one for late at night.”

Across Jubilee Hills, Ameerpet and Paradise Junction, glowing brake lights stretched endlessly. “It usually takes me 25 minutes to



reach Paradise Junction from Jubilee Hills. It took me over two and a half hours today,” posted Imran, an X user.

The Metro offered no relief. While trains ran on time, crowds spilled out of stations as queues built up on the street. “I had to let three trains pass before I could get in,” said Alekya, a software engineer. “Inside, there was no room to even move my hand.”

In Madhapur, an overflowing drain turned a busy junction into a pool, forcing two-wheelers to stall

and pedestrians to tiptoe along narrow edges. In Manikonda, a compound wall collapsed on a parked car after rainwater flooded an apartment complex.

Even festive shopping took a hit. Popular markets like General Bazaar, Charaminar and Ameerpet pulled shutters down early, as customers huddled under awnings to escape the rain. Food delivery workers and auto-rickshaw drivers, already racing against traffic, were hit hard by the sudden showers.

**43 feeders hit; power outages reported across city**

The rains disrupted power supply in several parts of the city, with 43 power feeders (11kV) affected, according to the TGSPPDCL. The worst-hit areas included Banjara Hills (11 feeders), Secunderabad (12) and Medchal (seven). Falling tree branches on power lines were among the major causes of the outages. However, ground staff were swiftly deployed, and power was restored in several areas. TGSPPDCL CMD Musharraf Faruqi directed all field officers to remain on the ground until full restoration is achieved.

## We aim to transform AP into a global symbol of sustainability: Minister Ponguru Narayana

**VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)**

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has said their aim is to transform Andhra Pradesh into a global symbol of sustainability, where economic growth, innovation, and environmental harmony go hand in hand. “Our ambition is to transform Andhra Pradesh with over 550 green-certified projects spanning 612 million sq ft, and bold initiatives like Green Hydrogen Valley, 20 GW of renewable energy development, and Zero-Budget Natural Farming. We are laying the foundation for a Net Zero State by 2040,” he said.

The MAUD Minister participated in the CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) ‘Green Andhra Summit 2025’ in Vijayawada, which was held with the theme ‘Accelerating Green Growth in Andhra Pradesh - Towards a Net-Zero Future’. During the summit, an MoU was signed between Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (APMRCL) and CII IGBC, aiming to integrate green building practices into metro rail projects. Narayana said Amaravati is being developed as a model green capital, showcasing climate resilience, smart infrastructure, and clean energy. He urged all stakeholders, from industry and academia to citizens, to join this movement, and adopt IGBC Green Building Ratings for all upcoming projects, helping to build a greener, smarter, and more inclusive

Andhra Pradesh.

MAUD Principal Secretary S Suresh Kumar said the Green Andhra Pradesh Summit marks a defining moment for the State’s commitment to sustainability. “Greening the construction sector is an environmental imperative, and green buildings must become the norm,” he emphasised. He also stressed that IGBC continues to be at the forefront of India’s green movement and must now set its sights on doubling the green certified footprint over the next two



years.

“To drive this, the government has introduced dual financial incentives - impact fee discounts of up to 20% and RERA project registration fee refunds up to 20% for IGBC-certified Silver, Gold, and Platinum-rated multi-storied buildings. Together, these measures support building a climate-resilient and sustainable ecosystem. Achieving Net Zero is not the task of a few, but the responsibility of all,” he added.



# Top court halts Rs 50 crore penalty on Jal Board, civic body over Yamuna pollution

►Supreme Court pauses NGT penalty order of November 2024  
►NGT had ordered DJB and MCD to deposit Rs 25.22 crore each  
►Visuals of Yamuna covered by a layer of white froth go viral during winters



**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Supreme Court on Friday paused a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order imposing a penalty of Rs 50.44 crore on the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and the municipal corporation (MCD) over their alleged failure to curb pollution of the river Yamuna.  
A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, and also comprising Justices K

Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria, stayed the NGT penalty order of November 2024 and issued notices on the appeals filed by the DJB and the MCD.  
Visuals of the Yamuna being covered by a thick layer of white froth, primarily due to high ammonia levels caused by the

discharge of untreated sewage and industrial waste, go viral every year during the winter months.  
During this period, the river flow is low, exacerbating the situation.  
In its November 2024 order, the green tribunal ordered the DJB and the MCD to

deposit Rs 25.22 crore each with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).  
The NGT blasted the DJB for allowing drains carrying untreated sewage and industrial waste to merge with stormwater channels despite repeated directions to maintain separate lines.  
The tribunal said the untreated sewage in stormwater drains got discharged into the Yamuna, severely polluting the river.  
Meanwhile, the MCD was pulled up for covering parts of stormwater drains with concrete to create additional parking space, with the NGT calling it an "unmindful and illegal activity". It altered the shape of the drains, making cleaning and desilting impossible, the NGT said.  
Earlier this year, while hearing a separate case on Yamuna contamination, the Supreme Court said cleansing of the river might see better implementation due to the "changed circumstances" in Delhi, referring to the outcome of the elections where the BJP upstaged the AAP.

## Didn't want to cause embarrassment: Top court recalls order against Allahabad judge

**Agency New Delhi.**  
In an unprecedented move, the Supreme Court on Friday recalled its August 4 order directing that a judge of the Allahabad High Court be removed from hearing criminal matters until retirement and be made to sit with a senior judge. The bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan had issued the directive after expressing concerns over an order by Justice Prashant Kumar, who had refused to quash a criminal complaint, stating that the availability of a civil remedy for money recovery was not sufficient grounds for quashing the complaint.  
The recall followed a request from Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, who asked the bench to reconsider the limitations imposed on the High Court judge amid widespread criticism of the original order. The case was relisted for fresh directions.  
"We have received an undated letter from the hon'ble Chief Justice of India requesting the reconsideration of the observations in paras...In such circumstances, we directed the Registry to re-notify the main matter for considering the request made by the Chief Justice of India," Justice Pardiwala said while explaining the reasons for re-listing.  
Additionally, thirteen High Court judges wrote to the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, urging him not to implement the Supreme Court's earlier directions. In the fresh order, Justice Pardiwala said that there was no intention to embarrass or disparage the judge.  
"We must clarify that our intention was not to cause embarrassment or cast aspersions on the concerned Judge. We would not even think of doing so. However, when the matters cross a threshold and the dignity of the institution is imperilled, it becomes the constitutional responsibility of this Court to intervene even when acting under its appellate jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution," Justice Pardiwala said.

## 10K cops, anti-drone systems for Independence Day security



**Agency New Delhi.**  
Robust security arrangements have been put in place across the national capital ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, with more than 10,000 security personnel being deployed to maintain law and order, police said on Thursday. Delhi Police Commissioner SBK Singh has directed special police commissioner (law and order) and deputy commissioners of police to maintain a strict vigil in their respective jurisdictions, they said.  
A senior police officer said multiple layers of security will be in place at the Red Fort on Independence Day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation. Apart from physical deployment, surveillance through CCTV cameras, drone detection systems, and facial recognition technology will be used to monitor the venue and surrounding areas, the officer said. Snipers and rooftop surveillance teams will be deployed to secure high-rises near the Red Fort, and movement in designated restricted zones will be strictly regulated through access control mechanisms, the officer added. Multiple security drills, night patrolling, enhanced foot patrolling, and plain-clothed surveillance teams are being mobilised to strengthen ground presence, especially in sensitive zones, said another officer.  
"Social media platforms are also being closely monitored by cyber units to detect and neutralise any possible online threats or misinformation campaigns that may disrupt peace," he added. Over 10,000 security personnel, including paramilitary forces and special commandos, have been assigned for duty during the week-long preparation and on the day of the celebrations, police said.

## After Op Sindoor success, Army moves to boost drone defence network

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Learning from recent global conflicts and its own Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is moving to strengthen its air defence network against modern aerial threats, including drones and swarm systems. The Ministry of Defence has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to procure Air Defence Fire Control Radar – Drone Detector (ADFCR-DD) systems. These will be used to detect, track, classify and neutralise threats ranging from fighter jets and helicopters to small, low radar-cross-section drones.  
Army Air Defence aims to protect high-value assets in strategic locations. Officials said threats have evolved from fighter aircraft to low-flying, electrically operated drones with minimal radar and infrared signatures — a trend seen in the Russia-Ukraine

war, the Israel-Hamas conflict and Operation Sindoor.  
During Operation Sindoor, Pakistan used drones and swarms for surveillance and strikes on civil and defence targets. The Army's L/70, ZU 2B and Schilka



weapon systems, firing smart ammunition, were credited with cost-effective neutralisation of these threats.  
To enhance capabilities, the Army plans to pair L/70 guns with new fire control radars able to detect, identify, classify

and direct fire against even the smallest drones. Each radar system will include a search radar, track radar, fire control system, electro-optical fire control system with Identify Friend or Foe capability, and a power supply unit.  
The radar will be lightweight, mounted on a single vehicle and able to control at least two L/70 or successor guns. It will also transmit target data to very short-range air defence systems.  
The RFI specifies that the search radar should use active array technology with digital beam forming, have multi-function capability including track-while-scan, and operate in jamming conditions.  
Vendors have been asked to provide cost estimates for 12, 24, 36 and 48 systems, along with delivery timelines. Shortlisted equipment will be tested in India on a "no cost, no commitment" basis to assess performance under operational conditions.

## Poll body refuses to reveal reasons behind its 45-day CCTV rule in RTI reply

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declined to provide crucial information regarding its decision to reduce CCTV footage retention from polling stations to just 45 days, citing that the matter was pending before the Supreme Court. This was disclosed exclusively in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by . The revelation becomes significant against the backdrop of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi launching a scathing attack on the ECI's CCTV rule. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said the ECI's decision was deeply suspicious.  
About the poll body, he said, "They said



we are going to destroy the CCTV footage. This was surprising to us because there was a question in Maharashtra about a massive voting after 5.30 pm for the numbers to add up."  
"Our people knew that in the polling booths, no such thing happened. There was no massive voting after 5.30 pm. These two things made us believe with

reasonable certainty that the Election Commission of India was colluding with the BJP to steal elections," Gandhi said.  
**RTI QUERY DETAILS**  
Through the RTI application, India Today sought three critical pieces of information from the ECI. A copy of the study or report that formed the basis for the ECI's May 30, 2025 decision to reduce election video footage retention to just 45 days.  
The complete file, including all internal file notings, and correspondence related to the revision of video footage retention guidelines. Any formal assessment regarding alleged misuse of election footage on social media platforms, and access to such documents if they existed.

## Uttarkashi cloudburst: Over 560 evacuated, 112 airlifted as rescue ops intensify

Helicopter sorties from Matli to the affected regions are continuing for the second straight day. The Indian Army has re-established communication infrastructure in the Harsil sector.

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Rescue and relief operations are ongoing in the Dharali and Harsil regions of Uttarkashi following flash floods and landslides earlier this week. Over the last three days, more than 560 people have been evacuated to Harsil and Matli. A total of 112 individuals have been airlifted from affected areas to Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport. The Indian Army, Indian Air Force, SDRF, NDRF, ITBP, BRO and civil administration are jointly carrying out operations under "Operation Dharali." Helicopter sorties from Matli to the affected regions are continuing for the second straight day.  
The Indian Army has also re-established communication infrastructure in the Harsil sector, allowing stranded civilians to contact their families using satellite-based calls. Work is ongoing to lay

additional communication lines.  
So far, 22 air shuttles have been conducted on Friday, with helicopters delivering food, medicines and rescue personnel. Thirty people were airlifted from Harsil to Matli. The Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Authority (UCADA) has conducted 39 shuttles so far. These include flights from Matli to Harsil carrying 33 rescue personnel, 3 sniffer dogs and food supplies. 67 people, including staff, have been brought back from Harsil to Matli. Additional flights have carried food to Nelong.  
Four Uttarakhand Civil Aviation helicopters were deployed from Matli to Harsil. An MI-17 helicopter that took off from Jolly Grant Airport in

Dehradun had to return due to poor weather in Tehri. Rain warnings have been issued again today, which may affect



further rescue efforts.  
Advanced equipment is being flown in using Chinook and Mi-17 helicopters to

help remove debris in Dharali in the search for missing persons. Due to damaged roads, rescue teams are focusing on air operations.  
Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has been monitoring the situation from the district headquarters in Uttarkashi. He said the government is working to evacuate all affected people and return the area to normal as soon as possible.  
Additionally, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released satellite images showing the extent of the damage around Dharali village. Several buildings appear to be submerged in debris. These images are being used to support ongoing search and rescue work and help restore access to isolated areas.

## Land registration process eased, no NoC required in most cases, says Delhi government

**Agency New Delhi.**  
In a move aimed at ease of living and doing business, the Delhi government has decided to scrap the requirement for a no objection certificate (NoC) and land status report (LSR) for most land registration cases with immediate effect.  
Going forward, NoCs and LSRs will only be required in specific cases governed by certain legal provisions, namely Section 8 of the Delhi Lands (Restrictions on Transfer) Act, 1972, and Section 30 of the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948.  
Permission from the revenue department will no longer be necessary in other instances. Sub-registrars will register documents strictly in accordance with the Indian Registration Act, 1908, and only on legally prescribed grounds. Further, a 'buyer beware' clause will be enforced, placing the responsibility on buyers to verify the land status and ownership independently.  
Moreover, land-related information will be regularly updated and made available on official portals. To prevent misuse and ensure safeguards against fraud, the government is introducing a range of protective measures. Land falling under the gram sabha, forest areas, acquisition zones or restricted categories will remain protected, and any fraudulent transactions will attract stringent legal action. Monitoring systems will be strengthened through the use of GIS (geographic information system) tech and an integrated patwari network.

## No restriction on deploying school teachers for poll duties: EC to court

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday heard a petition filed by several Delhi government school teachers challenging their appointment as Booth Level Officers (BLOs), contending that such deployment violates existing rules and guidelines. However, the Election Commission of India opposed the plea, stating that its guidelines were amended in June to allow such appointments.  
The matter came up before Justice Mini Pushkarna, who issued notices to the ECI and the Delhi government, directing them to place all relevant facts on record.  
The case has been listed for further hearing on September 25. The petitioners, who are serving teachers in Delhi government schools, are aggrieved by office orders issued on June 9 and June 16, which directed them to take charge as BLOs.  
In their submissions, the teachers argued that their deployment contravenes the ECI's earlier guidelines issued on November 3, 2010, and October 4, 2022. These guidelines, according to the petitioners, stipulate that teachers should only be considered for BLO duties after all other eligible categories of employees have been exhausted. The petitioners also cited Section 27 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which bars the assignment of non-educational duties to teachers.  
They further argued that they belong to Group B service, while the government has allegedly avoided assigning BLO duties to employees in Group C.  
In response, the Election Commission submitted that its guidelines were amended on June 5, 2025, allowing the appointment of any regular Group C and above employees, enrolled as electors in the relevant area, as BLOs. The ECI maintained that the revised guidelines no longer restrict the appointment of teachers.



NEWS BOX

Ousmane Dembélé and Chloe Kelly nominated for men's, women's Ballon d'Or awards

PARIS.(Agency)

Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembélé and England forward Chloe Kelly are among the contenders to win the men's and women's Ballon d'Or award. The 30 men's and 30 women's nominees were revealed Thursday by France Football magazine, with the winners to be announced at a ceremony in Paris on Sept. 22. The 28-year-old Dembélé was inspirational in leading PSG to its first Champions League title after years of falling short and helped the French club complete a treble. He scored a career-high 35 goals overall for PSG last



season. Teenage star Lamine Yamal, whose mesmerizing performances lit up the Champions League and helped Barcelona win the Spanish league title, is among the other men's nominees. Kelly starred for England at Euros. When England won the women's European Championship last month, the 27-year-old Kelly blasted home the decisive penalty in the final against World Cup winner Spain. She also played a key role earlier in the tense knockout stages. Last season, Kelly played on the right flank as Arsenal won the women's Champions League with another against-the-odds win over powerhouse Barcelona. She faces competition from defender Lucy Bronze and goalkeeper Hannah Hampton — her England teammates who both play for Chelsea — and from Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmatí, the winner of the past two awards. Barcelona players have won the past four women's awards. Bronze was runner-up in 2019 to U.S. forward Megan Rapinoe. PSG players in the spotlight Dembélé was one of nine PSG players nominated for the men's award, including goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, forward.

Sanju Samson to leave RR due to Vaibhav Suryavanshi's rise Ex-opener explains

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketer turned commentator Aakash Chopra believes that the rapid rise of Rajasthan Royals' (RR) young opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi must've played a key role in Sanju Samson's reported desire to leave the franchise ahead of the IPL 2026 auction. Chopra suggested Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) could be the most eager side to sign Samson if the Rajasthan captain decides to leave. Reports have suggested that Samson has asked RR to release him, sparking speculation about his next move. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Aakash Chopra, questioned why Samson would



want to leave Rajasthan in the first place, especially given his key role in their set-up in previous seasons. "Why would Sanju Samson want to leave? It's interesting because when the last mega auction happened, they let Jos Buttler go, and I felt they let Jos Buttler go because Yashasvi had come and Sanju wanted to open, and Sanju and Rajasthan Royals were really, really thick," he said. The emergence of young opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi, however, might have shifted the team dynamics, reckons Chopra. "I felt there would have been a massive input from Sanju in the players they retained or released. However, now it seems it might not have been there. Vaibhav Suryavanshi has come, so two openers are already ready, and you also want to bat Dhruv Jurel up the order. So Sanju wishes to leave. If he is thinking like that, it's possible. These are conjectures. I don't know what's in his and Rajasthan's minds," Chopra said. Samson scored 285 runs at a strike rate of 140.39 in nine innings during IPL 2025. Meanwhile, Suryavanshi's explosive start to his IPL career — 252 runs in just seven innings at a staggering strike rate of 206.55, including the fastest IPL century by an Indian has made him a headline name and possibly altered RR's batting plans.

Ben Shelton wins biggest crown of career, elated with steely show ahead of US Open

Ben Shelton claimed his first ATP 1000 title by winning the National Bank Open in Toronto. This victory makes him the youngest American Masters 1000 champion since 2004 and positions him as a strong contender ahead of the US Open.

Toronto. (Agency)

22-year-old Ben Shelton is making all the right noises in men's singles tennis. The American star clinched the biggest win of his budding career by defeating Karen Khachanov in the final of the National Bank Open, a prestigious ATP 1000 event in Toronto. It marked his first title at this level, making him the youngest American to win a Masters



1000 crown since a 21-year-old Andy Roddick triumphed in Miami in 2004. Shelton, who reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open and the quarter-finals of Wimbledon earlier this year, showcased his big-match temperament by fighting from behind. After losing the opening set in a tie-break to Khachanov, Shelton rallied and

forced a decider. Trailing 0-40 at one stage, he stormed back to take the second set 6-4. In the final set, he was pushed to another tie-break, but the 22-year-old held his nerve and delivered the knockout blow. Speaking after the landmark victory, Shelton expressed his delight at being able to battle until the end and come out on top. Earlier in

the tournament, he had already impressed by beating Italian 13th seed Flavio Cobolli, Australian ninth seed Alex de Minaur, and American second seed Taylor Fritz. "It's been a long week, not an easy path to the final. My best tennis came out when it mattered most. I was clutch, I persevered, I was resilient—all the qualities I like to see in myself." Thanks to this victory, Shelton will rise to a career-high of No. 6 in the men's singles rankings. The explosive left-hander heads into the US Open, starting 27 August, as one of the key names to watch. He exited in the third round last year after a five-set marathon against fellow American Frances Tiafoe. However, the southpaw has fond memories of New York, having reached the semi-finals in 2023.

Shelton's next appearance will be at the Cincinnati Masters, the final tune-up event before the US Open. The American is seeded fifth and could face third seed Alexander Zverev in the quarter-finals, with a potential semi-final clash against Carlos Alcaraz on the cards.

Villarreal signs midfielder Thomas Partey after he gets bail on rape charges

VILLARREAL. (Agency)

Spanish soccer club Villarreal signed midfielder Thomas Partey on Thursday, two days after he was granted bail on rape charges in England.

Villarreal said the 32-year-old Ghana international, who became a free agent when his Arsenal contract expired in June, has joined "for the 2025-26 season."

The club's announcement touted Partey's on-field attributes before turning to his legal case. "The player firmly maintains his innocence and denies all charges against him. The club respects the fundamental principle of the presumption of innocence and will await the outcome of the judicial process, which will be responsible for clarifying the facts of the case," Villarreal's statement said. "Due to the law in England in relation to ongoing proceedings the club is unable to comment further."

Partey was granted bail Tuesday after appearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London charged with five counts of rape. He has also been charged with one count of sexual assault. The alleged offenses,



between 2021-22, relate to three women. Villarreal added that it "wishes to clearly reiterate its strong commitment to respect and diversity and firmly condemns any act of violence in all its forms, including gender-based violence, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, or any behavior that undermines the dignity of individuals." The midfielder was expected to join the team at its training ground on Friday, said Villarreal, which didn't specify if the contract extends beyond one season. Arsenal hosted Villarreal in a pre-season friendly on Wednesday at Emirates Stadium. Partey had joined Arsenal nearly five years ago from Atletico Madrid. Partey's lawyer, Jenny Wiltshire, has previously said he "denies all the charges against him."

US women's national team knocked off top spot by Spain in FIFA's latest rankings

The U.S. held the top position since August last year after winning gold at the Paris Olympics.

MONTREAL. (Agency)

ZURICH: The U.S. was knocked off the top spot in FIFA's latest women's rankings by world champion Spain. Spain regained the No. 1 position despite losing to England in the final of the European Championship last month. The U.S. held the top position since August last year after winning gold at the Paris Olympics. Spain was No. 1 from December 2023 to June last year after its World Cup triumph. The latest rankings were released by world governing body FIFA on Thursday. England, which has won back-to-back Euros and lost to Spain in the final at the 2023 World Cup, moved up one



place to fourth. Brazil dropped three positions and is seventh despite successfully defending the Copa America to win its ninth continental title. Sweden and France were big movers after impressive

showings at the Euros. Sweden rose three places and is third after being eliminated on penalties by England in the quarterfinals. France moved up four places to sixth after also losing in the quarterfinals.

WI vs PAK: Matthew Forde ruled out of ODI series due to shoulder injury

New Delhi. (Agency)

West Indies have been rocked by an injury ahead of their ODI series against Pakistan as fast bowler Matthew Forde has been ruled out of the rubber due to a shoulder injury. Forde dislocated his left shoulder while attempting a catch during the training session ahead of the series. The right-arm seamer has been replaced by all-rounder Johann Layne in the squad ahead of the first ODI against Pakistan on August 8 at Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad. "INJURY UPDATE. West Indies Academy pacer Johann Layne will replace Matthew Forde in the squad for the three matches against Pakistan starting on Friday. Forde dislocated his left shoulder while attempting a catch during Wednesday's training session," informed West Indies Cricket on their X account. The 21-year-old Johann Layne is yet to make his international debut and has earned a call-up on the back of some decent performances



for West Indies A against South Africa A. Layne has scored 124 runs and picked 13 wickets so far from 12 List A matches.

Meanwhile, the West Indies will be eager to make a comeback in the ODI series after Pakistan sealed the T20I rubber by 2-1. Head coach Darren Sammy expressed his

excitement ahead of the ODIs, mentioning its importance for the automatic qualification for the ODI World Cup 2027. "Pakistan presents a different test and challenge as we continue our push for automatic qualification for the 2027 World Cup. While qualifying is our immediate goal, maintaining a winning mentality and team cohesion is essential for long-term success," Sammy was quoted as saying by ICC. "The upcoming matches against teams like Pakistan, who are ranked higher, provide crucial opportunities to earn valuable ranking points to improve our standing ahead of the World Cup," he added.

West Indies squad: Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, Jediah Blades, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoor, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Johann Layne, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd

Canadian teen Victoria Mboko completes dream run in Montreal with first WTA Tour title

Mboko joined Faye Urban in 1969 and Bianca Andreescu in 2019 as the only Canadians to win the home event in the open era.

MONTREAL. (Agency)

Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko completed a dream run to the National Bank Open title Thursday night, overcoming a slow start and swollen right wrist to beat Japanese star Naomi Osaka 2-6, 6-4, 6-1. The 18-year-old Mboko — who will jump from 85th to 25th in the world — won her first WTA Tour title and joined Faye Urban in 1969 and Bianca Andreescu in 2019 as the only Canadians to win the home event in the open era. Mboko

dropped to her knees after Osaka fired a shot into the net as a raucous packed house burst into cheers around center court. The winner then ran to hug her family and coaches in the court-side box. "When I had that winning moment and seeing so many people standing up and cheering for me, it was kind of a surreal experience," said Mboko, who was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, to Congolese parents and grew up in Toronto. "I would have never thought something like this would have come so suddenly. It just proves that your dreams are closer than they (seem)." The crowd was so rowdy, the umpire repeatedly asked fans to "please be quiet during the points."

"It's been an incredible week here in Montreal," Mboko told the fans. "Montreal, je vous aime!" After the match, when the crowd applauded Osaka with some yelling mixed in, she said, "Thanks, I guess," and did not congratulate Mboko. Osaka later declined to

speak to the media. There were 13 service breaks in 25 games, with Mboko converting eight of nine break points. And she did it with a stiff and swollen wrist that was "hard to



move." After falling hard early Wednesday in the third set in the semifinals, Mboko woke up Thursday morning and rushed to the hospital for X-rays and an MRI, but ultimately received the green light to play. "Today was such an eventful day actually,"

said Mboko, who often shook her wrist in visible discomfort. "It feels unbelievable right now. I mean, words cannot really describe how today went." There's some moments where it was aggravating me a lot, but I feel like it was the final. I just kept saying to myself, 'You have one more to go.'" With her wrist wrapped in a bandage, Mboko piled up a whopping 13 double-faults, and the speed of her first serves dipped. She beat four majors champions in the hard-court event, routing top-seeded Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-4 and also topping Osaka, Sofia Kenin and Elena Rybakina. Osaka, the four-time Grand Slam champion who reached No. 1 in the world, had her best performance in a WTA 1000 tournament since also reaching the Miami final in 2022. She stepped away for 15 months toward the end of that season and had daughter Shai in July 2023. She's winless since the 2021 Australian Open.



## Trump's tariff: What Indian refiners stand to lose if Russian oil stops flowing

**MUMBAI (Agency)**

When the fuel that powers your engine starts lighting fires under your feet, it's probably time to rethink your route. That's exactly the situation Indian oil refiners find themselves in.

What began as a jackpot deal, as in cheap Russian crude flowing in after the Ukraine war, is now turning into a diplomatic bonfire. With the US turning up the heat through fresh tariffs and calling out India's continued oil trade with Moscow, the once-sweet deal is now sinking both margins and international relations. For over two years, Indian refiners have been taking advantage of discounted Russian crude. But with the US tightening its stance, that door may soon begin to close.

**TRUMP'S TARIFF PUSH BRINGS UNCERTAINTY**

In a move that could reshape trade ties, US President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order that slaps an extra 25% tariff on several Indian exports. The decision, which raises duties on many products to 50%, came with a clear message: Washington is unhappy with India's continued purchases of Russian oil.

This new tariff puts India in a tough spot. On one hand, stepping away from Russian barrels means higher energy costs. On the other, staying the course risks damaging trade ties with the US, India's biggest export market.

**WHAT'S AT STAKE?**

The numbers lay out the dilemma. According to Bloomberg, India saved around \$3.8 billion in the past year by importing cheaper Russian crude. But during the same period, it exported goods worth \$87 billion to the United States. If you look at the size of India's trade with the US, and how much it saves from Russian oil, it's clear what India would do," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING Singapore. "Are you going to risk \$87 billion in exports to save a few billion on oil?"

For India's state-run oil refiners, moving away from Russia could eat into profits. An industry official told The Economic Times that going back to Middle Eastern crude would affect gross refining margins, a key measure of profitability.

**US targets one-kilo gold bars with new import tariffs: Report**

**CHENNAI (Agency)**

The United States has imposed tariffs on imports of one-kilo gold bars, the Financial Times reported on Thursday, citing a letter from US Customs and Border Protection dated July 31. According to the report, one-kilo and 100-ounce gold bars are now to be classified under a customs code that is subject to tariff levels. The move could significantly impact Switzerland — the world's largest gold refining and export hub.

**TARIFFS DEAL BLOW TO SWISS REFINERS**

Swiss gold refiners and exporters are now facing immediate consequences, with at least two facilities reportedly having either halted or slowed shipments to the US market. Following the US government's announcement last week of a broad 39% tariff on imports from Switzerland, this exacerbates already existing trade tensions between Bern and Washington. "The prevailing view was that precious metals remelted by Swiss refineries and exported to the US could be shipped tariff-free," said Christoph Wild, president of the Swiss Association of Manufacturers and Traders of Precious Metals as quoted by the FT. "However, the custom code classification for different gold products is not always precise," he added. Wild said that the move dealt "another blow" to the Swiss gold trade with the US and warned it would make it harder to meet demand for the metal. Gold is among Switzerland's top exports to the United States. Customs data shows that the Alpine nation shipped \$61.5 billion worth of gold to the US in the 12 months ending June 2025. At a 39 per cent tariff rate, that same volume would now face approximately \$24 billion in additional charges.

**DoT slashes Security Test Evaluation fees up to 95%**

**New Delhi (Agency)**

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday announced a significant reduction up to 95 per cent in telecom equipment certification fees in the security test evaluation fees for telecom and ICT products. "Telecom testing made cheaper with certification fees slashed by up to 95% across over 50 categories... boosting compliance, accelerating Ease of Doing Business, strengthening trust for a self-reliant #DigitalIndia. The decision to reduce the price was taken to enhance ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden on the telecom and ICT sectors, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said. The new price will be effective from August 01, 2025. The "revised fee structure under the Communication Security Certification Scheme (ComSec) is aimed at making the security certification process more affordable for domestic manufacturers especially MSMEs," Ministry of Communications said. The security test evaluation fees, previously ranging from Rs 2,00,000 to Rs 3,50,000 depending on the equipment category, have now been drastically reduced. Under the revised structure, fees for Group A equipment drop to Rs 10,000 from Rs 200,000, Group B to Rs 20,000 from Rs 200,000, Group C to Rs 30,000 from Rs 250,000, and Group D to Rs 50,000 from Rs 350,000. This will significantly reduce the financial strain on telecom/ICT product manufacturers, including domestic players, the ministry's release stated. The Ministry of Communications informed that the DoT simplified the security testing and compliance process for Highly Specialized Equipment (HSE) and End-of-Sale/End-of-Life telecom products.

# Retail inflation likely dropped to an eight-year low in July: Report

**Despite uneven monsoons, a strong spring harvest has helped India keep a lid on food prices, extending the country's longest disinflationary streak in more than a decade.**

**New Delhi (Agency)**

Cooling food price rises likely reduced India retail inflation to an eight-year low of 1.76% in July, below the low end of the Reserve Bank of India's 2% to 6% tolerance band for the first time in over six years, a Reuters poll of economists showed. Despite uneven monsoons, a strong spring harvest has helped India keep a lid on food prices, extending the country's longest disinflationary streak in more than a decade. The annual change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased to



1.76% in July from 2.10% in June, according to the median forecast from an August 4-8 survey of 41 economists. Forecasts ranged from 1.10% to 3.10%. If correct, this will mark the ninth straight month inflation has fallen. "We are expecting food inflation to be lower, to contract on a year-on-year basis...we continue to see this moderation on the

back of healthy supply coming from last year - that's bringing about this disinflationary trend," said Sakshi Gupta, principal economist at HDFC Bank. "Although on a month-on-month basis, certain vegetable prices have gone up - for instance, onion and tomato prices - but that increase has been very moderate and lower than the usual seasonal

trends. "Inflation was expected to average 3.40% this fiscal year, slightly above the RBI's 3.10% forecast, a recent separate Reuters poll showed. The benign inflation outlook gives the RBI more room to support the economy, which is under pressure after US President Donald Trump sharply raised tariffs on Indian goods. Given the challenging external environment, high US tariffs on Indian goods, a general environment of economic uncertainty and weakening domestic activity indicators growth may disappoint," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist at ANZ. "Inflation could undershoot the RBI's revised projections but is unlikely to drive further easing. "Core inflation, which strips out volatile components like food and fuel and better reflects domestic demand, was expected to have fallen to 4.20% in July, down from an estimated 4.30% in June. The Indian statistics agency does not publish official core inflation data.

## Want to save tax by claiming HRA for rent paid to parents Read this first

**New Delhi (Agency)**

It's that time of the year again when salaried employees rush to file their Income Tax Returns. And with that comes the usual scramble to find ways to save tax. But not all shortcuts are smart, some can actually land you in hot water. Take the example shared by CA Apoorva Gavai, who was recently chatting with a friend. "I'll just say I paid rent to my parents and claim HRA — simple, right?" her friend said confidently. Gavai was quick to ask the obvious, "Wait... have you actually been PAYING them rent?" The reply? "Umm no. But it's legal, right?" This is where the confusion lies. Yes, claiming House Rent Allowance (HRA) while living with your parents is allowed. But there's a catch, you must actually pay rent, and you must have proof of it.

This, she says, is the classic "jugaad" mindset, trying to find loopholes rather than following the law.

**LEGAL, BUT ONLY IF DONE RIGHT**

According to tax rules, salaried individuals can claim HRA even if

they're living in their parents' home. But the rent must be real, paid regularly, and documented properly. The Income Tax Department is now closely watching such claims, and has



started sending notices to people who show rent payments without proof. "It's technically legal to claim HRA if you're paying rent to your parents," Gavai said. "But it's only legal if you're actually doing it, and doing it right."

**PLANNING TO CLAIM HRA THIS WAY? HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO**

If you're planning to claim HRA while

living with your parents, make sure you're doing it the right way. The rent you pay must be genuine, regular, and well-documented.

Always transfer the rent through your bank account every month; cash payments or last-minute transfers won't hold up if questioned. It's also wise to have a proper rent agreement in place, signed by both parties, to serve as proof. Most importantly, your parents must declare this rental income in their Income Tax Return (ITR). If they don't, it could be treated as tax evasion. "No transactions = no deduction," the CA explained.

A verbal understanding is not enough. And if your parents don't show rental income in their ITR, it's tax evasion. "Half-baked knowledge is the fastest way to land an IT notice in your inbox," Gavai warned. "If you're earning a salary and looking to save tax, know the rules — don't game them."

## Government may approve Rs 30,000 crore support to maintain LPG price stability

**This move is aimed at helping oil marketing companies recover losses they have been facing on domestic LPG sales due to high international prices.**

**New Delhi (Agency)**

The Union Cabinet is expected to approve a major subsidy package of nearly Rs 30,000 crore for oil marketing companies to support LPG pricing, said government sources to Business Today. A meeting is scheduled for 1 PM today where the proposal will be taken up. This move is aimed at helping oil marketing companies recover losses they have been facing on domestic LPG sales due to high international prices.



The subsidy is likely to help keep LPG prices steady for consumers, especially with global energy costs remaining volatile. Sources say the financial support will ease the burden on these companies and ensure that LPG cylinders remain affordable for

millions of Indian households. While no official statement has been released yet, the Cabinet's nod to the subsidy is seen as almost certain. Once approved, this package could be one of the major direct support measures for oil firms in recent years.

## Despite reporting 49% growth in Q1FY26 PAT, Kalyan Jewellers' shares fall 9%

**New Delhi (Agency)**

Despite reporting 49% growth in its net profit in the June quarter of the current financial year (Q1FY26), shares of Kalyan Jewellers fell over 9 per cent on Friday. The jewellery major's stock fell more than 9% intraday to hit a low of ₹535 per share.

Kalyan Jewellers on Thursday reported a 49% year-on-year (YoY) increase in its consolidated net profit at ₹264 crore in the quarter ended June 2025 (Q1 FY26). In the corresponding quarter last year, the jewellery firm had clocked a profit of 178 crore. The company's revenue from operations stood at 7,268 crore, up 31% YoY in Q1 FY25, compared to 5,528 crore in the first quarter of FY2024-25 (Q1FY25).

The fall in share prices also comes even as most brokerages have a buy call on the stock. Motilal Oswal Financial Services maintained a 'BUY' rating on the stock with an unchanged target price of ₹700, based on 45x June'27 EPS. "India EBITDA was 10% above our estimates led by robust gross margins as (i)

company implemented a pilot project of lean credit period to its vendors which resulted in higher margins/better RoCE and, (ii) inventory gains due to increase in prices of silver/platinum," noted the brokerage.

Kalyan Jewellers is also planning to launch new regional brands for every state to target the customers with regional taste and capture the pie from unorganised segment. It has temporarily paused the repayment of its debt obligation until release of its real estate collateral. Demand in Q2 remained until last week of June, post which the high base is optically leading to some YoY slowdown in growth, with growth again expected to pick in Q2 due to the festive season. "Its steps towards lean credit policy is expected to drive profitability and

improve RoCE, while the regional brand strategy is aimed at increasing the TAM; however, this would also lead an increase in the overall capital employed in the business. We largely maintain our

ICICI Securities noted that despite a higher base and increasing FOCO saliency (43% of India revenue), profitability surprised positively supported by procurement gains and operating leverage.

"Non-south now contributes more than 50% of India revenue, studded share held at 30%, and Middle East mix improved. It retained aggressive rollout guidance (170 stores in FY26 – 90 Kalyan and 80 Candere) and it has plans to launch regional brands during the year. With steady demand trends, despite elevated gold prices and an accelerating store rollout, we expect Kalyan's revenue momentum to remain strong. With RoCE at 21.8% and net debt/equity (ex-GML) near zero, the business remains well placed to drive capital-efficient scale," said ICICI Securities. It maintains a buy call on the stock with a price target of ₹670.



EPS estimates as benefits of better margins gets negated by higher interest cost required for working capital requirement for the new pilot," said Motilal Oswal in its note.



# Rashmika Mandanna

## BREAKS Silence On Negative PR And Ruthless Trolls: 'Why Strangle People...'

Rashmika Mandanna has been in the public eye for years now—navigating stardom, scrutiny, and the relentless glare of the spotlight. From a broken engagement early in her career to never-confirmed relationships and controversial role choices, the actor has been a recurring target of online trolls and gossipmongers. But through it all, she's chosen to remain kind—even when kindness is mistaken for artifice. In a recent appearance on Snap With Stars, Rashmika got candid about the emotional toll of fame and the judgment that often follows her most genuine moments.

"I know that I am a very emotional person and a very real person," she shared. "At the same time, I can't really show it out because people think kindness is fake, kindness is weakness... they say she's doing it for the cameras. The more real you are, the more unacceptable it becomes."

For Rashmika, choosing to be kind isn't about gaining praise or public validation—it's a conscious decision, made quietly and consistently. "Being kind doesn't get me anything. It's just something I choose to do." That choice, however, hasn't shielded her from the intense negativity she's had to face. "I've dealt with a lot of negative PR and trolling," she admitted. "If you can't be kind, then just don't say anything. Let people breathe. Why do you have to suffocate people? Why do you have to strangle people to grow? No, let all of us grow. It's fine. The world's so big, there's room for all of us."

Even as she continues to heal from past hurt, Rashmika confessed that the cycle feels never-ending. "I feel like I'm in this loop of constantly healing through negativity, and then something happens again."

Despite all the noise, Rashmika's career shows no signs of slowing down. This year, she played Maharani Yesubai opposite Vicky Kaushal in Chhaava, and starred as Saisri Rajkot in AR Murugadoss' Sikandar alongside Salman Khan. She also took on the role of Sameera in Sekhar Kammula's bilingual Kuberaa, sharing the screen with Dhanush and Nagarjuna.

Next up, she'll be seen in the Telugu film The Girlfriend and the highly anticipated Hindi film Thama, which also stars Ayushmann Khurrana. Speaking about Thama, Rashmika called it "another one close to my heart. It's exciting, fun, and will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat. No spoilers... for now!" Directed by Muniya's Aditya Sarpotdar, Thama is a dark, gripping love story set against the backdrop of ancient vampire lore. Ayushmann plays a historian unearthing disturbing secrets through old manuscripts, while supernatural forces begin to unravel the world around him. Backed by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik under Maddock Films, Thama is written by Niren Bhatt, Suresh Mathew, and Arun Fulara. The film also features Paresh Rawal and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in significant roles. At 29, Rashmika has grown from being the industry's "national crush" to a powerful voice navigating the intersection of stardom and self-worth. And though she's often misunderstood, her message remains unwavering: there's room for everyone—and kindness, no matter how it's perceived, is still worth choosing.



## Shruti Haasan Says Role in THIS Dhanush Film Saved Her Career: 'Acting Opposite Him...'



Shruti Haasan was going through a tough patch in her career when 3 came her way. Before landing the role of Janani in Aishwarya Rajinikanth's 2012 romantic tragedy, the actor had faced a string of flops across industries — including Luck in Hindi and Anaganaga O Dheerudu in Telugu. But 3, starring Dhanush and directed by his then-wife Aishwarya, gave Shruti something she hadn't felt in a long time: belief.

"There was a lot of faith (in me) from the team and a lot of support," Shruti shared in a recent chat with Galatta Plus. "Acting opposite Dhanush definitely helped. He's a really supportive co-star, especially at that time in my life. I had a lot of doubts, so he was very encouraging, he and Aishwarya (Rajinikanth). My role was so pivotal to the story, too. I always perform under pressure when I'm given responsibility. I realised that then, and the wall broke. After that, my personality also changed a lot."

When 3 first hit theatres, it received mixed reviews and modest box office returns. But over time, the film found a devoted audience. The now-iconic Kolaveri Di song became a cultural moment — but for Shruti, the film meant much more than a viral hit. In another interview with Prema last month, she reflected on the film's long-term impact. "I wish 3 was a more commercial success. I feel like if that film were released now, it would've been a rage. Much bigger than just the Kolaveri song."

As 3 gained its cult status, Shruti's career took a turn for the better. And more than a decade later, she's gearing up for a major release again — this time in Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The film, which features an all-star cast including Rajinikanth, Aamir Khan, Upenendra, Nagarjuna, and Soubin Shahir, hits theatres on 14 August.

Dhanush, meanwhile, is juggling multiple roles in his upcoming film Idly Kadai, where he writes, directs, produces, and stars alongside Nithya Menen. He also reunites with Raanjhanaa director Aanand L Rai for Tere Ishk Mein, co-starring Kriti Sanon.

## Kiara Advani Looks Stunning In New BTS Photo From War 2's Aavan Jaavan Song



Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani's song Aavan Jaavan from War 2 has been trending ever since it was released. Fans are gushing over Kiara's bold look. Recently, the actress has once again left fans in awe with her glamorous look in a behind the scenes photo from the sets of War 2. The new BTS snap, which has surfaced online, shows Kiara dressed in a dazzling outfit. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kiara shared a photo in which she is seen enjoying having street food. Kiara looks stunning in short red colour pants and small crop top. On Kiara's birthday, the first song Aavan Jaavan was released. Recently, Yash Raj Films has unveiled behind-the-scenes footage of the song.

In a newly released behind-the-scenes video, Mukerji discussed the inspiration behind choosing Italy as the primary location for the song. "We needed a backdrop to film this love song. It should seem like this beautiful travel energy song where two people are just in love and seeing the world together. So I was very happy when we finally selected Italy as the location for the song," he said.

Kiara Advani also reflected on the experience of shooting in the serene landscapes, highlighting the relaxed atmosphere. "We've had just the right mix of sunshine and that lovely wind coming in. I just feel like staying back here and just chilling, relaxing and swimming in these thermal pools. It's just dreamy and beautiful," she shared.

Earlier today, the makers released teaser of second song Janaabe Aali. The song features Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR in an epic dance battle, complying with the film's theme. The track is composed by Pritam and sung by Sachet Tandon and Saab Bhattacharya, with lyrics by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The track promises to be a pulsating dance anthem that is bound to set the screen on fire. "The dance WAR you've been waiting for is almost here. Here's the tease... #JanaabeAali full song in theatres only! #War2 releasing in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil in cinemas worldwide on 14th August," read the logline on the song's YouTube video. Recently, Hrithik praised the RRR actor's dancing skills and said that he is the only actor who didn't need any rehearsals. "NTR is incredible, and a true champ," Hrithik said, adding, "He's the first co-star I've worked with who doesn't need rehearsals."

# Nikki Tamboli's Shimmery Dress Makes Fans Sing Mika Singh's Dil Mein Baji Guitar

On the special occasion of Friendship Day, actress Nikki Tamboli made a stunning appearance at an event. She took to social media to share a glimpse of the celebration, posting a video of herself at the venue. Accompanying the post was a caption that read, "In my quiet girl era. Don't have much to say just much to do," adorned with a red heart and crown emoji, subtly hinting at her current state of mind.

In the video, Nikki looked radiant in a strapless, body-hugging dress embellished with shimmering sequins. The gown featured an eye-catching ombre effect, transitioning from deep, rich shades at the top like navy or violet to warmer, softer hues such as blush pink or coral toward the bottom. She styled her hair in relaxed, beachy waves, adding a touch of effortless charm. To complete her look, she accessorised with bold golden cuff bracelets and elegant, pointed-toe



heels. The video played against the upbeat backdrop of Mika Singh's track Dil Mein Baji Guitar.

**Nikki Tamboli and Arbaz Patel Love Story**

Aside from this Nikki Tamboli has also been in the headlines for her personal life. She is currently dating fellow reality TV personality Arbaz Patel. Their love story began within the walls of the Bigg Boss Marathi Season 5 house. Initially bonding as friends, their relationship gradually evolved into romance during their time on the show. Since then, the couple has continued to grow closer and are now going strong, much to the delight of their fans.

**Nikki Tamboli Career**

Nikki first gained recognition for her performance in the Tamil horror-comedy film Kanchana 3. However, her major breakthrough came when she entered the world of reality television. Her appearances in Bigg Boss 14 and later in Bigg Boss Marathi 5 earned her immense popularity. Notably, she emerged as the winner of Bigg Boss Marathi 5, hosted by Riteish Deshmukh, solidifying her place as a household name across India.

She further showcased her versatility by participating in the cooking-based competition Celebrity MasterChef. Nikki impressed both judges and viewers alike with her culinary skills, eventually making it to the finals. Although she didn't win the title, actor Gaurav Khanna took the trophy, her performance in the kitchen earned her significant acclaim.







Rakshabandhan has become the cynosure of brotherhood, is celebrated around the world, with the rays of love and affection blooming in it. Rakhi festival is not only a ceremony of tying rakhi but it has moreover transited into the trust and love which a girl ties on her brothers wrist and hope that this hand will always hold her in every ups and downs of life.

As per the Hindu calendar rakhi festival falls on the shravan purnima(full moon day), which corresponds to the month of July August as per the English calendar. The day is being celebrated as per the Indian calendar, which changes every year, hence the festival also falls on the different dates of the English calendar. So all brothers be ready to stand on the threshold of festive moments and see your sister beaming with joy when you surprise her with amazing gifts. In Mumbai, rakhi festival is called Nariyal purnima or coconut full moon and keralean people called the occasion as the avani avittam. Every region has their own names and ways for enjoying the occasion but the real spirit of the day enliven in every part, which swabs the true color in the mirage of the India.

How to decorate Rakhi ki Thaali

Raksha Bandhan is celebrated every year on ‘Shravan Purnima’. On the auspicious day of Rakhi, sisters visit their brothers to perform the rituals of Rakhi. The ritual of Raksha Bandhan essentially includes tying of Rakhi by the sisters, on their brothers’ wrist. Before tying Rakhi, the sisters would perform an aarti, apply tilak (by mixing rice grains and roli) on their brother’s forehead and then offer them sweets. So the thaali should have the following:

- A well decorated Thali- stainless steel, silver, brass or a decorative tray will also do.

- Two small containers- one for water and the other raw uncooked white rice.
- Rakhi
- 01 ghee diya
- Matches to light the ghee diya
- Fresh broken flowers
- Roli thread bundle
- Agarbatti/incense stick- preferably small
- Sweets –mithai

In the heart of the thali, paint a Swastika, which is a symbol of Lord Ganesha. Buy three small size containers, one for rice and water, second for placing roli and the third for keeping a diya and an incense stick stand. Pick up a nice beaded rakhi that can further enhance the charm of your thali. Border your Rakhi thali using fresh flowers. If you want to place the sweets in the thali itself, then you can either keep them on the corner side or take a separate container and your rakhi thali is ready.

According to the Indian tradition, the family members get ready for the rituals early in the morning. They take a bath to purify mind and body before starting any preparations. After offering the rituals to the deities of the family, the sister perform aarti of their brothers and ties Rakhi on their wrist. Then, they put kumkum powder on the forehead of their brother and offer sweets.

How to celebrate Raksha Bandhan

The festival of Raksha Bandhan is celebrated on full

moon day(Purnima) of Shravan Masa. As per the scriptures, Raksha bandhan should not be celebrated in the Bhadra (inauspicious)time of Shravani and Phalguni Nakshatra. According to a belief, King in Shravan Nakshatra and tying of thread(Rakhi) in Phalguni Nakshatra, is worst and harmful for the public. Hence, while tying Rakhi, it is important to remember the auspiciousness to time.

At the time of tying thread, Bhadra is kept in consideration. Rakhi is not tied at the time of Bhadra.

Points of Consideration on Raksha Bandhan

The person, who wants to celebrate this festival, should take bath early in the morning and wear new clothes. After this, family god should be worship, then, Rakhi is also worship. Remember your ancestors and take the blessing of elders.

A colored thread can be taken as a Rakhi. This thread also be of silk. Gold, saffron, sandalwood, Akshat and grass is kept on the thread, and, worshiped. While worshipping, the person should

fully concentrate on Puja, for whatever time, he is sitting in it.

After worshipping Rakhi(thread), brother is applied Tika(auspicious mark on forehead)of saffron, Roli and Akshat should be used. Rakhi is tied on the right hand.

Dishes of Raksha Bandhan

No festival of India is complete without delicious dishes. For every festival some special dishes are prepared. Like, on Raksha Bandhan, Ghewar, Shakarpore, Namakpare etc. are made. Ghewar is used as the main sweet of Shravan Maas.

This sweet is eaten, throughout the month, in northern India. Additionally, a dish called Ghugni is prepared, which is eaten with curd and Puri. Halwa, Kheer and Puri are also, famous food of this festival.

# History Of Raksha Bandhan



Raksha Bandhan, also known as Vish Torak (destroyer of venom), Punya Pradayak (bestower of boons) and Pap Nashak (destroyer of sin) has a wider and deeper spiritual significance and it is also linked with Siva. There are scriptural stories also of Indrani and Yamuna having tied rakhis to their brother Indra and Yama respectively, which brought them benefit but that does not throw any light on the original purpose of the festival.

With the passage of time, the custom of the priest tying rakhi to every one in the family also came to be discontinued. It began to be celebrated as a brother-sister ritual.

A legend related to this festival is that once in a battle between the demons and gods, the gods were defeated. Their king Indra



went to the priest of gods Brihaspati and said that such circumstances shamed him into sacrificing his life. Meanwhile Indrani arrived

and said that she would plan a way out. Next morning after prayers, Indrani tied a cotton band on the wrist of Indra and sent him to the battle field. Indra won the battle.

History also emphasizes the importance of this festival. Once there was a war between two Rajput states. Once was getting help of the Mughal in the times of Jahangir. Panda of one state sent cotton band (Rakhi) to the chief, who was under the

help of the Mughals. That chief, getting the Rakhi, turned the tables and attacked the Mughals. Thereafter cordial relations

lasted between the two states. Rani Karamvati avoided a calamity by sending Rakhi to Humayun and thus, making him her brother. The origin of Raksha Bandhan has to be traced to the incarnation of the God-Sermonizer of Gita which takes place at the fag end of every world cycle, when it is the time of extreme degeneration of values. The incorporeal selfluminous (Jyotirlingum) Lord Shiva (the world benefactor) descends in the corporal medium of Prajapati B'rhma and raises non-violent spiritual children of Prajapati B'rhma. The sacred thread (Rakhi) was tied to brothers to take a vow of purity that protects the honour of sisters and the tilak applied was for soul consciousness. In return for this vow of purity, Lord Siva granted them protection from negativity and vices and ultimately liberation from grief and suffering. This ancient Hindu festival of brotherhood and pure love at present is celebrated by sisters going to brothers, tying Rakhis, applying Tilak and offering sweets and the brothers, assuring the safety and honour of their sisters. Arun (reddish orange: the colour of rising sun) in rakhis has great importance that the rakhi conveys to the brother, "Oh my brother, till the last drop of your blood, the responsibility of my safety in emergency is yours." In Bundelkhand (U.P.) this is also called Kajri pumima or Kajri navami, when wheat or barley is sown in small container, watered everyday for seven days and worship of mother Bhagwati is done. This is observed by those women who are blessed with a son recently.



**Feng Shui Rakhis**—Rakhis utilize the Chinese Art of positioning objects in a way that increases its auspiciousness. Featuring laughing Buddhas, dragons, tortoises and gold fishes — that claim to bring good luck even after you remove them from the wrist. The wish of well-being and prosperity of brothers by the sisters, on the auspicious day of R a k s h a

work desk, it helps the wearer to get rid of work pressure and achieve quick fulfillment of goals. Tortoise Rakhi Bands should be placed in the northern part of the bedroom, living room or office for long life and good fortune. In the same way, Dragon Rakhi

should be placed in the eastern end of the house, or anywhere in the office for excellent prospects in business. Recently introduced, these Feng Shui

Rakhis have successfully managed to carve a significant market share by its popularity and utility. The belief that it will bring good luck for the brothers or any other users, sisters are looking forward to buy one for their dear brother.

Bandhan has made this ages-old traditional festivities of Rakhi tying, blended with the new innovations. Feng Shui is understanding the role of negative and positive energy in the life of an individual and suggests the best possible solution to remove those bad elements.

How to wear Feng Shui Rakhi

While shopping for these Feng Shui Rakhis, we all must note that these Rakhis come with specific instructions for use. These Rakhis are instructed to be use as follows : Gold Fish Rakhi is used to be kept in the southwestern part of your bedroom for prosperity, luck, and a happy married life. When Laughing Buddha Rakhi is kept at the

