

Poll body vs Mamata: Top Bengal official summoned amid row over 'fake entries'

► The row started after the Election Commission asked the Bengal government to suspend four state poll officials over 'irregularities' in preparing electoral rolls.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission (ECI) has summoned the West Bengal chief secretary for not removing and filing FIRs against four state poll officers

secretary to suspend two Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and two Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) for irregularities in the registration of names in voter lists in two constituencies - Baruipur Purba and Moyna.

The poll body had also directed registration of FIRs against the EROs and AEROs for "criminal misconduct" as well as the data entry operator.

The poll officers named by the ECI include Debottam Dutta Choudhury (ERO), Tathagata Mondal (AERO), Biplab Sarkar (ERO) and Sudipta Das (AERO). The ECI also accused the officers of

violating data security policies by sharing their login credentials with unauthorised individuals. The ECI noted that officers involved in electoral duties

were considered to be on deputation to the commission and were subject to its control, superintendence, and discipline during that period.

on August 11.

BENGAL RESPONDS

However, in its response, the Bengal chief secretary, Manoj Pant, said an internal inquiry and a comprehensive review of existing processes had been undertaken.

Pant argued that district-level officials and field officers have a wide range of responsibilities and sometimes delegate tasks to subordinate staff "in good faith". The letter said taking action before a detailed inquiry could be a "disproportionately harsh measure" that might have a "demoralising impact" on the officers involved. As a preliminary measure, the services of Sudipta Das and the data entry operator have been withdrawn from election-related duties, the chief secretary said.



On August 8, the ECI sent a reminder, stating that no compliance report had been received. The ECI then directed that the necessary action be taken, and a compliance report be furnished by 3 pm

How many more pits: Chaos in Karnataka Assembly as BJP slams Dharmashala probe

Karnataka. (Agency)

The Karnataka Assembly witnessed heated scenes during Zero Hour on Tuesday after BJP members raised the issue of Dharmashala mass burial, citing alleged attacks on Hindu religious places in the temple town. BJP leader Sunil Kumar alleged that pits were dug during the investigation but nothing was found, asking, "How many more pits will you dig? Just because someone said so, you can't keep digging." He demanded interim updates on the probe. Home Minister G Parameshwara said the government had formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) based on a complaint and the inquiry was still underway.



"We can't dig hundreds of pits. I will respond after the report comes. I cannot answer in the middle of an investigation," he said, prompting outrage from BJP members, who demanded to know the identity of the "anonymous" complainant.

Former minister S Suresh Kumar alleged that Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao had earlier claimed the SIT was formed due to "left-wing pressure." Intervening, Speaker UT Khader said a discussion would be allowed tomorrow. Responding later, Dinesh Gundu Rao maintained, "We are not on anyone's side. There is no left or right, we are on the side of justice. The truth must come out." BJP leader R Ashoka demanded the discussion be held as scheduled, leading to ruckus in the House.

► Election Commission summons Bengal chief secretary on August 13
► Had asked government to suspend, file FIRs against 4 poll officers
► Sought action over irregularities in registration of names in voter lists

accused of adding names of fictitious voters to the electoral roll. The chief secretary has been asked to appear before the poll watchdog on Wednesday at 5 pm. On August 5, the ECI asked the chief

AAP claims voter fraud in Delhi polls, says SIR model legitimises 'vote chor'

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar, intensifying the party's allegations on BJP and the poll body, claimed that "Vote Chor" (vote theft) had taken place and called for the results to be declared "null and void."

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amid the INDIA bloc's protest against voter list manipulation in the 2024 Lok Sabha Election, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday intensified its attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging large-scale electoral fraud during the recently concluded Delhi polls.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar claimed that "Vote Chor" (vote theft) had taken place and called for the results to be declared "null and void."

"Electoral fraud happened in the Delhi Polls. We have shown clear evidence, yet the Election Commission didn't act," Kakkar said during a press conference. "Why are they not cancelling the results of the Delhi Polls?" she asked.

Kakkar further pointed to specific allegations, including the removal of over 42,000 voter names from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's constituency. "In the Sahadara assembly alone, a BJP worker filed applications to cut names of 11,000 voters," she added.

She further said that submitted 3,000 pages of documents detailing these irregularities to the ECI, but no response was received. "We provided evidence in the run-up to the Delhi Polls, the ECI didn't act," Kakkar said.

Taking the accusations further, the AAP leader claimed that after the exposure of the "Delhi



new strategy to facilitate electoral fraud.

Kakkar also raised concerns regarding irregularities in Bihar, claiming that around 5,000 voters registered in Bihar's

Valmikinagar are also listed as voters in Uttar Pradesh.

Yesterday, the party released a series of videos on its official social media platform, reviving allegations of "vote chor" (vote theft) and linking them to the ongoing voter roll revision in Bihar. The AAP leader's statement comes while the INDIA bloc is staging a protest against voter list manipulation in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections following Rahul Gandhi's detailed data-backed presentation on the same.

Several AAP MPs joined the protest demanding a halt to the revision process and full transparency from the Election Commission.

Independence Day celebration to be low-key affair in Jharkhand as a mark of respect to Shibu Soren

RANCHI. (Agency)

Independence Day celebrations will be a low-key affair this time in Jharkhand as a mark of respect to the late tribal icon and founding patron of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Shibu Soren. Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar will unfurl the flag at Morabadi Maidan in Ranchi, as Chief Minister Hemant Soren, supposed to unfurl the tri-colour, will have to perform the Shraddha-Karma of his father Shibu Soren.

According to an official communique from the Chief Minister's Office, the Governor was given a proposal by the State Government to

hoist the flag at Morhabadi on the occasion of Independence Day 2025, for which he has given his consent.

"Therefore, the Governor will hoist the flag at the State function of Independence Day organised at Morabadi. As per tradition, every year on Independence Day, the Governor hoists the flag in the sub-capital Dumka and the Chief Minister hoists the flag at Morabadi," stated the official communique. In addition to that, the 'At Home Program' organised every year on the occasion of Independence Day at Raj Bhavan will also not be organised this year in honour of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren this year.

Due to the demise of Shibu Soren, no official programme was held on 'The World Tribal Day'

on August 9. The Adivasi Mahotsav, celebrated statewide on the day, was observed in a simple manner this year to mark respect for Shibu Soren. Instead, Chief Minister Hemant Soren recalled the contributions of his father, Shibu Soren, on the occasion of World Tribal Day, known as International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

"Today is World Tribal Day, but my guide, my



guru, my father is no longer with us physically. However, his struggle, his thoughts, and his ideals will always continue to inspire us. He was not only my father but also the soul of Jharkhand, including the entire Adivasi community, a symbol of struggle, and the most vocal protector of Jal-Jungle-Zamindar", Soren had posted on X.

"Voter List Under Question, Hold Fresh Lok Sabha Polls": Trinamool Leader

Trinamool's Abhishek Banerjee said the Opposition has presented proof of alleged irregularities in voter lists.

Kolkata. (Agency)

The current Lok Sabha must be dissolved and fresh polls held because the legitimacy of the voter lists used in the last general election is under question, Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee has said, adding that he is ready to resign as an MP if needed.

"The BJP came to power using this voter list. The Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Defence Minister were elected based on this voter list. Let there be fresh elections. I will also resign if needed. All Trinamool MPs and other Opposition representatives will step down. Dissolve the Lok Sabha and conduct fresh elections," said Mr Banerjee, Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee's nephew and the party's national general secretary. Targeting the poll body over the Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in Bihar and West Bengal, he said, "You cannot be selective. Voter lists in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are correct, but those in Bengal and Bihar are wrong? You (BJP) know that you will lose if elections are held fairly in Bihar. Conduct SIR if you want, but dissolve the Lok Sabha first. Then, carry out SIR across the country."

Mr Banerjee said the Opposition has presented proof of alleged irregularities in voter lists. "Under one EPIC number, there are multiple voters. And this is not data provided by any political party. This is the Election Commission's data. Why should the BJP defend the Election Commission?" he asked.

Days after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's allegations of voter list fraud in Karnataka's Mahadevapura Assembly segment, MPs from Opposition parties took out a protest march to the Election Commission's office in Delhi yesterday. Delhi Police blocked the march and detained the MPs. "If they had honest answers, they would have engaged in a discussion yesterday. Instead, the MPs were arbitrarily detained. Women MPs were harassed and dragged to the police station. Our MP, Mitali Bag, became unconscious," Mr Banerjee said.



"Shameful Is Your Deceit": Israel Envoy Slams Priyanka Gandhi's Genocide Claim

New Delhi. (Agency)

Reuven Azar, Israel's Ambassador to India, reacted sharply to Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's recent allegations accusing Israel of genocide in Palestine, countering her claims with a detailed rebuttal. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had tweeted, "The Israeli state is committing genocide. It has murdered over 60,000 people, 18,430 of whom were children. It has starved hundreds to death including many children and is threatening to starve millions."

She further condemned global silence, stating, "Enabling these crimes by silence and inaction is a crime in itself" and criticized the Indian government, adding, "It is shameful that the Indian Government stands silent as Israel

unleashes this devastation on the people of Palestine."

In response to her remarks, Azar said, "What is shameful is your deceit. Israel killed 25,000 Hamas terrorists. The terrible cost in human lives derives from Hamas's heinous tactics of hiding behind civilians, their shooting of people trying to evacuate or receive assistance and their rocket fire."

He also highlighted Israel's humanitarian efforts, saying, "Israel facilitated 2 million tonnes of food into Gaza while Hamas tries to sequester them, thereby creating hunger."

Addressing demographic concerns raised indirectly by the accusations, Azar added, "Gaza population has grown

450%

in the last 50 years, no genocide there." He concluded with a caution to the international community, urging, "Don't buy Hamas numbers." This exchange comes amid intensifying violence and growing international debate over the humanitarian crisis and civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip.

Adding to the rising tensions, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra separately condemned the killing of five Al Jazeera journalists in Gaza, calling it a "heinous crime" and accusing the Israeli state of trying to silence truth through "violence and hatred." In a post on X, she wrote, "The cold-blooded murder of five Al Jazeera journalists is yet another heinous crime committed on Palestinian soil. The immeasurable courage of those who dare to stand for the truth will never be broken by the violence and hatred of the Israeli state. In a world where much of the media is enslaved to power and commerce, these brave souls reminded us of what true journalism is. May they rest in peace."



BJP, DMK slam Vijay for indoor meet with sanitation workers amid privatisation row

BJP, DMK slam Vijay for avoiding sanitation workers' protest site

Chennai civic body assures sanitation workers of continued employment

Workers protesting over waste management privatisation

Tamil Nadu. (Agency)

Tamil Nadu BJP unit and DMK leaders have taken a swipe at actor-turned-politician Vijay over his decision to meet protesting sanitation workers indoors instead of at their protest site. BJP senior leader Tamilisai Soundararajan said a leader should meet people where they are, questioning why Vijay chose to remain indoors. "It's good that he met them, but if his excuse is traffic, why did he even become a party leader? What kind of politics is this? He is sitting at home and not coming out fearing the crowd. Why should he be a party leader?" she remarked. DMK spokesperson A. Saravanan said Vijay was failing to understand the pulse of the people of Tamil Nadu. "People want leaders who are reachable, who see, meet and have

a conversation, not someone sitting in an ivory tower, in an AC room, and issuing statements on Twitter. His excuse of saying traffic hindrance is laughable. Is he the only celebrity in Tamil Nadu? Vijay is ill-advised," he said. In a post on X, Vijay wrote, "While I had

planned to personally meet the sanitation workers who are fighting for their just demands, I learned that they themselves wished to meet me. Considering that my visit to them might cause disruptions to traffic and the public, the sanitation workers came to the Tamil Nadu Victory Association's headquarters to meet me."

Sanitation workers have been protesting for the past few days against the privatisation of solid waste management in Zones 5 (Thiruvi Ka Nagar) and 6 (Egmore), fearing loss of employment and demanding regularisation of jobs. The GCC has appealed to them to return to work, clarifying that all workers employed before the July 16, 2025, privatisation will now be hired by private contractor Ramkey and entitled to all benefits under labour laws.



News box

Woman dies by suicide in Gurgaon, parents allege**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A 25-year-old married woman died by suicide at her house after an alleged dowry dispute and assault in Ullahwas village of the Sector 65 police station area on Sunday night. The deceased Kajal Tanwar, from Fatehpur Beri, Delhi, was married to Akash for a few years. Her parents told the police that on Saturday night, the husband argued with her, demanding a car as dowry. He assaulted her and fled from the house. After the dispute, she ended her life. After being informed, the police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. A cop said that, in its first impression, it seemed a suicide case, but following the complaint by the victim's family, a dowry death case was registered.

Biz ops, illegal structures found in hsg units during checks in Gurgaon, 1k served notices**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

The department of town and country planning (DTCP) has intensified its crackdown on illegal constructions in stilt parking areas and unauthorised commercial activities in residential colonies — key contributors to the city's deepening parking crisis.

DTP (enforcement) Amit Madholia said that regular surveys in areas such as DLF phases, Sushant Lok (I-III), South City, Suncity, and Palam Vihar, reveal large-scale misuse of stilt parking spaces has been detected in licensed colonies, where residents often convert designated parking areas into servant quarters, storage rooms, or additional living spaces, forcing vehicles onto already congested streets. "Wherever construction is found in stilt parking areas, notices are issued to property owners. If illegal structures are not removed within the stipulated time, sealing and demolition follow," he said. He confirmed that more than 1,000 notices and restoration orders have already been served in DLF and Sushant Lok alone. In many licensed colonies, residential properties are being used for commercial purposes such as offices, salons, and boutiques. According to Madholia, such activities not only violate zoning rules but also intensify traffic jams and



strain limited parking resources. The department has identified multiple such properties and issued notices. While the crackdown focuses on licensed colonies, old Gurgaon faces a different set of problems. Many municipal colonies have narrow lanes and no provision for in-plot parking. Madholia, while noting that this does not fall directly under his jurisdiction, suggested that the solution lies in developing community parking zones on vacant government land or other available spaces. He also recommended regulated roadside parking through proper marking and time-slot systems.

Truck rams PRV on EPE, cop helping crash victims dies**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

A 30-year-old head constable died, another cop was injured when a truck collided with their PRV as they were responding to a call about an accident on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Bhojpur early on Monday morning. Modinagar ACP Amit Saxena said two men were on their way to Meerut from the city in a Thar when they lost control of the vehicle and it collided with a divider on the expressway around 1.30am.

One of the Thar occupants reported the accident to emergency services – 112 – and police response vehicle (PRV) 6644 went to the spot. "Head constable Anuj Kumar and constable Pankaj Kumar were on duty in the PRV. They assisted the injured individuals into their vehicle. Pankaj went to retrieve some items from the Thar, and Anuj Kumar opened the PRV's trunk to get a medical first aid kit when a truck came from behind and hit the PRV," the ACP said. A senior police officer said the truck was being driven at a high speed. The collision was such that the truck dragged the PRV a few metres and hit the Thar too. The two cops and Thar passengers – Amit Mohan Gupta, former chairman of Parikshitgarh municipality in Meerut, and his friend Parvez Khan Tyagi – were injured in the crash and were rushed to a hospital. Head constable Anuj, who belongs to Muzaffarnagar and had joined UP Police six years ago, succumbed to his injuries. His legs were severed in the crash, and he died of excessive blood loss, police said.

Pankaj's condition is stable, and Gupta and Tyagi are in critical condition. The truck driver, Rishikesh (40), escaped after the crash but was caught from Bhojpur within a few hours. The ACP said Rishikesh used to transport onion from his hometown in Madhya Pradesh's Morena to Dehradun. "He has been arrested.

Now, councillors throw up hands as waste management spirals out of control in Gurgaon**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

The city's councillors too appear to have thrown up their hands over the collapsing waste management system. In the absence of a dedicated agency for doorstep waste collection in the city, MCG recently decided to allow the councillors, RWAs and contractors to deploy waste collection vehicles and staff in their respective areas. However, councillors say garbage collection in their wards is now largely dependent on local, unorganised rickshaw-carts that have been operating in residential colonies for years.

On Monday, councillor of ward number 8 Naresh Kataria admitted they are "unable to arrange" tractor trolleys and staffers for the door-to-door garbage collection. "Neither councillors nor contractors have the resources," Kataria said at a House meeting, adding that when vehicles are available, drivers and helpers are missing and when manpower is present, the trolleys are not there.

Education department official fined Rs25k for delay in RTI reply by a year**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Haryana State Information Commission (SIC) has imposed the maximum permissible penalty of Rs 25,000 on block education official Anita Chauhan for failing to provide information under Right to Information (RTI) Act within the stipulated 30-day period and instead delivering it nearly a year late. Chauhan, who is also a deemed state public information officer (SPIO), was fined on June 12 after Saroj Yadav, a teacher, filed a complaint against her. Yadav's RTI application, filed on Aug 26, 2023, sought information on investigative reports, related to the block education office, prepared by block education officer. The delay in dispatch of the information to the complainant came to light during hearings in 2024, when Yadav informed SIC that she only received the data after the commission issued a show-cause notice. "What's the benefit of the information being in my favour if I don't get it on time?" Yadav said.

The fine imposed by SIC in this case is notable as the amount is unprecedented. Gurgaon education department has not been imposed penalties exceeding Rs 5,000 before this. Meanwhile, in her written submission to SIC, Chauhan admitted to the lapse, attributing the delay to a heavy workload and her unfamiliarity with RTI provisions. She also offered an unconditional apology. However, state information commissioner Kulbir Chhikara found her explanation "insufficient". His order referred to a 2014 Punjab and Haryana High Court judgment that mandates fines for delays without reasonable cause.

Proceedings were also initiated against SPIO-cum-block education officer Sudesh Kumar, but he was later exonerated by the commission after he said that Chauhan was responsible for diary and dispatch work alongside her RTI duties and had "overlooked" sending the reply. The penalty amount of Rs 25,000 will be recovered by director of secondary education, Haryana, and the district education officer, Gurgaon.



They also expressed concern over MCG sanitation workers — assigned for manual road cleaning — skipping work despite the ongoing citywide waste crisis. Councillor of ward number 4 Pardeep Kumar Padam took up the issue pertaining to funds. "MCG is providing around Rs 45,000 per tractor trolley. However, a driver charges around Rs 18,000 and then a helper also charges around 10,000, and then there is the fuel

cost. So, this is not a sufficient amount, due to which the councillors are unable to find resources to engage in doorstep waste collection," said Padam. MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said, "We have initiated the tender proceedings for the doorstep waste collection. The contractor will buy new vehicles and will provide us with the same." To this, Kararia responded, "Aaj kya karen (What should we do today to resolve the problem?)"

Responding to this, Dahiya said, "I have given the provision to all the councillors, RWAs, and contractors to deploy their vehicles so that waste collection can be done." Dahiya also said, "Residents, councillors, etc., talk about the local mafia in waste. The reality is that the reason for the existence of the local mafia is because the contractors, when they get the contract, also go to this local mafia operating in the city." He then added the local waste mafia does not let anyone operate in these colonies. They don't even let MCG staff operate, said the commissioner, indicating that the local waste mafia is a big problem in the city. Kataria replied, "I don't know about other wards, but in my ward, there are four people operating these waste trolleys and they belong to the SC category. They are underprivileged and have been working for the last decade in the same area. I won't say that they are mafia. They are not. They are sanitation workers."

Man (33) thrashed to death after argument over smoking hookah in Pataudi**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A 33-year-old man was beaten to death by 10 to 12 people after an altercation broke out over smoking hookah at a pig farm in Pataudi's Gudhana late Sunday night. Police said information was received at Helimandi police post from CHC Pataudi regarding death of a man during a fight. The deceased, identified as Ritesh (33), was a resident of Gudhana village and two others, Manjeet and Rajkumar, sustained injuries in the attack. "Ritesh sustained injuries to his head, nose, and body. The team has sent his body to the mortuary for a post-mortem," a police official said, adding that Manjeet had submitted a written complaint. According to initial investigation, the altercation resulted in a violent attack on the deceased with sticks and rods. Police have arrested four suspects — Deepanshu, a resident of Gudhana Tehsil, Ayan, a resident of Pada Mandi, Pataudi, Shivam, a resident of village Sapka and Sahil, a resident of Bawdi mohalla, ward number 13, Pataudi — and taken four suspects into custody.

They have also recovered two motorcycles involved in the incident. "At CHC Pataudi, injured Manjeet submitted a complaint stating that on Aug 10, while he was walking near the pig farm in Gudhana village, he saw Ritesh, his friend, Krish, Deepanshu, Kaku, and two other boys smoking hookah. A verbal altercation broke out between them, leading to a fight. Manjeet intervened, following which two boys from Rewari attacked him with sticks, injuring his limbs," the official said. He further said in

his complaint that he informed his family, and his uncle, Rajkumar, arrived to mediate and take Manjeet and Ritesh home.

"At 11pm, Manjeet heard a commotion outside his house. He saw Kaku, Deepanshu, and 10 to 12 others brutally assaulting Ritesh with sticks and iron rods. When his uncle Rajkumar intervened, they attacked him too. Manjeet raised an alarm, and Deepanshu and Kaku threatened to kill him before fleeing, leaving their two motorcycles behind," the official added. A case was registered under sections of murder at Pataudi police station. "An in-depth interrogation of the suspects in custody is being conducted," police spokesperson ASI Sandeep said.

The exact reason for the fight has still not been ascertained. The complainant stated that the fight erupted following a verbal altercation and hurling of abuses," another officer privy to the investigation said. "We are questioning the suspects to ascertain the exact cause of the incident," he added.

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6-lane corridor, flyover: Revamp for Hero Honda Chowk link in 2 years**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

NHAI has set April 2027 as the deadline for completing upgrade of the key arterial stretch between Umang Bharadwaj Chowk and Hero Honda Chowk on NH-8. The project to revamp the 2km stretch, on which commuters brave potholes and face traffic snarls every day, is expected to cost around Rs 200 crore. While the project is being executed by NHAI, GMDA is bearing its cost. According to NHAI, the preparatory phase will focus on relocating underground cables, pipelines, and other services to clear the way for construction. "We are targeting to complete utility

shifting by March 2026 and start the civil work after that. The project has been given a completion date of April 2027," an official said. Utility shifting, including shifting of drainage lines and HVNL transmission lines, was started by NHAI in May this year. Under the project, the road will be widened to a six-lane corridor with a service road on both sides, along with a flyover at Umang Bharadwaj Chowk to streamline the traffic flow. Earlier, GMDA asked NHAI to make a provision of two vehicular underpasses along the stretch to cater to traffic. However, NHAI official did not comment on this. The existing

stretch between these two intersections is in a dilapidated state, residents said, adding that it becomes inundated for several days at stretch in monsoon. "It is a nightmare to navigate the road. During monsoon, the condition becomes worse as the water doesn't drain out for days and potholes turn into mini ponds," said Pawan Yadav, a resident of Sector 10A. Another commuter, Manish Kataria, a resident of Sector 9, said, "I changed my car's suspension twice in the last year because of this stretch. It needs urgent repairs." An NHAI official said repair work was going on simultaneously.

Delhi-NCR stray dog order leaves civic bodies in a fix: Gurgaon told to relocate 50k canines with just 100 shelter slots; scramble begins for space and funds**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

The Supreme Court's order that all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR must be relocated to shelter homes poses a significant challenge for civic authorities because of inadequate infrastructure to house the animals once they are removed from the roads. In a meeting held hours after the court ruling, municipal commissioner Pradeep Dahiya asked Preetpal Singh, joint commissioner (Swachh Bharat Mission), to start working towards implementing the order. The court's directive, however, contradicts the Animal Welfare Board of India's 2022 advisory that recommended against relocating stray dogs. The Monday verdict came in response to repeated incidents of dog bite cases across Delhi-NCR, which have raised concerns regarding public safety. Dahiya told TOI after the meeting, "We will first study the Supreme Court order and then decide on the further course of action. Yes, we must allocate space for MCG, which must now find ways to house the entire stray dog population. But why does the city lack adequate animal shelters? An MCG official explained, "The Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, implementing the order seems



easier said than done. The Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon (MCG) now faces the daunting task of relocating an estimated 50,000 stray dogs in shelter homes. But as of now, the city has only two operational dog shelters — each with a capacity of 50 animals, located in Baliwas and Daultabad. Two additional shelters are under construction in Basai and Begampur Khatola, but they, too, can only accommodate 50 dogs each. This limited infrastructure presents a formidable challenge for MCG, which must now find ways to house the entire stray dog population. But why does the city lack adequate animal shelters? An MCG official explained, "The Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules,

2023, required us to return sterilised dogs to their original locations. So, we never built extensive infrastructure for housing these animals. Creating such spaces now, and ensuring they are equipped with CCTV surveillance to prevent animal cruelty, will be a significant challenge." Apart from relocating strays, the apex court has also asked authorities to ensure that dogs that have already been picked up and moved to shelters earlier are not released back on to the streets. It has warned against any resistance to the relocation efforts, emphasising the need to make streets free of stray dogs. For civic bodies, the challenge is to balance public safety with humane treatment of stray animals,

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All stray dogs to be rounded up in Delhi-NCR, moved to shelters: Supreme Court's

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Describing the stray dog menace as "extremely grim", the Supreme Court on Monday directed the Delhi Government, MCD, NDMC and NOIDA, Gurugram authorities to pick up strays from all localities at the earliest and put them in dog shelters. "Start picking up all stray dogs at the earliest in all possible manners and shift them to a

far-off place...Whether sterilised or not, society should be free from stray dogs. You should not find a single stray dog moving around in any locality of the city or in the outskirts," a Bench led by Justice JB Pardiwala said, terming it the first step towards solution of the problem. The Bench which also included Justice R Mahadevan ordered that dog shelters with CCTV cameras should be created

to accommodate around 5,000 stray dogs and sufficient personnel should be deployed there to sterilise and immunise the canines. Dog shelters will be monitored by CCTV to ensure no dogs are taken out, it said. "We have noticed one very absurd and unreasonable rule, if you pick up a stray dog from one part, you sterilise the dog and put him in the same place, that's absolutely absurd and

doesn't make any sense at all. Why should that stray



cost, should fall prey to rabies. The action should

rabies caused by stray dog bites. Directing the authorities to create a helpline within a week to enable people to immediately report dog bite cases, the Bench said, "We are issuing these directions keeping larger public interest in mind." Everyday, hundreds of dog bites were being reported in the city and on its outskirts, leading to rabies and ultimately, children

and the elderly were falling prey to the dreadful disease, the Bench had noted on July 28. The top court directed MCD/NDMC and appropriate authorities of Noida and Gurugram to maintain record of daily stray dogs captured and detained. It emphasized that not a single stray dog should be released, other

wise the entire exercise will go futile. Terming availability of vaccines as a major concern, it directed the authorities concerned to put detailed information of vaccines available, the stock of vaccines and the persons who have sought it.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as LAEBA daughter of Shri SAJID KHAN, residing at D-228, Gali No.5, Noor E Ilahi, North Ghonda, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HANIA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, PRIYANKA SINGH BHATNAGAR W/o AJAY KUMAR BHATNAGAR R/o Flat no. 611, Sunview Apartment, Pocket-4, Sector-11, Dwarka, Dist. South West Delhi, Delhi - 110075 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as PRIYANKA BHATNAGAR in my minor son name SRAVGI BHATNAGAR aged 15 year in his School record. The actual name of mine is PRIYANKA SINGH BHATNAGAR respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as VANDANA JOSHI W/o PARVEEN SHARMA D/o LAJIT MOHAN JOSHI R/o A-62/G,4, Shalimar Garden Ext-2, Sabitabad PO, Sabitabad, Dist-Ghazibad, Uttar Pradesh - 201005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY SINGH for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RAVINDER KUMAR S/O SHRI BHAGWAN R/o H.NO. - 9, VILL. - MAIN CHOWK SULTAN PUR DABAS, RANI DEVI W/o DHIAN SINGH resident PO DHAR KALAN TEH. DHAR KALAN, MANGNET, GURDASPUR, PUNJAB-145202 declare that mine name has been wrongly written as VED RANI in Aadhar Card No. 518637/110072. The actual name of mine is RANI DEVI, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, AASTHA D/o ANAND KUMAR R/o 2065, New HSPV Office, Sector-3 Part, Rohtak - 124001 have changed my name from AASTHA to AASTHAGARG for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, ISHTA D/o SUBHASH PHOGAT R/o 69728, BHARAT COLONY, Rohtak - 124001 have changed my name from ISHTA to ISHTA PHOGAT for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, UPASNA W/o SANDEEP KUMAR R/o Ganji, P.O. Ganjri (40), Sonipat - 131305 have changed my name from UPASNA to UPASNA RANI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, HARISH S/o MAMAN R/o Dabuldhian Kirman (136), P.O. Dabuldhian, Hjharaj - 124202 have changed my name from HARISH to HARISH KADIAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDUL REHMAN S/o QASIM ALI residing at MOHALIA BATWAL NAI BASTI, AMROHA, UTTAR PRADESH-244221 have changed my name to ABDULREHMAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SARBJAN JAHAN W/o ABDUL REHMAN residing at MOHALIA BATWAL, NAI BASTI, AMROHA, UTTAR PRADESH-244221 have changed my name to SARWAT JAHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABBAS MOHAMMAD S/o MOHAMMAD YASIN residing at H- NO-2232/24, BLOCK-32, TRILOK PURI, DELHI-110091 have changed my name to AASS MOHAMMAD for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANJUSHA TR Wife of JC-314806K Rank-NB SUB Name-JOHNSON K residing at 18/82A, NANKAVILAI, METHUKUMMAL, VILAVANCODE, SOORIACODE, KANNIYAKUMARI-DISTT, TAMILNADU-629153, have changed my minor daughter's name from JM NAYANA to NAYANA J M for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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I, JC-314806K Rank-NB SUB Name-JOHNSON K Father of JM NAYANA residing at 18/82A, NANKAVILAI, METHUKUMMAL, VILAVANCODE, SOORIACODE, KANNIYAKUMARI-DISTT, TAMILNADU-629153, have changed my minor daughter's name from JM NAYANA to NAYANA J M for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/08/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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NEWS BOX

Plane crashes into parked aircraft while landing at Montana airport, sparking fire

KALISPELL, Mont. (Agency)

A small plane landing on Monday at a Montana airport crashed into parked aircraft, triggering a large fire but causing no serious injuries, authorities said. The single-engine plane carrying four people was attempting to land at about 2 p.m. at the Kalispell City Airport, according to Kalispell Police Chief Jordan Venezio and the Federal Aviation Administration. A preliminary investigation showed the pilot lost control, crashing onto the runway before the plane struck several parked aircraft, igniting fires on multiple planes, Kalispell police said. The fire spread to a grassy area before it was extinguished, Venezio said. The small, city-owned airport is just south of Kalispell, a city of about 30,000 people in northwest Montana. Witnesses said a plane crash-landed at the end of the runway and careened into another aircraft, Kalispell Fire Chief Jay Hagen said.

The passengers were able to get out on their own after it came to a stop, Hagen said. Two were slightly hurt and treated at the airport, he said. Ron Danielson manages a nearby inn and said he heard and saw the crash before plumes of dark smoke filled the area.

"It sounded like if you were to stick your head in a bass drum and somebody smacked it as hard as they could," he said. The flight originated in Pullman, Washington, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The plane was identified by the FAA as a Socata TBM 700 turboprop. It was built in 2011 and owned by Meter Sky LLC of Pullman, FAA records show. Company representatives did not immediately respond to a telephone message seeking comment.

Aviation safety consultant Jeff Guzzetti, who used to investigate crashes for both the FAA and NTSB, said incidents where planes crash into parked aircrafts happen a few times a year in general aviation.

In one high-profile incident in February, a Learjet owned by Motley Crue singer Vince Neil veered off a runway in Scottsdale, Arizona, and crashed into a parked Gulfstream, killing one person. The NTSB said that crash may have been related to prior damage to the landing gear, but investigators haven't determined the cause.

Explosion at US Steel plant in Pennsylvania leaves two dead, 10 injured

CLAIRTON, (Agency)

An explosion at a U.S. Steel plant near Pittsburgh left two dead and sent at least 10 to hospitals Monday and heavily damaged the sprawling facility, officials said. One worker was found alive in the wreckage hours after the explosion sent black smoke spiraling into the midday sky in the Mon Valley, a region of the state synonymous with steel for more than a century. Allegheny County Emergency Services said a fire at the plant started around 10:51 a.m. The explosion, followed by several smaller blasts, could be felt in the nearby community and prompted county officials to warn residents to stay away from the scene so emergency workers could respond.

"It felt like thunder," Zachary Buday, a construction worker near the scene, told WTAE-TV. "Shook the scaffold, shook my chest, and shook the building, and then when we saw the dark smoke coming up from the steel mill and put two and two together, and it's like something bad happened."

Cause under investigation

At a news conference, Scott Buckiso, U.S. Steel's chief manufacturing officer, did not give details about the damage or casualties, and said they were still trying to determine what happened. U.S. Steel employees "did a great job" of going in and rescuing workers, shutting down gases and making sure the site was stable.

Buckiso said the company, now a subsidiary of Japan-based Nippon Steel Corp., is working with authorities. U.S. Steel CEO David B. Burritt said the company would thoroughly investigate the cause.

"I lend every meeting and every message with the words, 'Let's get back to work safely.' That commitment has never been more important, and we will honor it," he said in a statement. Allegheny Health Network said it treated seven patients from the plant, and discharged five within a few hours. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center said it is treating three patients at UPMC Mercy, the region's only level one trauma and burn center.

US designates Balochistan Liberation Army, Majeed Brigade as Foreign Terrorist Organisations

world. (Agency)

The United States on Monday officially designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its alias, the Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), marking a significant step in its ongoing counterterrorism efforts in South Asia.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed the designation, stating that the BLA, previously listed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) group since 2019, has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks since then, including those carried out by the Majeed Brigade. The addition of the Majeed Brigade as an alias expands the scope of the designation. The BLA and its faction have been involved in a series of violent incidents, including suicide bombings near Karachi airport and the Gwadar Port Authority Complex in 2024. In March 2025, the group claimed responsibility for hijacking the Jaffar Express train from Quetta to Peshawar, resulting in 31 deaths and over 300 passengers held hostage. Secretary Rubio emphasised that these designations play a vital role in disrupting terrorist financing and support networks. "Today's actions demonstrate the US commitment to counterterrorism and limiting resources to violent groups," he said.

Trump's Washington police takeover echoes history of racist narratives on urban crime

According to White House officials, National Guard troops will be deployed to protect federal assets in the district and facilitate a safe environment for law enforcement to make arrests.

GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories): (Agency)

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has taken control of the District of Columbia's law enforcement and ordered National Guard troops to deploy onto the streets of the nation's capital, arguing the extraordinary moves are in response to an urgent public safety crisis. Even as district officials questioned the claims underlying his emergency declaration, the president promised a "historic action to rescue our nation's capital from crime, bloodshed,

bedlam and squalor and worse." His rhetoric echoed that used by conservative politicians going back decades who have denounced American cities, especially those with majority non-white populations or led by progressive politicians, as lawless or crime-ridden and in need of outside intervention. "This is liberation day in D.C.," and we're going to take our capital back," Trump promised Monday. Trump's action echoes uncomfortable historical chapters. But for many residents, the prospect of federal troops surging into the district's neighborhoods represents an alarming violation of local agency. To some, it echoes uncomfortable historical chapters when politicians used language to paint historically or predominantly Black cities and neighborhoods with racist narratives to shape public opinion and justify aggressive police action. April Goggans, a longtime Washington resident and grassroots organizer, said she was not surprised by Trump's actions. Communities had been preparing for a potential federal crackdown in the district since the summer of 2020, when Trump deployed National Guard



troops during racial justice protests after the murder of George Floyd. "We have to be vigilant," said Goggans, who has coordinated protests and local civil liberties educational campaigns for nearly a decade. She worries about what a surge in law enforcement could mean for residents' freedoms. "Regardless of where you fall on the political scale, understand that this could be you, your children, your grandmother, your co-worker who are brutalized or have certain rights violated," she said.

Uncertainty about what's a safe environment raises alarms

According to White House officials, National Guard troops will be deployed to protect federal assets in the district and facilitate a safe environment for law enforcement to make arrests. The administration believes the highly visible presence of law enforcement will deter violent crime. It is unclear how the administration defines providing a safe environment for law enforcement to conduct arrests, raising alarm bells for some local advocates. "The president foreshadowed that if these heavy-handed tactics take root here, they will be rolled out to other majority-Black and Brown cities, like Chicago, Oakland and Baltimore, across the country," said Monica Hopkins, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union's D.C. chapter. "We've seen before how federal control of the D.C. National Guard and police can lead to abuse, intimidation and civil rights violations — from military helicopters swooping over peaceful racial justice protesters in 2020 to the unchecked conduct of federal officers who remain shielded from full accountability."

US military deployed to LA protests despite low threat, general testifies

WELLINGTON. (Agency)

Troops were used to protect federal property and personnel in California in recent months even though intelligence assessments showed little danger, two military officials testified on Monday at a landmark trial over President Donald Trump's authority to use soldiers to police American streets. The three-day non-jury trial before San Francisco-based US District Judge Charles Breyer will determine whether the government violated a 19th-century law that bars the military from civil law enforcement when Trump deployed the troops in June, as the state of California claims in its legal challenge. Los Angeles experienced days of unrest and protests sparked by mass immigration raids at places where people gather to find work, like Home Depot stores, a garment factory and a warehouse. Republican President Trump ordered 700 Marines and 4,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles in June, against the wishes of its Democratic governor Gavin Newsom. The administration denies that troops were used in civil law enforcement and plans to show that they were protecting federal property and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

agents. The trial kicked off hours after Trump said he was taking the extraordinary step of deploying National Guard troops to fight crime in Washington and suggested he could take similar measures in other US cities. Much of Monday's testimony

came from US Army Major General Scott Sherman, who until recently commanded the military operations in Los Angeles. Under questioning from a lawyer for California, he testified about an internal military intelligence assessment that concluded there would be little risk to federal property and personnel during a July 7 immigration enforcement operation at a Los Angeles park. Sherman said a DHS official criticised him and questioned his loyalty to the country after he

denied an initial request for military assistance for the operation. A different request for assistance was later approved by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, Sherman said.

Later during Sherman's testimony, Judge Breyer asked the general whether the military can deploy troops to incidents even if it has determined there is low risk to federal property or personnel. "If it is not seen as a situation in which there is a threat, then it is your testimony you can still deploy the military because there may be a threat in carrying out the operation?" Breyer asked. "That's correct, Your Honor," Sherman said. The Trump administration's witnesses also described more chaotic situations in which protesters threw Molotov cocktails and damaged federal buildings, justifying the initial use of the military to protect government property.

Many of the troops have been withdrawn from Los Angeles, but California's Attorney General Rob Bonta said on Monday that 300 National Guard members are still going on immigration raids and restricting civilian movements in the state.

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they could do... We felt that was a bit ridiculous." HKU told AFP it "has been in contact with the students involved" but cannot comment further with the case under active review. Damage may 'never end' While the HKU case has thrust AI-made porn into the spotlight, it is not the city's first. Janice, a woman in her late 20s who also asked to use a pseudonym, told AFP she was devastated a few years ago when fake obscene images were sent to her friends. She never found the culprit and worried that the damage might "never end".

"I tried skipping work and didn't dare to go out on the street," she said, adding that she had suicidal thoughts and would suddenly burst into tears.

"I couldn't sleep because I was afraid I would wake up to see the whole internet filled with (pornographic) images of me."

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US teen influencer stranded in Antarctica after unauthorised plane landing

KYIV. (Agency)

Ethan Guo, an American teen influencer has been stuck since June in a remote location in Chilean territory in Antarctica. Authorities say Guo landed his small plane illegally after providing false flight plan information to officials who opened an investigation.

Guo made headlines last year when the then-19-year-old teen began a trip in an attempt to become the youngest person to fly solo to all seven continents and at the same time collect donations for research into childhood cancer. As part of his trip, the teen who identifies as Asian-American planned to go to the Antarctic, but according to the authorities he lied to officials by providing authorities with "false flight plan data." Prosecutors said he had been authorised to only fly over Punta Arenas, but that he kept going south, heading for Antarctica in his Cessna 182Q — a single-engine light aircraft known for its versatility.

STRANDED DESPITE CHARGES BEING DROPPED



Guo was charged on June 29 with handing false information to ground control and landing without authorisation, but on Monday a judge dropped the charges as part of an agreement with his lawyers and Chile's prosecutors. It requires the teen to give a \$30,000 donation to a children's cancer foundation within 30 days to avoid a trial. He must also leave the country as soon as conditions allow and is prohibited from reentering Chilean territory for three years.

On Monday, after the judge's ruling, Guo told The Associated Press in a text message that he was "relieved by the outcome." For the past six weeks, since being charged, he has stayed at a military base. He was not forced to stay there, only to remain in Chilean territory, but because of the severe winter in that part of the southern hemisphere, there haven't been any available flights he could take. And he has been unable to fly his Cessna. Chilean prosecutor Cristin Crisot on Monday told reporters that Guo's plane "does not have the capabilities to make a flight," without providing details. But the American teen influencer said he is talking with this lawyer to see if there's a way he can fly it. "I remain in Antarctica awaiting approval for my departure flight," Guo told AP. "I sincerely hope they give it to me soon so that I

AI porn victims see Hong Kong unprepared for threat

US President Donald Trump's administration halted sales of H20 chips to China in April, but Nvidia last month announced that the US said it would allow the company to resume sales, and it hoped to start deliveries soon.

HONG KONG (Agency)

For Hong Kong law student "C", AI-made pornography was a distant danger until a university classmate created graphic images of her and multiple other women. "At first I was shocked, then it turned into panic," said the 20-year-old, describing the ordeal as a "wound that will leave a scar". C was one of three women who exposed an AI porn scandal at Hong

Kong's oldest university last month, sparking huge debate around what had largely been seen as an overseas phenomenon. The victims, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, and experts said the city was ill-prepared to counter the fast-growing threat.

In the University of Hong Kong (HKU) case, hundreds of images of at least 20 women were discovered on the student's laptop. "B", another of those who spoke out, said she felt betrayed as she had considered the perpetrator a friend. I felt like my privacy was violated.

.. like I couldn't trust the people around me," she said. The university's initial response was to give the student a warning letter and make him apologise.

The third woman, "A", said she was told by staff the case couldn't be heard before a disciplinary committee. "They were concerned but didn't know what

they could do... We felt that was a bit ridiculous." HKU told AFP it "has been in contact with the students involved" but cannot comment further with the case under active review. Damage may 'never end' While the HKU case has thrust AI-made porn into the spotlight, it is not the city's first. Janice, a woman in her late 20s who also asked to use a pseudonym, told AFP she was devastated a few years ago when fake obscene images were sent to her friends. She never found the culprit and worried that the damage might "never end".

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"I tried skipping work and didn't dare to go out on the street," she said, adding that she had suicidal thoughts and would suddenly burst into tears.

"This is a very sad day for Austin. It's a very sad day for us all and my condolences go out to the families," Davis said. She said she had no information to release about the victims. Lonnie Lee, 22, said she had

Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said the suspect is a man in his 30s with "a mental health history." Police said they were still working to determine a motive.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

AUSTIN, Texas: A gunman opened fire Monday in the parking lot of a Target store in Texas' capital, killing two adults and a child before stealing two cars during a getaway that ended with police using a Taser to detain him on the other side of the city, authorities said. Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis said the suspect is a man in his 30s with "a mental health history." Police said they were still working to determine a



they would be providing grief counseling to their team. "Our hearts are with the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives, our team in Austin and all those impacted by this tragedy," the statement said. Austin Mayor Kirk Watson said in a message on X that his "heart is with the victims and their families" and that "while this remains an active and ongoing investigation, what I'll say is that this was a sickening, cowardly act of gun violence." At a Jiffy Lube that shares its parking lot with the Target, employees hunkered down and locked the store doors as soon as they became aware a shooting was taking place. Paul Smith, an employee at the auto store, said he saw people running from their cars in the parking lot in a panic. "I had just gotten back from the Target like a minute before," Smith said. The Target shooting comes just over two weeks after an attack at a Walmart store in Michigan. A man accused of stabbing 11 people at the Traverse City store on July 26 has been charged with terrorism and multiple counts of attempted murder.

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BJP Yuva Morcha leader, aide murdered in Bhiwandi; police suspect business dispute as motive

Mumbai. (Agency)

A BJP youth wing functionary in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district and his associate were murdered by a group of four to five men on Monday night, the police said.

The police identified the victims as Prafful Tangdi, 42, a BJP Yuva Morcha district deputy chairman, and Tejas Tangdi, 22, and said the incident took place at Khardi village. Prafful had reportedly been the target of an attack a year ago, which he managed to survive.

Prima facie, based on the names given by the family members, the murders appear to be a fallout of a business dispute, the police said.

According to Harshavardhan Barve, Police Inspector, Bhiwandi Taluka police station, the incident took place around 11 pm when Prafful and two associates were at their JDT Enterprises office. Suddenly, four to five men entered the office armed with choppers and began attacking Prafful and Tejas, he said. Another employee also sustained serious injuries. The duo was rushed to a local hospital, where they were declared dead.

A murder case has been registered, and the police are on the lookout for the accused. Prafful's family members have raised suspicion about some business associates, police sources said.

"We have found the CCTV footage from the area in which some of the accused have been captured. Once they have been nabbed, we will be able to get clarity on the motive behind the murder," a police official said.

MMRDA begins dismantling cycle tracks in Mumbai's BKC to address traffic woes

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) began dismantling the cycle tracks in Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and relocating underground utilities last week to make way for an additional car lane as part of a road-widening project.

The dismantling and utility shifting work, costing about Rs 25 crore, is being done in view of the worsening traffic situation, particularly after the closure of the Sion bridge. It will expand the current 2+2 lane configuration into 3+3 lanes.

The cycle tracks, sanctioned in 2011 for BKC's G-block, were designed as a 13-km network, with work beginning the following year. By 2021, around 9 kilometres had been completed at a cost of nearly 60 crore.

However, in July, MMRDA decided to remove the tracks entirely within a month, citing the urgent need for additional road space. According to MMRDA, BKC currently handles close to six lakh daily commuters, two lakh employees of the companies, and around four lakh visitors. Officials said the cycle tracks remained largely unused, while vehicle volumes surged well beyond initial projections.

"This change is part of an overall traffic management strategy to ensure smoother vehicular movement and more efficient use of available road space. We are also looking at optimising traffic signal timings and circulation patterns," an MMRDA officer said on Tuesday. Officials estimate that the travel time during peak hours could fall from 25 minutes to 15 minutes, with signal wait times dropping from 10 minutes to about 7 minutes. Reduced idling is also expected to lower carbon emissions by up to 30 per cent in the area. "For years, the cycle tracks remained empty while traffic piled up. After the additional lane opens, it should at least ease bottlenecks during rush hours," the officer said.

'Driver lost control, a few women jumped out and were saved': relatives of injured in accident in Pune's Khed

As the relatives of the Khed accident victims waited for information, one of them said the driver could not control the vehicle carrying devotees to the Kundeshwar Temple.

Pune. (Agency)

A day after 10 women were killed and 27 others injured in an accident near the Kundeshwar Mahadev Temple in the Pune district's Khed taluka, family members Tuesday waited outside the ICU at a hospital in Bhosari for updates on their injured relatives.

According to the police, 41 people, including women and children, were going to the Shree Kshetra Kundeshwar Devsthan Temple in a pickup van when the vehicle lost balance on a slope, and fell about 30 feet down. All devotees belonged to the Papalwadi village in Khed.

Their vehicle was going uphill on the ghat, and suddenly it started rolling backwards. The driver could not control the vehicle as the road was curving around the ghat. The

Independence Day 2025: 'Military village' Apshinge recalls living through war days with a mix of pride, anxiety

'One call and we will be back on duty,' says a soldier in Maharashtra's Apshinge where every home has at least one member in the armed forces. Today it boasts of around 250 serving and 500 retired soldiers.

Pune. (Agency)

It was past midnight, but Divya could not sleep. She kept checking WhatsApp every 10 minutes. Finally, around 1 am, she saw what she had been waiting for – the 'last seen' status of her husband, '12.55 am,' it said. She sighed in relief and was fast asleep in a few minutes. Hundreds of kilometres away, at the border, her husband had opened WhatsApp and closed it almost immediately. It was enough to convey the message to his wife: that he was safe.

This was when Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the Paalgam terror attack, was at its peak. Unable to speak to each other, the soldier and his wife had come up with this little plan to update her about his well-being which she would promptly convey to his aged parents and three-year-old daughter. "On days there were no

updates, I was in deep worry, glued to the television screen for information," she says.

The family was one of the 30-35 others in the village who spent those days with mixed feelings: of anxiety, as each of these families had a member posted at the border, and pride at them having kept alive the tradition of the village. The very tradition that has earned it immense fame, respect and the name – Apshinge 'military village'.

Long tradition of military service "Since the time of Shivaji Maharaj, this village has contributed soldiers who have fought for the land's honour and even laid down their lives. Every household here has had a member who is or has been part of the military or paramilitary," says Tushar Nikam, sarpanch of the village, as he



proudly points to a memorial constructed by the British in commemoration of 46 soldiers from Apshinge village in Maharashtra's Satara "who went to the Great War 1914-1919". A little further, another memorial is dedicated to those who fought the post-Independence wars of 1965, 1971 and Kargil – the names numbering around 115.

The village with a population of about 3,000 has about 250 serving and 500 retired soldiers at present. "Many homes have only women and children as the man of the house is serving in the Army. The entire village gives them emotional support and looks after them, especially during times like Operation Sindoor, when these families were under much stress," adds Nikam

For Priyanka, the wife of a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan posted at the border, the worries had doubled this time around. A working woman, she had travelled from Satara to Punjab with her two children on a few days' leave, in anticipation of spending time together as a family. "The day I reached, Operation Sindoor started. I couldn't go to where my husband was, nor could I return to Apshinge," she says.

Muthalapozhi turns death trap; two more fishermen drown

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

Two fisherman died, while three miraculously escaped after their boat capsized at Muthalapozhi on Monday evening. The fishermen on board 'Carmala Matha' boat, which is owned by an Anchuthengu native, met with the tragedy when the vessel was returning to the harbour after the day's catch. The deceased have been identified as Michael, 68, and Joseph, 43. Three other fishers, who were on the boat, were rescued by other boatmen.

The Anchuthengu coastal police said the incident occurred by 6.45 pm. The boat capsized as it tried to cross over from the sea to the backwater through the harbour mouth. The local fishermen said the boat turned turtle after encountering strong waves. The fishermen said the sand accumulated at the harbour mouth was the reason for the mishap. They said the sand dredging from the harbour mouth has been suspended and the fishermen

have been venturing into the sea placing their lives on the line. According to Valerian Isaac, leader of Kerala Swathanthra Matsya



Thozhilali Federation, the casualty of fishermen at Muthalapozhi has risen to 79. The fishermen community has been criticising the unscientific construction and development

of the harbour as the main reason for the surge in fatalities. Located at the meeting point of the Vamanapuram river and the Arabian Sea, Muthalapozhi is a hub for large-scale fishing activities.

As many as 160 large fishing vessels and about 400 small ones operate out of here, offering livelihood to 20,000 people. Local residents allege that unscientific breakwater construction has turned the harbour mouth into a death trap for fishermen.

Valerian said accidents have become a daily affair in the harbour mouth and only those incidents, where fatalities occur, grab attention. "The authorities take some small steps after deaths occur. That's done to placate the fishermen, who are seething with anger. No meaningful action has been taken and that's why more people are dying here" he said.

Thane. (Agency)
Police have seized two chemical-laden tankers and registered a case against the director of a company and five others for allegedly disposing of hazardous chemical waste into a drain in Maharashtra's Thane district, officials said on Tuesday.

During patrolling on Sunday morning, a police team spotted two tankers parked near a drain close to another chemical company at Narpoli in Bhiwandi area of Thane, anti-extortion cell's senior police inspector Sailesh Salvi said.

The police seized the two tankers filled with calcium hypochlorite solution (used as a bleach), weighing 17,720 kg, belonging to a chemical company located at Wada in neighbouring Palghar district, along with equipment used for releasing the waste into the water, he said.

"The total value of the seized property is Rs 10,72,600," Salvi stated.

The probe indicated the tanker drivers and a worker had already released around 2,000 kg of the chemical waste into the drain, causing water pollution and posing health hazards to the local population, he said.

"Such illegal disposal of industrial waste not only violates environmental laws but also endangers public health," he said.

A case has been registered against the Palghar-based chemical company's director, two drivers, a worker and another person under sections 279 (fouling water of public spring or reservoir), 280 (making atmosphere noxious to health) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, he added.

Vattiyoorkavu women to take the 'cycle' route

The 'She Cycling' programme, inaugurated by MLA V K Prasanth on Monday, will provide a five-day free cycling training for women and girls of the locality.



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)
Women of Vattiyoorkavu now have a new option for evening activities - cycling - as free cycling training will be arranged in the constituency for them. The 'She Cycling' programme,

inaugurated by MLA V K Prasanth on Monday, will provide a five-day free cycling training for women and girls of the locality. The training is being carried out by the Indus Cycling Embassy. "The women and children who have gathered here

for the training are the brand ambassadors of this programme," MLA V K Prasanth said in his inaugural address. As part of this, a counselling programme will also be implemented to reduce people's mental stress, he said at the Kowdiar Pipeline Road Junction.

The MLA also added that a senior citizens' corner and children's park will be set up on the Pipeline Road as part of city beautification activities.

The state coordinator of the She Cycling Programme, Prakash P Gopinath, stated that training will be given in two batches in the evening. "We are also planning to launch a cycling academy to provide comprehensive training for the interested," he told the.

A railway officer-turned-full-time cycling enthusiast, Prakash, also added that training will be given to each person for five days. He is also the Bicycle Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram city, a position designated by the Amsterdam-based global NGO BYCS.



Darekar's sister said she was informed about the accident immediately. "Soon

updates." was fine and admitted at Bhosari. They informed us she is admitted to Sainath Hospital." She added that the police arrived at the hospital Monday night and spoke to her sister for one or two hours, noting down the events. "The local MLA visited as well," she said.

The police said the victims have been identified as Mandabai Kanif Darekar, 50; Sanjabai Kailas Darekar, 50; Meerabai Sambhaji Chorge, 50; Shobha Dnyaneshwar Papal, 33; Suman Kaluram Papal, 50; Sharada Ramdas Chorge, 45; Parvatibai Dattu Papal, 56; Baydabai Dnyaneshwar Darekar, 45; Shakuntala Tanaji Chorge, 50, and Fasabai Prabhu Sawant, 61. The van driver, Rushikesh Karande, survived the accident, and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Fault lines of British-era boundaries

In 1907, two years after his retirement as India's viceroy, George Nathaniel Curzon gave the prestigious Romanes Lecture, and he chose the title Frontier. Among others, in the rather long lecture script, he elaborated on how the idea of the demarcated, delineated and closely guarded national borders was unknown to the world outside of Europe before colonialism arrived.

The boundaries of non-European principalities were amorphous, and they waxed and waned depending on the power of their rulers. Administrative presence also fades out progressively towards the borders until the domain of neighbouring principalities begins. That all of India's modern boundaries are inherited from the British colonial days should serve as a testimony to Curzon's assertions. These include the Radcliffe Line, 1947, the contested McMahon Line, 1914, and even the Durand Line, 1893, the pre-Partition border with Afghanistan. There are more. The earliest of the British-drawn boundaries is between India and Nepal, drawn by the Treaty of Sugauli, 1816, and after it, the Pemberton-Johnstone-Maxwell Line, 1834, demarcating Manipur's boundary with the Ava Kingdom (Burma), for it to become India's boundary after Manipur's merger in 1949. Even Sikkim, which merged with India as late as 1975, had its boundary with Tibet drawn by the Anglo-Chinese Convention, 1890 (or the Convention of Calcutta), recognising Sikkim as a British protectorate.

Curzon also explains the idea of natural and artificial boundaries. Nearly all political boundaries are artificial, drawn by agreements between neighbouring states or by the conquest of one by the other. Natural boundaries are those determined by natural phenomena such as seas, rivers and deserts. In the modern era, with contests over the jurisdiction of even seas, the idea of the natural boundary is set to become extinct. Going beyond the ideas of the sphere of influence and sphere of control, he also explains how the British reached new levels of sophistication in fashioning the concept of suzerainty in controlling outlying frontier principalities in British strategic interest. The high point of this was the case of Tibet. Many of these are deemed Protectorate States, principalities which were not annexed but put under strict British control through pliant rulers, and through them build what he referred to as three-layer buffers against neighbouring spheres of influence and control of other European powers, such as the French in Indochina and Russians in Central Asia.

This colonial approach to administration may have suited the convenience of the colonial powers, but they have also left behind festering boundary problems for most postcolonial states. India is no exception. Other than direct contests over these colonial boundaries, there are also less visible discontents. These have to do with certain blind spots of the colonial administrative outlook, which laid its premium on security and revenue. Bypassed are what James C Scott termed non-state-bearing populations in upland South East Asia, in which a good part of the Northeast would also fall. These are small tribal populations who were then living on subsistent agriculture and as hunter-gatherers, whose loyalties seldom extended beyond their clans and villages, often at war with other clans and villages; therefore, alien to the idea of the state. After annexing Assam in 1826, the colonial administration claimed the "wild" Assam hills as its territory but left them "unadministered" except for occasional punitive expeditions. Instead, they administered only the revenue plains. They even formally divided the revenue plains and non-revenue hills by drawing an Inner Line along the foothills by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873. In the course of their rule, the "unadministered areas" came to be "excluded areas" and "partially excluded areas".

ON July 8, 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry sailed into Tokyo Bay with two steam ships and two sloops with sails. He refused when ordered to move to Nagasaki, the port allowed for foreign ships. Likewise, he would not allow local officials to board his ships, insisting that he had a message from the US President for the Japanese Emperor. Perry's bullying forced Japan to open up on trade, to allow US ships to refuel in Japanese ports, and make other concessions. More importantly, it made Japan (which had only wooden sailing ships) realise the superiority of Western technology. There was confusion and disagreement over what was to be done. There were people who argued against change, some suggested throwing out all foreigners. Eventually, the forces of change won and more than a decade later, under the new and young Emperor Meiji, the country launched root-and-branch reform — of the feudal system, land ownership, the education system and the military, among other changes. The shogunate gave way to what would become known as the Meiji Restoration that began in 1867. Within a generation, Japan became an industrial power and defeated stronger Chinese forces in battle. A decade after that, it defeated imperial Russia. Both those countries were to see their regimes collapse in the wake of the military defeats, while the change that Commodore Perry forced on Japan was to ensure it became part of the front rank of nations. There are lessons in this for India as it confronts its own Perry moment of US bullying. This is not to defend President Trump's actions, which remain indefensible. India is right to decry his imposition of forbidding tariffs as unfair, unjustified and indeed hypocritical. But our task is not to win the argument, it is to win the economic war. Our weaknesses have been exposed, in as much as we are not able to stand up to Trump as China has done. There is also truth in what Trump says. Cheap Russian oil has been used by refiners to earn extra profits, while the retail consumer has seen no benefit. And our tariffs have been moving in the wrong direction, exposing us to being dubbed the "tariff king". The broader reality is that we have long been an outlier on trade, unable or unwilling to be a part of regional Asian trading arrangements. And despite more than three decades of 6-plus per cent annual economic growth, and a near-quadrupling of per capita income, 90 per cent of our employment is still in the informal sector. That limits both productivity growth and technological progress. While we may have found it diplomatically useful to propagate that this is now a multi-polar world, and our

foreign minister has revelled in highlighting Western double standards, the hard fact is that the world has two primary poles. One of them is adversarial, if not hostile; it has pressured us militarily and squeezed us economically on critical supplies, and might do more of the same. If we now adopt a reflexively hostile stance with the US, we will box ourselves into a corner. We have to find a way to deal with Trump's America, just as we have to find a way to use China's manufacturing prowess for our own purposes. Turning away from both is simply not an option. We have much --too much-- at stake with the US. It is our biggest export market for merchandise, the primary market for our services exports, and the leading source of foreign remittances. The technological competence of our engineers has encouraged dozens of large US companies to set up

that can take the space that the US occupies. Russia is a useful partner for defence, but the talk of using BRICS and the Global South as alternatives is plainly delusional. So where are we in relation to the 'Restoration' that we need? The Modi government has done well to establish economic stability, build economic infrastructure, radically improve the provision of basic goods and services (tap water, cooking gas, toilets, housing, etc), and create a unique digital infrastructure, but it has not done as well in other areas. The 1991 reforms were half-done, and the so-called second-generation reforms have been fitful and inadequate. We have to ask, for instance, why China has moved from being a large-scale importer of fertiliser to becoming an exporter, while we remain a large importer which now buys from China. Have our confused pricing

and subsidy policies played a role? Similarly, why does our agriculture need to function behind a 40 per cent tariff wall? Is it because of our low productivity, which has not been addressed? Because of such failures we are defensive on trade, and our tariffs have been raised instead of lowered. Progress with the new education policy announced five years ago has been very patchy. Our attempts to deliver manufacturing prowess have little to show beyond mobile phone assembly, and our employment situation remains dire, with more people having to fall back on agriculture or self-employment (both being disguised unemployment).

Our defence sector has been under-funded. On the business front, too much power is concentrated in a handful of conglomerates which, unlike the "national champions" of Japan and South Korea, are inward-looking and not leading a national outreach. Finally, there is a message in our net foreign direct investment being reduced to near-zero. If Mr Trump can bully us, it is because we can be bullied. If the US sees us less than earlier as a counterpoise to China, it is because we have under-performed in ways that go beyond the rate of economic growth in which we rightly take pride. In the real world, removed from TV war rooms, we can't get away from the costs that Mr Trump will impose on us. But we have to make rational choices, not be ruled by emotion. And we have the resilience to absorb the impact and build from there. That is the task that we should focus on even as we figure out the best way to deal with a global bully. While the parallels with mid-19th century Japan should not be overdrawn, this is our Perry moment if we want to make it one.



capability centres here, earning us dollars and providing large-scale, high-quality employment. There is also a developing strategic relationship, and an undeniable people-to-people relationship since some five million people of Indian origin live in the US. We have been the largest beneficiaries of the H1B visa programme, while US universities are the primary target of our students who wish to study abroad. Trump would like to turn the clock back on some of this, and strands of American opinion have turned hostile to work visas and outsourcing/offshoring. Also, Trump has turned on US allies and friends more than on its adversaries (eg. attacking India, but not China, on Russian oil), creating a trust deficit that will outlast him. Still, what Manmohan Singh once remarked privately remains largely true, that the world opens up to you if you are seen as America's friend. There is simply no country

Downing Pak birds big deal, but let us know our losses

There is no need for secrecy. Disclosing the data will not hamper national security

Three months after Operation Sindoora began, the Indian Air Force officially revealed it had shot down at least five Pakistani fighter jets and a large surveillance aircraft during the clash. That the information came from Air Chief Marshal A P Singh brought authenticity and a fresh perspective to the table. Less than a fortnight ago, Parliament had acrimoniously debated the operation launched to deliver justice to the 26 civilians massacred in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. Singh described the destruction of Pakistani warplanes as the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill by India. Known for his candour, the air chief went on to torpedo the main planks of the opposition. Singh attributed the operation's success to political will, adding that the armed forces were not at all fettered. Obliquely swatting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's attack in the Lok Sabha on not giving the forces a free hand, the air chief said the constraints, if any, were self-imposed as they themselves decided the escalation ladder and how and when to wind it down. Admitting that people close to him



peppered him with queries about pausing the operation after hitting nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, he explained the attacks were calibrated because "we wanted to be mature about it". The

objective was to warn the leadership of terror outfits that the India-Pak border won't be a constraint for pursuing them if they dared to repeat the crime. Singh was also profuse in his praise of the Russian S-400s, saying the enemy failed to penetrate the anti-missile shield. Another plus was the copious images available in real time. Contrasting them with the Balakot air strike in Pakistan after the Pulwama terror attack in 2019, he said, since no visual of the attack could be procured, convincing 'our own people' on the outcome became difficult.

Now that India has made public the kills of the Pakistani birds, it is only fair to expect clarity on the aircraft losses on our side. There is no need for secrecy. Disclosing the data will not hamper national security. Analogies such as "the result of the exam is important, not whether a pencil got broken or a pen was lost" underestimate the maturity of the very people in whose name the battle was fought.

Krishna's birth: The night that brought light

Krishna's miraculous escape from Kamsa's prison demonstrates that no matter how powerful or ruthless evil may appear, it can never triumph over what is just and destined to prevail

Janmashtami is on August 16, so let us recall that night in Mathura when it happened, drawing from the Srimad Bhagavatam: ahavishnu meditated in heaven before taking his eighth descent to earth. He put himself through these hardships for mortals because he was sworn to protect the good, punish the wicked and set the world right from age to age.

As Krishna, he had chosen to be 'born' in jail.

His earthly parents, Princess Devaki and Prince Vasudev, had waved happily from their carriage at the cheering people of Mathura on their wedding day. Devaki's brother Kamsa, king of Mathura, drove them himself through the city to greet the people. But a bodiless voice had silenced them all when it rang through the air to say that Devaki's eighth child would kill Kamsa.

Kamsa had instantly drawn his sword to kill his sister. But Vasudev had caught his sword arm. "It is not your sister's fault, king," he had said steadily. "Take our eighth child, if you must, but do not kill Devaki."

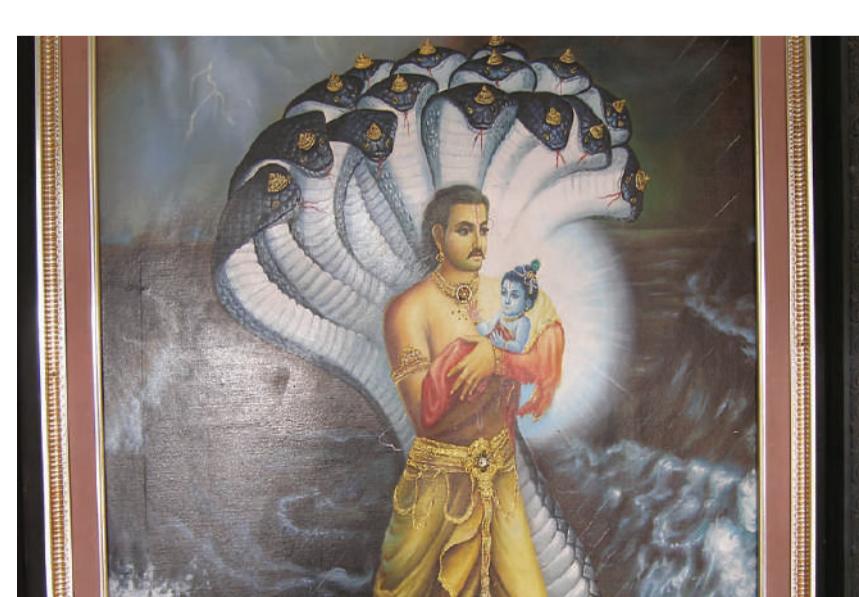
Kamsa had locked them up in Mathura Jail, and each time a child appeared, he had dashed the baby's head against the stone walls, killing it instantly. How afraid Vasudev and Devaki had been when she began to expect the dreaded eighth child. As her time drew near, they grew calm and resolute. They had clearly been chosen for some task beyond their understanding and would meet it with courage. Devaki sensed that her child would be born on the eighth night of the moon's dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapada. And so it was. There came that glorious hour when the star Rohini arose in the night sky and all the planets stood in their best positions. The stars shone bright, while on earth, the cities, villages, fields and forests felt a sudden well-

being. A great peace fell on the world at that moment. The rivers sparkled, and the lakes suddenly bloomed with lotuses, although it was night. The birds awoke and chirped softly in joy. The breezes blew sweet scents and, free of dust, touched tired, sleeping bodies gently. The oil lamps burned brighter than ever before. The dreams of the people oppressed by cruel Kamsa grew sweet as though sensing the advent of the Unborn One. Unheard by mortals, singers in heaven sang welcoming songs of praise in pure, clear voices, and holy men and celestials showered the finest flowers on earth.

Heaving masses of clouds began to fill the sky and move in a great dance with the deep, rolling waves of the sea. All creation seemed to hold its breath when, at the night's darkest hour, Krishna, the world's well-wisher, came forth amid the human race. He appeared to the heartsore and the weary like the full moon rising.

For one dazzling moment, Devaki and Vasudev saw their child stand tall, as a god glowing with heavenly radiance. They saw his kind eyes and his four mighty arms holding a conch, a discus, a mace and a lotus. He wore yellow silk, and his body shone darkly beautiful like the rain clouds. Overcome by his splendour, Devaki and Vasudev fell at his feet and felt the vision fade. In its place lay a baby with curly hair and a face whose beauty made their eyes overflow. A voice told them what to do next. Devaki held her baby once, memorising every feature through her tears. The

fetters on Vasudev's feet fell away, and he took the baby from Devaki. Just then, Yogmaya, the mysterious force of the Mother Goddess, appeared as a baby daughter to Yashoda, wife of the cowherd chief, Nanda, at Gokul



village across the Yamuna. By Yogmaya's power, the guards at the jail and every person in Mathura sank deeply into dreamless sleep. The heavy doors of Mathura Jail swung open silently for Vasudev. He walked out to the river's edge, trying to protect the baby from the rain that suddenly began to pour as he neared the river. The Yamuna was in full spate, but when

Vasudev set his trembling feet in her waters, the great river parted smoothly and made a path for him to cross. As Vasudev stumbled, a dark shadow glided forward and spread its hood above the baby and Vasudev to shelter them from the rain. The anxious father was unaware that the great serpent Adisesha had come to serve Vishnu in the Lord's new game. Vasudev crossed safely to Gokul. There, too, people lay stone-still in the deep sleep caused by Yogmaya. Vasudev went to the biggest hut, put his son on Yashoda's cot and picked up her newborn baby girl. He re-crossed the now-quiet river to Mathura Jail. The jail doors opened silently again. Vasudev placed the baby in Devaki's arms and replaced his fetters. She stared spellbound at the baby's face. Two dark, bright eyes looked at her with superhuman awareness, blazing with heavenly fire, and Devaki, cradling the tiny body, looked innocently back with the intense love of her starved mother's heart. Then the baby softly dropped her eyelids, for Yogmaya had withdrawn her brilliant

gaze out of mercy to the mortal woman. No being on earth had the strength to hold Yogmaya's powerful gaze for even a moment. Only clean-souled Devaki had been able to exchange that long look with her. Devaki and Vasudev sat down to wait for the morning, leaning on each other. Kamsa would come to wreak his worst. But Krishna was safely away from Mathura.

Punjab Police bust BKI terror network aided by Pakistan's ISI, arrest 5 from Rajasthan

The five operatives were part of the module that was tasked to carry out attacks on the occasion of Independence Day, the Punjab Police said.

Chandigarh .(Agency)

In a breakthrough, the Punjab Police's Counter-Intelligence wing in Jalandhar has busted a terror network operated by Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), supported by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), in Punjab, the police said on Tuesday. In the joint operation with the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district police, the Jalandhar police arrested five operatives of the BKI module in Rajasthan that was tasked to carry out attacks on Independence Day, the police said.

The BKI operatives were nabbed from the Tonk and Jaipur districts of Rajasthan after an encounter, and the police averted planned attacks, including one inside a liquor store in SBS Nagar, said Gaurav Yadav, Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab.

Gujarat Confidential: Late Arrival Raises Eyebrows



Ahmedabad .(Agency)

As the Tiranga Yatra was flagged off in the presence of Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, at Vadodara's Navlakhi grounds on Monday morning, Mayor Pinky Soni remained conspicuous by her absence even as elected representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as well as members of the party's city unit were present at the venue. Soni later joined the yatra at Rajmahal Road, walking alongside Sanghavi until the end of the march at Gandhi Nagar Gruh. While the BJP decided to downplay the "late arrival" of the Mayor, sources within the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) said that Soni's absence from the main flag-off "could not be ignored" as some members of the elected wing of the VMC had "raised objection" to the order in which their names were printed in the list of dignitaries on the invites issued last week by the civic body for the event.

Bengaluru Metro's Yellow line maiden run a big hit with commuters

BENGALURU .(Agency)

Ending an eight-year wait, Namma Metro's Yellow Line opened to the public on Monday. The 19.15-km stretch connects RV Road to Bommasandra and began commercial operations with three trains running at a frequency of 25 minutes. End-to-end travel takes 32 to 35 minutes.

On its first day, the line served thousands of students, IT professionals, garment workers and factory employees among others. Many welcomed the chance to ditch private vehicles and avoid the infamous Central Silk Board traffic, saying the saved time would improve their quality of life and productivity. It took a ride on the new line to interact with commuters on its first day of operations. "With our child, travelling to the Central Silk Board is much easier on the Metro," said Shekhar, who was accompanied by his wife and child. "The fare is far less compared to the Rs 300 we usually pay for an auto, and we don't mind waiting 25 minutes for the train as it is easier and far more comfortable."

"Normally, I'd take a bus and then an auto to reach Chickpete from Bommasandra, and it would take more than two hours," said Lavanya, a resident of Bommasandra. "Now, with the Metro, I can get there in under an hour, it's a game-changer for connectivity."

Harini, an IT employee said, "The Yellow Line has reduced my commute from Banashankari to my office near Jayadeva Hospital from over an hour to just 10 minutes. It's a great initiative that's helping IT professionals and residents near Electronics City."

The RV Road Metro station is now the second interchange after Nadaprabhu Kempegowda station, linking the Green and Yellow lines. The line also features India's tallest Metro station at Jayadeva Hospital, standing at 39 metres.

However, a few passengers complained about the lack of seating arrangements in the RV Road station, raised concerns regarding the small platform space compared to other Metro stations and urged installation of steel barricades or platform screen doors (PSD) for safety of the commuters. Metro feeder buses to enhance first- and last-mile connectivity will be inaugurated by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Tuesday. Narayana Health launched a public health campaign along the Yellow Line, turning Metro pillars into vibrant murals promoting hygiene, nutrition, vaccination and mental wellbeing.



The police have recovered one 86P hand grenade, one .30 bore pistol, along with two live cartridges and two empty shells of .30

who is working in close coordination with #Pak based BKI operative Harwinder Rinda," Yadav said in a post on Tuesday.

One person who opened fire at the police force was injured in the retaliatory action and is admitted in Civil Hospital, SBS Nagar, the police said.

The police have registered a case at City Nawashehar Police Station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Explosive Substances Act.

Punjab Police officials said that Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI has doubled its efforts to create unrest in Punjab after O Sindo in May. The officials say that ISI has been trying hard to find new recruits in Punjab and has been targeting military installations. Additionally, gangster outfits, aided and abetted by ISI-managed Khalistani terror networks, have also been tasked to increase their activities in Punjab ahead of Independence Day.

bore have been recovered from the accused. The arrested accused were receiving direct instructions from foreign-based Zeeshan Akhtar & BKI mastermind Mannu Agwan,

Phase 1's budget rose from Rs 6,300 crore in 2005 to Rs

14,000 crore, and Phase 2's from Rs 26,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 40,000 crore in 2024, he said, calling it an undue burden on taxpayers despite high demand for Metro connectivity.

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Sunday confirmed the new timelines and revealed that the

proposed Phase 3A corridor (Red line) — 36.58 km from Sarjapur to Hebbal, costing Rs 28,405 crore — has had its Detailed Project Report (DPR) returned to the state for cost review under benchmarking guidelines. The ministry urged the state to expedite the process and prepare a long-term Metro master plan for Bengaluru.

Surya also flagged the need to increase Metro train frequency, especially on the



Yellow Line, with more train sets expected by year-end. He said, "I spoke to the MD of Titagarh Rail Systems (the company which is manufacturing and supplying train sets) and he says that from October two trains will be available per month and by the end of August, the fourth train will also be added."

Ghaggar River water not fit for drinking, bathing, ministry informs MP Kumari Selja in Lok Sabha

Chandigarh .(Agency)

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has found that the water flowing in the Ghaggar River in Punjab and Haryana is unfit for both bathing and drinking. Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav said last week in the Lok Sabha in response to a question by Sirsa MP and Congress leader Kumari Selja. Selja had sought details on the role of the "polluted water of Ghaggar River entering Haryana in spreading cancer" and whether the government has made any plan to clean the river. She had also sought information on the number of cancer patients in Haryana, whether the Centre provides any special assistance to cancer patients belonging to below-poverty line families, etc.

In his reply on August 8, Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, stated that the Ghaggar

River is monitored at 18 locations in Punjab and nine locations in Haryana by the state or central pollution control board. "CPCB has informed that the analysis of water quality monitoring results of river Ghaggar in the state of Punjab and Haryana for the year 2023 reveals that River Ghaggar is found non-complying w.r.t. notified Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing at all the monitored locations in the state of Punjab and Haryana for the year 2023. The Haryana State Pollution Control Board has found the water of Ghaggar River not fit for drinking," Jadhav stated.

On the steps taken by the government in this regard, the minister stated, "Under the centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan, sewage treatment capacity of 15 million litres per day (MLD)



was created in different towns in Punjab for conservation of Ghaggar River."

"Punjab Pollution Control Board has informed that to treat wastewater from the towns in the catchment of river Ghaggar, 28 STPs of total capacity 291.7 MLD have been installed. Haryana State Pollution Control Board has informed that sewage treatment capacity of 588 MLD has been created in river catchment in the State under the Ghaggar Action Plan," he added.

Quoting a 2024 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study, the minister's reply stated that the people dwelling near river drains were highly prone to cancer and "hazard quotients were observed above the threshold limit that poses high non-carcinogenic risks". He added that the results of the study had revealed that lead, iron, and aluminium exceeded the permissible limit of the CPCB.

Giving details about the number of cancer cases, the minister stated figures from 2019 to 2023. "As per the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR-NCRP), the estimated number of incidences of cancer cases in Haryana during the last five years (2019-2023) is 1,468 in 2019, 1,536 in 2020, 1,580 in 2021, 1,630 in 2022, and 1,678 in 2023," Jadhav stated.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited commissions consultancy for major corridor extensions

CHENNAI .(Agency)

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has initiated consultancy contracts to develop Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for two significant extensions aimed at expanding the city's metro network.

The first project focuses on a roughly 7-kilometre extension of Corridor 4, stretching from Lighthouse to the High Court. This expansion is expected to enhance connectivity along the Marina Beach and provide improved access to key government offices, including the Secretariat. The extension aims to cater to daily commuters as well as tourists, addressing the growing demand for seamless transit options in Chennai's densely populated areas. Meanwhile, the second project envisions a new 21-kilometre corridor linking Tambaram, Medavakkam, Pallikaranai, and Velachery with Guindy Metro Station on Corridor 1. Designed to integrate Chennai's

southern suburbs with the existing network, this corridor promises enhanced multimodal connectivity at key hubs such as Tambaram, Medavakkam, Velachery, and Guindy, facilitating smoother transfers across transit modes.

CMRL has appointed Systra MVA Consulting India Pvt Ltd to prepare the DPRs for both corridors, awarding contracts worth INR 38.2 lakh and INR 96.2 lakh for both the extensions respectively. The consultancy work is scheduled to be completed within 120 days. The agreements were formalised in a signing ceremony attended by M.A. Siddique, Managing Director of CMRL; T Archanan, Director (Projects); and Parveen Kumar, Senior Vice President at Systra MVA Consulting. The DPRs will conduct a comprehensive assessment covering alignment options, ridership projections, multimodal integration potential, and technical feasibility.

Ahmedabad DEO issues show-cause notices to school, management after staff sits on a dharna over salary issues

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

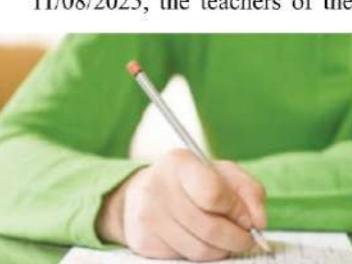
The Ahmedabad City District Education Office has issued two show-cause notices to a private school in Maninagar for allegedly staging a protest over salary issues during school hours on Monday.

The teachers and management of Diwan Ballubhai High School have received separate notices from District Education Officer Rohit Chaudhary, citing a violation of the Right to Education Act. The notice demands a reply by Tuesday.

Teachers sat on a dharna over the salary increment issue. They did not have any prior approval and they did not inform us also about any such protest. Due to their protest, the students had to suffer. Same goes with the management... why did they fail in resolving the issue and why was it not discussed with the

DEO office," Ahmedabad (city) District Education Officer Rohit Chaudhary told The Indian Express.

"It is to be informed that on 11/08/2025, the teachers of the



"Also, the school did not give any reply when the parents asked the school management about the issue," the notice stated. "Why should you not be held responsible for spoiling the academic work of the students today? And why should your one-day salary not be deducted for affecting the academic work of the children due to your disagreement with the trust?" stated the notice. "You have put the future of the children at stake, which is considered a serious matter."

Thus, you have clearly violated the rules of the RTE Act 2009... for which why should punitive action not be taken against you? All teachers are requested to submit an explanation regarding this immediately through the school principal within a day.

'27 schools in Hisar operating from unsafe buildings': Haryana rights panel seeks report within 8 weeks

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Taking suo motu cognisance of reportedly alarming conditions at government schools in Hisar, the Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has directed authorities in the district to submit a comprehensive report on each building within eight weeks.

Taking note of media reports published last week, the HHRC found that "buildings or major portions of 27 government schools have been declared 'unsafe' by the Public Works Department (PWD), yet classes continue to be conducted in them".

In the order which was made public on Tuesday, the full bench of the Commission, comprising Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia, observed that "this is not a matter of mere inconvenience but a direct endangerment to the lives and safety of school children". It has set October 30 as the next date of hearing in the case.

The Commission noted that "students are reportedly being taught in open verandas, sealed rooms, laboratories and staff halls, often sitting on the floor. The ongoing monsoon season has increased risks, including the danger of snake bites and other hazards".

At the Government Senior Secondary School in

Mangali, for instance, "480 students are studying in an open veranda after 22 classrooms were sealed due to collapse risk," it said, adding, "In Dobhi village, all 24 classrooms are condemned, forcing students into cramped libraries,



laboratories, and staff rooms. In Dhanusa, Siswala, Arya Nagar, Rajli and other schools, children are being taught in unsafe sections of buildings where the risk of falling walls or ceilings is constant".

Dr Puncet Arora, Protocol, Information and Public Relations Officer, said the Commission has directed "the Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Director General,

Secondary Education; Deputy Commissioner, Hisar; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Hisar; and District Education Officer, Hisar to submit a comprehensive report within eight weeks" on the matter.

The report, he said, should cover "the current status of each condemned building; safety measures in place; alternative arrangements made; timeline and budget for reconstruction; number of affected students and any injury/illness data; and a reason for delay in reconstruction/relocation."

Citing key examples of the damaged buildings, the HHRC bench stated that in Dhanusa village, the entire school building has been condemned, while the figures for the schools in other villages were: Dobhi (24 rooms), Mangali (22), Rajli (16), Dhanvi Mohabatpur (12), Sisar Kharbala (11), Bass (10), Arya Nagar (10), and Siswala (8).

The Commission noted that such conditions violate Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and Article 21A (Right to Education) of the Constitution of India, as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantee children the right to safe and quality education.

What is Talaq-e-Hasan, Muslim divorce form being challenged in Supreme Court?

Agency New Delhi.

Eight years after the Supreme Court outlawed instantaneous triple talaq or Talaq-e-Biddat, it is now examining the validity of Talaq-e-Hasan, another form of triple talaq in which a Muslim man can divorce his wife by saying "talaq" once a month for three months. The petitioner, Ghaziabad-based journalist Benazeer Heena, argued in 2022 that the practice is "discriminatory" since only men can exercise it, and sought a declaration that it is unconstitutional as arbitrary and violative of Articles 14, 15, 21, and 25 of the Constitution.

In her plea, Heena also alleged that the unilateral talaq process causes "gross affront to the dignity of women" and undermines their right to equality and to life with dignity. The Supreme Court has now asked the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Commission for Women (NCW), and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to provide their

opinions on Talaq-e-Hasan. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi is hearing nine petitions related to the issue. The matter has been listed for November, according to Live Law.

HOW TALAQ-E-HASAN IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DIVORCE FORMS UNDER SHARIA

Talaq-e-Hasan is one of the two subtypes of Talaq-ul-Sunnat. The other type of divorce under Talaq-ul-Sunnat is Talaq-e-Ahsan. While the now-outlawed instant triple talaq was supposed to have been pronounced by a Muslim man upon his wife if he spelled out the word "talaq" (meaning divorce) three times in one instance and in one sitting, Talaq-ul-Sunnat is supposed to give time for such decisions.

Talaq-ul-Sunnat means divorce "according to Sunnah" – the method approved by Prophet Muhammad. In

Islam, it is considered the proper, thoughtful way to divorce, giving time for reflection and reconciliation. In Talaq-e-Hasan, the husband pronounces "talaq" once during a period when the wife is not menstruating (tuhur).

After this first pronouncement, there is a

time, the divorce process stops. If the couple does not reconcile, the husband repeats the talaq in the second menstrual cycle, and again in the third cycle if separation is still desired. After the third pronouncement, the divorce under Talaq-e-Hasan becomes final and irrevocable.

TELANGANA HC UPHELD MUSLIM WOMEN'S RIGHT TO KHULA

The Talaq-e-Biddat or instantaneous Triple Talaq was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2017 in the Shayara Bano vs Union of India case.

After the verdict, the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, outlawed the practice, criminalising it with penalties, including imprisonment, to protect Muslim women's rights. While Talaq-e-Ahsan and Talaq-e-Hasan are exclusively initiated by men, Mubarat can be initiated by either spouse but requires mutual consent.

"Free Convicts Who Have Served Fixed Terms": Key Verdict On Life Imprisonment

Agency New Delhi.

Convicts who have completed prison terms must be released immediately, the Supreme Court said in a big ruling Tuesday. A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice KV Vishwanathan directed the Home Secretaries of all states and union territories to check their prisons and comply with the order. The Supreme Court underlined an order it passed last month, when it ruled on a release plea by Sukhdev Yadav, alias Pehalwan, a convict in the murder of Delhi businessman Nitish Katara in 2002.

Pehalwan had been sentenced to a fixed-term life sentence of 20 years. That sentence finished on March 9 and he filed a plea seeking release. However, the Sentence Review Board cited his conduct during those 20 years and turned down his remission request. Pehalwan then approached the Supreme Court, which ordered his release on July 29.

Clarifying a point of law, the Supreme Court said a convict given a fixed-term life sentence (or any other, apart from a full life term) does not need an order to be freed after completing that sentence. A remission order from the Sentence Review Board is only required for convicts who have been sentenced to spend the entirety of their remaining lives in prison, the court said.

"What kind of behaviour is this? If this attitude continues, every convict will die in jail..."

In the July hearing Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dube, appearing for the Delhi government, argued that Pehalwan could not be automatically released after 20 years.

She reasoned that a 20-year life term without remission – the sentence handed to Pehalwan – only meant the convict could not appeal for a lesser punishment within those 20 years. A 'life term' means spending the rest of his natural life in jail, she reasoned.

Students resume AMU boycott demanding rollback of fee hike

Agency New Delhi.

Defiance deepened at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on Monday as protests over a steep fee hike, an eight-year freeze on students' union polls, and anger at senior officials entered their fourth day.

Large groups of students refused to return to class, vowing to continue their indefinite sit-in at the iconic Bab-e-Syed gate. Several opposition MPs have written to AMU vice chancellor Naima Khatoon expressing concern over the police and university crackdown on Friday, when protesters were offering collective Friday prayers at the dharna site.

Congress MP from Saharanpur Imran Masood urged the vice chancellor to order a probe into alleged excesses, including reported police action inside the campus. He demanded an immediate rollback of the enhanced fee structure and said he would raise the matter in Parliament. Samajwadi Party MP Ziaur Rehman Barq and AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi have also sought a probe. Salman Khurshid posted on social media: "News from AMU is deeply distressing. Unprecedented fee hike undermines the university's recognition for high-quality education at affordable cost. Right to protest responded by maltreatment of students, including ladies. Sorry state. Fix it as soon as possible."

An Aligarh Muslim University student leader said, "The 30-61% fee hike is a very unjust move that must be rolled back. Most of us come from the lower middle class and are the first generation in our families to pursue higher education. Such a hike makes education unaffordable for poor students." Sharjeel Imam, anti-CAA activist currently in jail, also posted on X in support of the students, alleging attempts to weaken student politics, exclude the poor, and silence dissent.

Don't discard food in open: Top Court circular over stray dogs on premises

A day after the controversial order on Delhi's stray dogs, the Supreme Court has issued a circular directing that all leftover food should be discarded in covered bins to over strays on premises.

Agency New Delhi.

A day after delivering a controversial order, the Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a circular addressing the growing presence of stray dogs within its premises. "It has been observed that incident of roaming of stray dogs in the corridors and also inside the lift in and around the Supreme Court Complex have increased significantly," the circular said ordering the implementation of the directive with immediate effect.

Here's what the directive said: "Disposal of Leftover Food: All leftover food items must be disposed of exclusively in properly covered dustbins. Under no circumstances should food be discarded in open areas or uncovered containers.

LS Speaker Om Birla appoints 3-member panel to probe Justice Yashwant Varma cash case

Agency New Delhi.

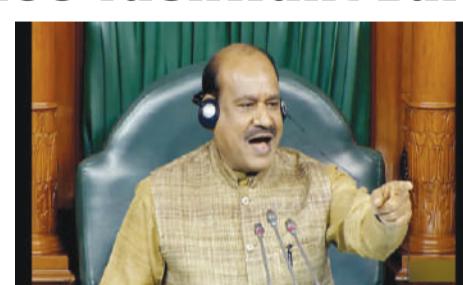
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has announced a three-member panel to examine allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma, after a large amount of burnt and partially burnt cash was recovered from his residence in March this year. The blaze at his official residence occurred on March 14, when he was serving as a Delhi High Court judge. The panel appointed by Om Birla comprises Justice Aravind Kumar of the Supreme Court, Madras High Court Chief Justice Maninder Mohan, and senior advocate BV Acharya, and senior advocate BV Acharya.

Supreme Court rejects Justice Varma's plea

Last week, the Supreme Court dismissed Justice Varma's plea to set aside a report by an apex court-appointed in-



and maintaining hygiene standards. Your cooperation in implementing this directive is essential for the safety of all." To address the issue, the Supreme Court administration recently held a meeting with officials from the New



house committee, which had found him guilty of misconduct. On 21 March, the chief justice of India (CJI) sought his written response, which Justice Varma submitted the next day, denying the accusations.

CJI Sanjiv Khanna then formed the three-member inquiry committee, and the Supreme Court uploaded the report, replete with photos and videos, on its website.

On July 30, the apex court came down heavily on Justice Varma, saying his conduct failed to inspire confidence. The Court backed the CJI's authority to act on judicial misconduct, stating he could not be reduced to a "post office" but had a duty to the nation.

The case of 'XXX v. The Union of India'

Justice Varma challenged the Supreme Court panel's report in the case, titled 'XXX v. The Union of India', to protect his identity. As a rap on the judge's knuckles, the apex court asked Justice Varma why he chose to appear before the in-house inquiry committee if he was not in favour of its constitution. The Court also questioned the delay in Justice Varma challenging the panel report, saying that he should have contested it then and there.

"Adopt, Give Him Home": Karti Chidambaram Amid Supreme Court's Stray Dog Order

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that all stray dogs in the national capital and adjoining regions must be shifted away from residential localities to shelters.

► Congress MP Karti Chidambaram supported the Supreme Court order to remove stray dogs from Delhi-NCR
► He urged adoption, vaccination, and collaring of dogs instead of leaving them on streets
► Supreme Court ruled all stray dogs must be shifted to shelters with sterilisation and immunisation

Agency New Delhi.
 Congress MP Karti Chidambaram has backed the Supreme Court's order to remove all stray dogs from Delhi-NCR localities, saying leaving them on streets is "not responsible behaviour". His remark came in response to a journalist who posted on X a picture of a stray dog living on Delhi's Nizamuddin streets,

saying "he deserves to stay where he's loved".

"On a rare personal note, here's me with Oldie Goldie, Nizamuddin's most famous (and most handsome) indie. He's been a much loved member of the community since he was abandoned in the streets as a puppy. He deserves to stay where he's loved. That's all I have to say," the journalist said.

Responding to him, the Congress leader advised him to adopt the dog. "Adopt him. Give him a home. Vaccinate him. Collar him. Leaving him in the streets is not responsible behaviour," he wrote.

Mr Chidambaram, on many occasions earlier, has raised concerns over increasing dog bite incidents across the country, calling it a "health and safety issue".

He had also called for a new national policy to build shelters for the strays across the country.

Amid the rising cases of dog bites leading to rabies deaths, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that all stray dogs in the national capital and adjoining regions must be shifted away from residential localities to shelters. It said that any organisation blocking it will face the



strictest action. According to the court, the dog shelters must have professionals who can tackle dogs, carry out sterilisation and immunisation, and not let the canines out.

The bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan, during the hearing, refused to consider petitions from dog lovers or any other party against the issue.

"We are not doing this for us, it is for the public interest. So, no sentiments of any nature should be involved. Action should be taken at the earliest. Pick up dogs from all localities and shift them to shelters. For the time being, forget the rules," the bench said.

Following the order, the Delhi government ordered civic authorities spanning the national capital, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Gurugram to immediately build dog shelters, move stray dogs, and update the court. According to the data provided by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), total of 35,198 animal bite incidents were reported in the national capital between January and June this year. Additionally, 49 cases of rabies were reported during this period.

NEWS BOX

Gukesh joint third after first day of St.Louis Rapid and Blitz

ST.LOUIS. (Agency)

Reigning world champion D Gukesh bounced back from an opening round loss to American Levon Aronian with wins over Grigori Oparin and Liem Le Quang, finishing the first day in joint third place at the St.Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Gukesh was outplayed by Aronian in a complex opening-round battle but rebounded strongly, producing a resounding victory against Oparin before crushing Liem to end the day with four points out of a possible six on Monday. With each rapid win worth two points, Aronian took the early lead by winning all three games on the opening day. Fresh from his triumph in the recently concluded Freestyle Chess tournament in Las Vegas, the American GM beat key rivals Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France to maintain a perfect score.

Aronian sits on six points, followed closely by



compatriot Fabiano Caruana on five after two wins and a draw. Gukesh shares the third place with another American, Wesley So, while Vachier-Lagrave and Leinier Dominguez Perez are tied for fifth with three points each. Liem and Oparin are next on two points, Nodirbek has one, and Sam Shankland is last after losing all his games. For Gukesh, the first round was a heartbreak as he went down in extreme complexities arising from a Caro Kann defense game. However, he recovered quickly, defeating Oparin in style. The finale was picturesque out of a Sicilian Rossolimo as the Indian sacrificed his queen to checkmate the Russian turned American. In the final game of the day, Gukesh, playing black against Liem, entered massive complications again. But, unlike Aronian, Liem faltered under pressure and was left facing a lost position once the dust settled.

Cincinnati Open: Sinner beats Diallo, Fritz passes Sonego Test after power outage delay

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jannik Sinner advanced to round 4 of the Cincinnati Open after a dominating win against Gabriel Diallo at P&G Center Court on Tuesday, August 12. Sinner reached the last 16 with a 6-2 7-6(6) win over the Canadian rival and kept his title defence alive. It was the 23rd successive win for the defending champion on hard courts as he continues to assert his dominance on his favourite court. Reflecting on the match after his victory, Sinner revealed that he was challenged by Diallo's strong serves but said that it's great to go through difficult matches before a Grand Slam.

"I feel like today was a very difficult day at the



office. He was serving very well, especially in the second set. Against big servers you always have to find the right balance at the back of the court. Today I struggled a bit at times. But still very happy. I need these tough matches ... Getting used to very difficult situations. I'm very happy this happened before a Grand Slam. I'm happy about today. Can I do things better? Yes. But not every day is the same. So I'm very, very happy." Sinner was quoted as saying by Reuters. Apart from him, Taylor Fritz also made his way into the last 16 as he breezed past Lorenzo Sonego 7-6(4) 7-5 after a one-hour power outage delay. Fritz did not concede a break point and capitalised on his lone break opportunity before serving out the match. In women's singles, Madison Keys also sealed her place in the last 16 with a 6-4 6-0 win over Japan's Aoi Ito. The American has put to test in the first set but sealed a win in the second within just 20 minutes. "In the first set, I got off to a pretty good lead and then kind of lost my way a bit. Once I got a break early in the second I wanted to run away with it and keep that momentum and I did," said Keys after the game. Meanwhile, Anna Kalinskaya shocked American fifth seed and Wimbledon finalist Amanda Anisimova with a 7-5, 6-4 victory.

R Ashwin has finally lifted the lid on the IPL trade rumours surrounding him ahead of the 2026 season. Ashwin returned to CSK during the 2025 mega auction but had a horrible campaign upon his return to Chennai.

New Delhi. (Agency)

R Ashwin has broken his silence on the IPL trade rumours about him and revealed that he has asked Chennai Super Kings for clarity ahead of the 2026 season. Ashwin was bought by CSK for 9.75 crore rupees during the IPL 2025 mega auction as it was an emotional homecoming for the former India spinner. However, it was a season to forget for Ashwin as his performances didn't meet

expectations. In the nine matches that he played, the spinner picked up just seven wickets at an average of 40.43 and an economy rate of 9.13. Ashwin also scored just 33 runs during this time as it was the first time since his debut season that he played less than 12 matches during a season. Recently, a report stated that Ashwin had discussions with CSK about his future and may look for an exit.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, the veteran spinner recalled how during his time with RR, he was informed by the franchise about their plans with him. "I played three years for RR," Ashwin said on his YouTube show. "After my 1st year, I got an email from the CEO saying this is your performance, this is our expectation and we're renewing your contract. It's one plus one plus one - the contract renewal. After every season, it's the responsibility of the franchise



to communicate to the player if they're retaining or releasing him," said Ashwin. "Don't know who is making rumours"

Ashwin said that every player has the right to express their interest about being retained or not to franchises. The spinner said that his future isn't in his hands at the moment and said none of the rumours, including the one related to Sanju Samson, are coming from the player's side.

"With regard to news about me or Sanju - obviously a player has the right to express interest [if he wishes to be retained or not]. Every player seeks clarity. As things stand, it's not in my hands. I've just asked for clarity. The situation we're in, all the news floating around, none of it is coming from the players. Even with Sanju's news, it's rumours or it's coming from the franchise's side. I don't know who is making this news," said Ashwin. The IPL trade window usually opens a month after the season ends and runs until a week before the next auction.

'Fit' Mirabai set for Commonwealth Championships

CHENNAI. (Agency)

More than a year after a disappointing fourth place finish at the 2024 Paris Olympics, ace lifter Mirabai Chanu will be seen lifting weights in an international event during the 2025 Commonwealth Senior, Junior and Youth Championships. The event is scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat from August 24 to 30. With the International Weightlifting Federation revising weight categories and scrapping her pet division 49kg, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist will compete in 48kg at the championships. Around 300 athletes from 31 countries are set to compete in the tournament.

"Mirabai is fit and ready for the tournament," Vijay Sharma, weightlifting head coach, told this daily. The competition will be held in eight weight categories in each senior, junior and youth sections. The championships is also a qualifying event for the 2026 Commonwealth



Games scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland.

"The Senior World Championships slated from October 2 to 11 in Forde, Norway will be her next international event," added Sharma. A ranking list based on the lifters' performance in the two events and the 2026 Asian Championships will be prepared and the top athlete from each weight category will become eligible for the Commonwealth Games, informed the coach. "The next three tournaments are important as they will serve as qualifiers for the 2026 CWG. Mirabai started weight training in January and is in good shape and free of injuries. She is competing in a new weight category now so if she can repeat her best show in 49kg then it will be good enough," said the coach. Mirabai finished fourth in the women's 49kg at the Paris Games as she could not lift 114kg in her third and final clean and jerk attempt. Mirabai lifted a total of 199kg (88kg in snatch+111kg in C&J). It was 3kg less than what she heaved at the Tokyo Games (202kg) for a silver medal.

India's winning moment and said he had the best seat to witness the magical moment. So lucky to witness this ball from the best seat



He bowled the most number of overs in the five-match series - a whopping 185.3. The right-arm speedster also finished as the leading wicket-taker of the rubber with 23 scalps from five matches (nine innings) at an average of 32.43 with two five-wicket hauls to his name. India were 1-2 behind in the series coming into the Oval Test, but showed great character by leveling it.

He rose to the occasion every time in the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, as he had also earlier picked 6/70 in the first innings of the second Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham. He ran in with full intensity in every spell, giving every ounce of energy in his body. Siraj's lion-hearted effort has helped him earn praise from the entire cricketing fraternity as India began their World Test Championship (WTC) cycle 2025-27 with a drawn series.

Witnessed Mohammed Siraj's yorker from the best seat in house: Kumar Dharmasena

Umpire Kumar Dharmasena recalled India's winning moment from the fifth Test against England at the Oval and said that he had the best seat in the house to witness Mohammed Siraj's yorker.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Umpire Kumar Dharmasena recently recalled Mohammed Siraj's sensational spell during the fifth Test against England at the Oval, saying that he had the best seat in the house to witness it. Siraj bowled India to victory as he helped them defend the target of 374 on Day 5 and win by six runs. The right-arm seamer picked three out of the four wickets to fall on Day 5 as India drew level in the five-match series. Siraj took the final wicket of the match by destroying Gus Atkison's stumps with a searing yorker. Recently, Kumar Dharmasena recalled

in the house," wrote Dharmasena in a post on his Instagram.

India were 1-2 behind in the series coming into the Oval Test, but showed great character by levelling it with a thumping victory. Siraj was adjudged Player of the Match at the Oval for registering match figures of 9/190 - his best ever of his career.

Worrying scenes at Cincinnati Open after Arthur Rinderknech collapses mid-match

Rinderknech collapsed mid-match in Cincinnati's punishing summer heat. Felix Auger-Aliassime helped opponent after dramatic on-court incident. Frenchman retired despite attempting to continue after cooling break.

CAIRO. (Agency)

Arthur Rinderknech's Cincinnati Open campaign took an unexpected turn on

Monday when the Frenchman went down on court in the middle of his clash with Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime, struggling to cope with the oppressive heat.

The 30-year-old had been locked in a near two-hour battle when the conditions finally caught up with him. Having lost the opener 7-6(4) but snatching an early break in the second, Rinderknech's momentum was short-lived. After surrendering serve to level the set at 2-2, he staggered toward his towel — only to suddenly drop to the court near the baseline. Seeing him in distress, Auger-Aliassime was amongst the first to rush across, joined quickly by the chair umpire, before medical personnel arrived to provide immediate attention. Ice packs were wrapped around Rinderknech's neck and



legs as he tried to cool down. In true competitor fashion, he insisted on continuing, but the effort told. Light-headed and visibly unsteady, he managed just two more games before calling it a day, sending Auger-Aliassime into the last 16. It's been a sweat-soaked week in Cincinnati,

with on-court temperatures nudging past 30C. Players have been dripping after just a few rallies — Britain's Cameron Norrie looked drained during his loss to Roberto Bautista Agut the previous day. Even Wimbledon wasn't spared from summer's sting earlier this year, with Carlos Alcaraz's first-round match halted when a fan in the stands fell ill from the heat.

For Rinderknech, it was a case of body over willpower. The grit was there, but the scorching conditions proved the ultimate opponent. Auger-Aliassime moves forward in the draw, but this match will be remembered for its heat-fuelled twist rather than any highlight reel winner.

5 SIP myths that hurt investors more than markets, explains stock market expert

New Delhi.(Agency)

It's not always market crashes or economic slowdowns that cause the most damage to investors. Often, it's the quiet and convincing myths about investing that do the real harm. As investor and stock market expert, Rajnish Mehan puts it, "Markets don't hurt investors half as much as myths do. Because they don't announce themselves." He further wrote on LinkedIn, "They look safe. They sound logical. They echo what everyone says. They validate what you want to believe." According to him, these myths don't just harm your returns, they can influence your behaviour in ways that quietly derail compounding. "The real damage shows up when you stop SIPs too early, when you chase returns too late, or when you trust strategies you never understood fully," he says. One reason myths are so powerful is because repetition makes them feel true. We tend to trust ideas we've heard over and over, even if they aren't backed by facts. But in investing, what feels natural isn't always what's right. "When something is repeated often enough, it feels true," Mehan says. "But what's natural isn't always what's right." To help investors recognise these traps, he has identified five of the most common myths about Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), from the belief that SIPs always yield profits, never incur losses, can be started or stopped anytime without impact, to assuming they're only for small investors or that one SIP alone is enough.

Mehan's advice is simple: examine your own portfolio and check if any of these myths are still influencing your decisions. Because, as he reminds us, "In investing, the myths you believe matter more than the markets you face."

Weaver Services completes 267-crore acquisition of Capital India Home Loans

New Delhi.(Agency)

Weaver Services Pvt. Ltd. has completed the 100% acquisition of Capital India Home Loans Ltd. (CIHL) for Rs 267 crore, after securing all necessary regulatory approvals. The move marks Weaver's formal entry into India's affordable housing finance market. The transaction was funded through equity raised from Premji Invest, Gaja Capital, and a group of individual investors. Advisors to the deal included EIP Financial Services LLP and CC Chokshi Advisors for Capital India, and AZB & Partners for Weaver. Weaver had announced its intent to acquire CIHL in October 2024. With the deal now closed, the company plans to roll out a tech-driven housing finance platform targeting self-employed borrowers in the unorganised sector, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. It also plans to focus on increasing access to credit for women borrowers. Closing this acquisition transforms our intent into action," said Weaver promoter Satrajit Bhattacharya. "We can now focus on execution and deliver fair, fast, and accessible housing finance to those historically excluded from the system." Keshav Porwal, Managing Director of Capital India Finance Ltd., said CIHL has found "a strong new home in Weaver" and is well positioned for growth under its new ownership. Premji Invest Partner Saravanan Nattanmai and Gaja Capital Managing Partner Gopal Jain both cited the significant opportunity in leveraging technology to address gaps in affordable housing finance. With the acquisition complete, Weaver aims to scale quickly, combining technology and local market knowledge to expand financial inclusion. Capital India Finance Limited is a non-deposit taking Middle Layer NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India. It offers customized credit solutions to micro, small and medium enterprises, professionals, and retail customers, combining strong underwriting expertise with a physical operating model. Founded in April 2024 by Satrajit Bhattacharya, Weaver was set up with an intent to carry on the business of, inter-alia, Strategy and Management Consultancy, Industry Research, transaction facilitation services, Debt advisory, etc., in the affordable home finance space.

Nifty up 50 points, Sensex rise 100 points: Indian equities trade high on Tuesday

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Indian equities opened on a positive note on Tuesday, with the Nifty climbing nearly 50 points to trade just shy of the 24,650 mark by 10:27 a.m. The Sensex also gained in early trade, advancing over a hundred points. However, banking stocks lagged, with the Nifty Bank slipping about 0.30%.

The early uptick was supported by firm sentiment in Asian markets and cautious relief after recent tariff-related jitters, though investors remained watchful ahead of key US inflation data later this week. Overnight, Wall Street had closed lower on rate concerns, but the broader Asian region showed a mixed-to-positive tone. In sectoral trends, auto, IT and oil & gas stocks were among the early gainers, while select cyclical and realty counters came under mild pressure. Large-cap movers included Tech Mahindra, TCS and Tata Steel on the upside.

Earnings remain in focus as Apollo Hospitals, Hindalco and ONGC are set to announce results today, marking the final batch of Nifty companies for the ongoing reporting season. Hindalco drew attention in early trade after developments at its US subsidiary Novelis. The rupee edged higher against the US dollar in morning deals, while domestic institutional buying continued to provide support to the market despite foreign investor outflows. Traders noted that the Nifty faces immediate resistance near 24,650, with support seen around 24,350.

Field notes from building a billion-dollar luxury brand

Diverse leadership isn't just good business, it's the future blueprint for luxury real estate success. Parisa Seif, Managing Partner at Kleindienst Group, writes

New Delhi.(Agency)

When I started my journey in Dubai real estate in 2006, I was often the only woman in the room. Being in this position is not alien to me – after all, I was the only girl in my computer science class in university. I thought I was prepared for what lay ahead, I wasn't entirely wrong, but I also wasn't entirely right. What I've learned over nearly two decades of building Kleindienst Group and our flagship island project, The Heart of Europe – now part of a \$6 billion global portfolio – is that the real estate industry isn't just changing because of market forces. It's changing

because of who's driving those forces. Increasingly, that's women.

The Rise of the "She-Elite"

The numbers tell a compelling story. A recent report revealed that seven out of ten Indian women (70%) preferred real estate as an investment asset class compared to other forms of investment. And this trend extends to high-value purchases, with 20% of women homebuyers targeting luxury properties above Rs 1.5 crore. But here's what the statistics don't capture: women aren't just buying properties. They're the silent drivers behind luxury real estate decisions, making critical choices about where and how families live. They're becoming what I call the "she-elites" – prosperous women gathering momentum not only in buying, but also in selling and developing big-budget properties. As someone who's been on both sides of this equation, as a developer and as a woman navigating a male-dominated industry, I can tell you that this shift represents more than market dynamics. It represents a fundamental change in how we approach luxury development. The Leadership Difference

When we began developing The Heart of Europe on Dubai's World Islands, I brought a different perspective to the table. Not because I'm a woman, but because of how my lens shaped the way



we approached everything, from hiring to hospitality design. Take our workforce: today, we employ 1,600 people across our island development, and women make up 30% of the team. Of those, 36% hold leadership positions. This didn't happen by accident – it's the result of a hiring approach that prioritises attitude and invests in developing skill. In my role, I've had the privilege of witnessing so many stories of growth. To lead is to

Trump tariffs could worsen India's affordable housing crisis. Here's how

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mounting trade tensions between India and the United States, marked by tariffs as high as 50% on Indian exports, threaten to further weaken India's affordable housing market, already under strain from pandemic aftershocks and rising input costs.

Affordable housing, defined as homes priced up to Rs 45 lakh, accounted for just 18% of sales in India's top seven cities in the first half of 2025, down sharply from 38% in 2019, according to ANAROCK Group. In absolute terms, 34,565 affordable homes were sold out of a total 1.90 lakh units during this period. Project launches have dropped even more steeply, from 40% of total launches in 2019 to just 12% this year. The sector's troubles are closely tied to India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) – the backbone of the country's export engine. Together, they contribute nearly 30% of GDP and over 45% of exports, employing more than 260 million people in labour-intensive industries

such as textiles, engineering goods, auto components, gems and jewellery, and food processing. Workers in these industries form the primary demand base for affordable housing.



MSME exporters have surged 228% in the last four years, from 52,849 in FY 2020-21 to 173,350 in FY 2024-25. But tariffs risk cutting into export revenues, threatening job security and income levels across this workforce, and in turn, eroding affordable housing demand. Dr. Prashant Thakur, Executive Director – Research & Advisory at ANAROCK Group, says, "This category of homes priced Rs 45 lakh or less was already gravely hit by

the Covid-19 pandemic and is still struggling to find any semblance of firm ground. Trump's mercenary tariffs will snuff out even the dimmest ray of hope for this segment." (Source: ANAROCK Research & Advisory)

The new tariffs, if implemented, will throw up a roadblock on what should be an open-speed highway, and cause a 'chakka jam' for the affordable housing vehicle carrying the homeownership dreams of India's largest lower-income population segment, adds ANAROCK. "Because of the disruption in this large workforce's future income thanks to the tariffs, affordable housing demand may very possibly derail and further impact sales in this highly income-sensitive segment," Thakur said. "Concurrently, such a drop in demand will curtail launches by developers, who will have to contend with tighter working capital due to lower sales. As it is, they have been grappling with serious input cost inflation since the pandemic."

IHCL acquires 51% in Clarks Hotel & Resorts for Rs 205 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Tata Group-owned Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) announced on Monday its acquisition of 51% stake each in ANK Hotels Private Limited and Pride Hospitality Private Limited for a total sum of Rs 205 crore. ANK Hotels Private Limited and Pride Hospitality run the Clarks Hotels and Resorts chains. The Indian Hotels Company Limited owns brands such as Taj, Vivanta, and Ginger. ANK Hotels operates a portfolio of 111 mid-scale hotels under "The Clarks Hotels & Resorts" umbrella, with 67 properties currently in operation. The acquisition is expected to be completed by November 15, 2025. ANK Hotels, which was established in 1996 and has its registered office in Lucknow, also has a presence in Sri Lanka. Its turnover



was ?14.32 crore in the fiscal year 2024-25. The IHCL transaction values ANK's 51% stake at around Rs 110 crore. Indian Hotels will also acquire a 51% equity stake for a maximum valuation of ?94 crore. Pride Hospitality operates 24 mid-scale hotels under "The Clarks Hotels & Resorts" brand, with 13 currently operational. The company was established in 2005 with a registered

office in Jaipur. The transaction is also expected to be completed by November 15, 2025. Its turnover for FY 2024-25 was ?18.94 crore. Both acquisitions are part of IHCL's "asset light growth strategy" aimed at expanding its footprint in India's mid-scale segment and achieving "deeper geographical penetration". In a separate move, IHCL has also signed a distribution and marketing agreement with Brij Hospitality Private Limited. This partnership will add Brij Hospitality's portfolio of 19 hotels to IHCL's network, further strengthening its presence across India. The acquisitions and new partnership are not considered related-party transactions, and no government or regulatory approvals are required.

become a conduit for your team's highest potential, and not just manage their current capabilities.

Building Beyond Barriers

The challenges are real. Cultural biases and limited mentorship opportunities still stand in the way of women climbing the corporate ladder. But I've learned that authenticity, i.e., staying true to your North Star while balancing personal and professional ambitions, becomes your greatest asset. My career hasn't been defined by a single defining moment but by a constant process of reflection and growth. Especially in environments where leadership is still male-dominated. Co-building a billion-dollar brand taught me that leadership isn't about fitting into existing moulds, it's about creating new ones. That's why at the Heart of Europe, we work differently. We're the only development with a coral research institute that grows reef-building species 50 times faster than in nature, producing over 5,000 coral specimens annually. We created the world's first Floating Villa, complete with submerged bedrooms offering underwater views of tropical sea life.

How to repay a Rs 1 crore home loan in under 10 years and save Rs 52 lakh

New Delhi.(Agency)

For many Indians, buying a home is one of life's biggest milestones. The joy of getting the keys is unmatched, but the reality of a 20-year (or longer) home loan often brings with it a heavy financial commitment. Month after month, EMIs are paid without realising how much of that money is going into interest rather than the principal. Over time, this can feel like a never-ending burden. However, with a few smart strategies, you can cut years off your loan and save lakhs in interest. According to a report by Mordor Intelligence, the Indian home loan market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 22.5% between 2025 and 2030 and may double in the next five years. But despite the growth, many borrowers do not know how to manage their loans efficiently to close them faster and at a lower cost.

HOW TO REPAY HOME LOANS FASTER?

Abhishek Kumar, Sebi-registered investment adviser and founder of SahajMoney, explained that using one or a mix of three repayment strategies can greatly reduce the burden of a home loan. "For example, on a Rs 1 crore loan at 8.5% interest with a regular EMI of Rs 86,782 over 20 years, simply paying one extra EMI each year can save around Rs 20 lakh in interest and close the loan 3 years and 3 months earlier," he said. Another way to speed up repayment is to make a lump sum prepayment early in the loan tenure. "If you pay Rs 5 lakh in the third year, you can save about Rs 14 lakh in interest and reduce the loan tenure by 1 year and 10 months," Kumar said. The most effective method, according to him, is increasing your EMI annually, known as a step-up EMI. "With this, you can close the loan in just 9 years and 8 months and save nearly Rs 52 lakh in interest," he added. Kumar also explained why prepaying early in the tenure is powerful. Home loans follow a reducing balance method, where interest is calculated only on the outstanding principal. In the first month of the example loan, Rs 70,833 of the EMI goes towards interest and just Rs 15,949 towards the principal. As the outstanding balance reduces, the interest portion also comes down.

"A Rs 1 lakh prepayment in the first year saves Rs 1.61 lakh in interest, but the same payment in the tenth year saves only Rs 85,000. This is why early prepayments are so effective. And whenever you prepay, choose tenure reduction over EMI reduction to get the maximum savings," he advised.

Wholesale inflation in country likely declined to 2-year low to -0.45% in July: Report



Fuel WPI too remained in the contraction zone, likely shrinking to -4.90% from -4.23% in June. Core WPI, which reflects inflation excluding food and fuel, has gone up from 1.06% last month to 1.50% in July, the bank said in its report. Union Bank of India's report on Wholesale Price Index Food WPI though has fallen y/y from -0.26% in June to -1.72% in July, m/m

& meat is seen up; while segments like cereals, pulses, fruits, spices, oils and other food articles likely continued to be in deflation. In specific, y/y inflation in pulses has been in negative zone since Feb'25. Y/y Fuel WPI likely continued the slide for the 12th month in line in July'25 partly due to fall in inflation in crude & mineral oils segment and partly due to high base effect (3.01% in July'24) even as crude oil prices were up by ~9% m/m in July. This has led to a likely fall in y/y Fuel WPI from -4.23% in June to 4.90% in July. Core WPI which reflects inflation excluding food and fuel, has gone up from 1.06% last month to 1.50% in July. While all sub segments have seen near flat momentum in recent months, metals are a key mover and we see an uptick in July tracking global prices. We estimate that m/m core WPI has also gone up from 0.05% in June to 0.34% this month. Core WPI includes price movements in non-food manufactured products which closely track commodity prices as more than 40% manufacturing raw materials are imported.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is likely to have dropped to -0.45 per cent year-on-year (y/y) in July 2025, while it stood at -0.13 per cent in June 2025, marking the lowest level in almost two years.

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: Wholesale inflation in India is expected to decline to a near two-year low in July 2025, a report released by Union Bank of India stated. The likely drop is attributed to a sharp decrease in food and fuel prices. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is likely to have dropped to -0.45 per cent year-on-year (y/y) in July 2025, while it stood at -0.13 per cent in June 2025, marking the lowest level in almost two years. As per the report, Food WPI corrected sharply to -1.72% y/y from -0.26% in June while core WPI strengthened from 1.06% in June to 1.50% in July. The



Dhanashree Verma

Dances With Munawar Faruqui, Thanks Comedian And His Wife 'For Everything'

Munawar Faruqui's wife, Mehzabeen Coatwala, rang in her birthday with full fervour. Dhanashree Verma, Krystal D'Souza, Sana Makbul and Mahi Vij, among others, joined Mehzabeen as she turned a year older. However, what particularly caught everyone's attention was the birthday girl's dance with Dhanashree Verma.

Dhanashree Verma Celebrates Munawar Faruqui's Wife's Birthday

In a now-viral video, Dhanashree Verma can be seen dancing to her song, 'Ting Ling Sajna', from 'Bhool Chuk Maaf'. She is soon joined by the birthday girl, who matched her steps. Later, Munawar Faruqui also joins them for the hook step. Taking to her Instagram Story, Dhanashree sent her love to Mehzabeen and Munawar. She wrote, 'My Mehz and Munawar Faruqui, thank you for everything.'

Another video showed Munawar dancing with a group of Mehzabeen's friends, including Sana Makbul. He also posed with his wife as she was about to cut the cake. Earlier today, Munawar also posted a series of pictures giving a peek into his sweet and mushy moments with his wife, along with a heartfelt wish.

Munawar Faruqui's Special Wish For Mehzabeen

While sharing the pictures, Munawar Faruqui wrote, 'Making my life beautiful and how Happy birthday @mehzabeen_faruqui May Allah bless you with great health and all the happiness in the world and akhirat Thank you for being you...'

Munawar Faruqui, Mehzabeen Coatwala's Wedding Munawar Faruqui and Mehzabeen Coatwala got married in a private ceremony in Mumbai on May 26, 2024. Before Mehzabeen, Munawar was married to Jasmine. The ex-pair shares a 7-year-old son, Mikael. On the other hand, Mehzabeen has a daughter from her first marriage. In a candid conversation with Farah Khan on her YouTube channel, Munawar shared that the decision to get married wasn't planned long in advance—it was made just a month before the wedding—and was rooted deeply in his love for his son, Mikael.

Opening up about the moment that changed everything, Munawar said, 'When I came out of Bigg Boss, I was working a lot. Mikael was living with my sister then. He was with me for a week, and we spent a lot of time together, and when he was leaving, I felt like I didn't want him to go. I felt that he needed me. He kept hugging me the whole time.' He continued, 'When he was leaving, I felt like he needed me, and more than him, I think I need him. In that moment, I thought, what is it that I should do so I can make him stay with me? For him, I took that decision.' Munawar also revealed that his now-wife Mehzabeen was in a similar phase of life. 'She, too, has a 10-year-old daughter,' he shared.



TMKOC's

Munmun Dutta

Reveals Reason For Social Media Absence: 'Have Been In And Out Of The Hospital'

Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah star Munmun Dutta, known to millions as Babita Ji, has always been a vibrant presence on television and social media. Over the years, the actress has cultivated a massive fan following with her charming screen persona and candid glimpses into her life. However, her sudden absence from Instagram in recent days had left fans worried. Now, Munmun has finally addressed the reason behind her silence. Taking to her Instagram Stories, the actress shared a recent selfie along with a heartfelt note revealing that her mother had been unwell.

'Have been inactive since a long time, yes. My mom is unwell. Have been in and out of the hospital since last 10 days. Improving now and will be better. It's been exhausting to juggle between professional

Fans of the actress will recall that she had recently been on a picturesque European vacation, sharing dreamy glimpses from her travels. Those sunny updates were soon replaced by silence, prompting her loyal followers to wonder if all was well. With her latest update, Munmun not only put their concerns to rest but also expressed gratitude for the support she has received from close friends during this challenging time. For nearly two decades, Munmun Dutta has been a beloved fixture in 'Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah', portraying Babita Ji with her trademark blend of elegance, wit, and warmth. Her on-screen camaraderie with Dilip Joshi's Jethalal remains one of the sitcom's most popular dynamics, and her character has long been a household name in Indian television.

Chashmah, portraying Babita Ji with her trademark blend of elegance, wit, and warmth. Her on-screen camaraderie with Dilip Joshi's Jethalal remains one of the sitcom's most popular dynamics, and her character has long been a household name in Indian television.



Beyond her work on TMKOC, Munmun is also a familiar face in the digital space. She actively engages with her audience through brand endorsements, lifestyle updates, and travel diaries on Instagram. While she is often open about her professional journey, she keeps her personal life guarded, preferring privacy when it comes to matters of the heart.



Shruti Haasan Says She Is A Huge Rajinikanth Fan: 'I Unconditionally Love Appa, But...'



Actress Shruti Haasan, who will soon be seen alongside Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna in the highly-anticipated film 'Coolie', recently attended the film's pre-release Spotify event in Mumbai. During the event, she opened up about working with Rajinikanth, and expressed her deep admiration for him. She said that while her father Kamal Haasan will always be 'number 1' for her, she is now a Rajinikanth fan. She recalled the first time she saw him up close, describing it as a 'powerhouse' moment.

Shruti Haasan On Being A Rajinikanth Fan

At the Coolie promotional event, Shruti Haasan said, 'My daddy (Kamal Haasan) is always my number 1. I unconditionally love Appa, but I am a Rajini fan now, so that's the balance. His aura is like that. The minute you encounter him for the first time you're like "woah! okay. This is powerhouse. Full on!" But I think it was when I had a really close close-up with him, and I was seeing his face up close, I was like "Oh My God." That is Rajini sir.'

Shruti Haasan's Role In Coolie

Shruti Haasan, who plays the role of Preeti in the upcoming film 'Coolie', recently opened up about how different the character is from her real-life personality. IANS quoted her saying, 'I don't think Preeti is like me at all. But I did connect with certain aspects of her. I believe many women will relate to those parts, and that's what I really liked about the character. Preeti is extremely responsible, extremely focused, and quite inspiring.'

About Coolie

Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj and featuring Rajinikanth in a larger-than-life avatar, 'Coolie' is expected to be a mass entertainer packed with action, drama, and fan-service moments that will have theatres roaring.

The release of the film coincides with the celebration of Rajinikanth's 50th year in cinema, making August 14 more than just a movie release date—it's a festival for fans.

Janhvi Kapoor, Sidharth Malhotra Wrapped Up Bheegi Saree Song Shoot In Just 9 Hours



The most highly-anticipated love story of the year, 'Param Sundari', is turning up the heat ahead of grand release, this time with a never-seen-before GRWM (Get Ready With Me) behind-the-scenes video featuring Janhvi Kapoor. In the video, Janhvi takes fans into her world as she preps for the shoot of 'Bheegi Saree'—from hair and makeup to stepping onto the vibrant sets of 'Param Sundari'. And here's the biggest surprise, while songs of this scale usually take three days to film, Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor wrapped up 'Bheegi Saree' in just 9 hours, without losing any of its sizzling chemistry or grandeur!

The BTS also offers a peek into the off-screen camaraderie between Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor—a freshness and chemistry that fans are already raving about. The video shared by Maddock Films on Instagram, shows Janhvi Kapoor prepping for the shoot of the song. She is seen working out, doing Pilates, and later dunking her face in ice water as she got ready for the shoot. While shooting in rain, Janhvi says, 'We had controlled rain machines, but now it started pouring cats and dogs, and we are freezing. There's 6 more hours to go.' She further revealed that the song was initially supposed to have been shot in 3 days, but they wrapped it up in 9 hours. Check out the video below!

For Janhvi Kapoor, the newly released track 'Bheegi Saree' from her upcoming film 'Param Sundari' is her chance to live that cherished Bollywood dream. 'Rain songs have always held a special place in our films, there's something so timeless and magical about them. I've grown up watching some of the most iconic moments in cinema unfold in the rain, and to now be a part of that legacy with 'Bheegi Saree' feels surreal. Shooting this song felt like slipping into a classic Bollywood dream, dancing in the rain, feeling every beat and emotion it was pure joy.'

The song, with its lush visuals and soulful melody, channels the essence of yesteryear classics while giving it a contemporary charm. Draped in a sensuous saree, Janhvi's screen presence exudes old-school romance with a modern edge, making 'Bheegi Saree' a track destined to find a place in the list of memorable Bollywood rain numbers. The love story that has everyone talking, 'Param Sundari', starring the sensational and fresh new pairing of Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor releases in cinemas on 29th August 2025.

1. Apply sunscreen regularly

Whatever the skin type, using sunscreen is a must. If protecting your skin from damage caused due to sun was never your priority, start now. Sunscreen will protect your skin from sun and you'll look younger. Most importantly, go for sunscreens for oily skin to avoid clogged pores.

2. Don't wash your face too often

Don't over cleanse your face even though your oily skin texture may tempt you into washing your face again and again. Yes you may want your skin to look fresh, clean and oil-free but washing your face several times in a day actually leads to increase in oil production. Also, over-cleansing may make your skin dry. You can wash your face twice a day and use blotting papers during the day to keep oil away.

3. Nourish your skin

Antioxidants help prevent oxidising and help your skin stay supple. So antioxidants is certainly something that you need to incorporate in your skin-care routine. Opt for oil-free moisturisers that contain antioxidants. Also follow a diet that includes berries, beans and veggies to feed your skin.

4. Get adequate sleep

Sleep is extremely important not only for your skin but your overall health. This doesn't mean you sleep all day, just get adequate sleep of around 8 to 9 hours. Also,

Anti-ageing tips for oily skin

sleep on your back as sleeping on your face can wrinkle the skin and age skin at a faster rate.

5. Consume Omega-3 fatty acids

Omega-3 fatty acids revitalises your skin and repairs it from inside. Eat foods rich on omega-3



Home remedies

to bring the glow back

Summer is over, but it has left behind an unwanted tan on your skin. When it comes to replenishing your skin with much-needed nourishment and also getting rid of darkened skin, one should trust Mother Nature.

- Tomatoes are the best to lighten your skin and remove tan. Natasha says, "Lycopene, the carotenoid found in tomato, with its antioxidant properties is used in many anti-ageing treatments."

- Aloe Vera soothes troubled skin and is great for all sorts of skin trouble due to its ability to stimulate healthy cell growth and repair damaged tissues.

The perfect recipe

- Grind four almonds, soaked in water overnight
- Mix one tablespoon gram flour and two tablespoons of raw milk or milk cream to this
- Add five-six drops of lemon juice and honey
- Apply this paste to your face and neck, avoiding the eyes and allow it to dry
- Wash with cold water after about 25-30 minutes
- Do this twice a week and see the change in your skin tone and texture

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Anita Tuli, an expert in aromatherapy products says, "Nature has all the answers to help you nurture your skin. Each natural ingredient has its own special quality and helps your skin in different ways." Here are some home remedies...

- A little bit of sandalwood and turmeric powder mixed with some rose water can work wonders for the skin giving it baby-like softness.

- Triphala contains polyphenols, flavonoids and other antioxidants that possess both anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties, clearing acne as if it ceased to exist.

- Sandalwood, gram flour and turmeric powder have antimicrobial properties that reduce skin inflammations, clear acne and reduce sunburn.

- Orange peel acts as an astringent and skin-toning agent, clearing acne, age spots and skin blemishes.

- Lemon juice is acidic with exfoliating properties helps to peel away the skin's top layer, thereby removing existing pigmentation or dark spots. Lemon juice can be mixed with a little bit of sugar, which is an excellent cleansing agent.

- Winter cherry (Ashwagandha) soothes skin abrasions caused due to environmental conditions. One of the best ingredients that nature has to offer for dealing with skin irritation.

- Peppermint, basil and neem leaves have cooling properties that reduce skin inflammation, insect bites, skin burn and rashes. You can also mix in a little honey. It contains antioxidants and antibacterial agents that help reduce skin irritation.

Oily skinned women have typically less lines and wrinkles visible as compared to women with normal and dry skin. Though there are a few benefits of having oily skin, here's how you can prevent your skin from ageing faster

fatty acids like salmon, halibut, eggs, soy milk and yogurt. They are not only delicious but also do a lot of benefit to your skin.

6. Avoid sugar, smoke and alcohol

Quitting smoking is the best thing you can give yourself as it not only damages your health but also your skin. And if you have a sweet tooth and indulge in too many sweets, cut down on them. Studies have shown that consuming lots of sugar over long periods can cause skin to age and dull due to a process in our body called glycation. Limit your consumption of candies and eat healthy vegetables and fruits instead. Also, drinking alcohol dilates your blood vessels and increases blood flow near the skin's surface which makes your skin appear sallow. So limit your consumption of alcohol.



Hair care tips:

Home remedies for grey hair

Medically speaking, everybody has melanocyte in skin and hair, and when these melanocytes are not produced, a person tends to face whitish grey hair. If you are not yet ready for the silver-fox hair look and are looking for inexpensive, non-time consuming hair remedies for grey hair, then you have reached the right place. Today, we will take you through the top home remedies of grey hair, which will help your body in increasing the production of melanin.

Beef up the protein. Protein rich foods, such as lean meat, soy, whole grains, eggs, and cereals not only help you in maintaining long strands of healthy black hair, but they also give your hair a natural shine and smooth texture. Make sure to include health doses of meat, cereals, soy and whole grains in your diet.

Eat foods that are rich in vitamins, minerals and iron. Food items, such as green leafy vegetables, tomatoes, bananas and cauliflower will help in preventing and treating premature greying of hair. It can show wonderful results for healthy hair growth as well.

Indian gooseberry or amla. Amla is an excellent remedy for grey hair when mixed in coconut oil and applied to your scalp on a regular basis. Best would be to boil some dried amla pieces in coconut oil and let it stand overnight. Apply this oil to your hair for speedy treatment of grey hair. If you want you can grate some ginger and honey in this mixture too.

The black tea remedy for grey hair. Make one cup of black tea without adding

g milk to it and add one tablespoon of salt to this mixture. Now massage the lukewarm tea on your head, making sure that your hair roots are nicely nourished. Let the mixture stay on your hair for at least half an hour, before washing your hair thoroughly with a good quality shampoo.

Henna powder can come to your rescue. Make a paste with henna powder, yogurt, methi seeds, coffee, basil juice and mint juice and boil it nicely. Let the mixture stand overnight before you apply it on your hair. Wash your hair with shampoo in about 3 hours for natural black hair colour.

Dried sage for premature greying of your hair. Boil some water and add 4 tablespoons of dried sage. Let the mixture stand for 2 hours and strain it further. Now add a few drops of glycerine power to the mixture, which will

provide your hair with nourishing Vitamin E.

Mix well and massage on your scalp for natural shine and long, healthy black strands.

Massage your scalp with coconut oil. Boil one cup of coconut oil. Add hibiscus leaves, almond oil and methi powder to the mixture. Cool and strain and keep it in a glass jar to apply at least 3-4 times in a week.

