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Bhagwant Mann: A People's Chief Minister Working Day and Night to Save Punjab's Farmers from Flood Disaster

➔ Punjab CM's tireless efforts, global appeal, and farmer-first approach earn admiration across the state and worldwide

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar
Special Report

Chandigarh, September 30: Punjab is facing one of the most difficult times in recent years. The devastating floods have destroyed thousands of acres of farmland, washed away crops worth thousands of crores, damaged homes, and shaken the backbone of Punjab's economy—the farmer. Yet, in the midst of this natural disaster, the state has found strength and hope in its Chief Minister, Shri Bhagwant Mann, who has transformed into a tireless guardian for the people, working day and night to bring relief, support, and rehabilitation.

From the very beginning of the crisis, Bhagwant Mann took the situation

into his own hands. Unlike many leaders who remain in offices, he visited the affected villages, listened directly to the farmers, and issued strict instructions to the administration: "No family, no farmer, no villager should be left without help. The government must reach every doorstep."

Relief camps have been set up across flood-hit areas, with food packets, medical supplies, and temporary shelters being provided. Farmers who have lost their standing crops have been promised compensation and long-term support. The Chief Minister has personally reviewed the arrangements, ensuring that no bureaucratic delay comes between the people and their relief. Punjab's farmers, who have suffered heavy losses, are still full of hope because of their Chief Minister's commitment. Our correspondent spoke to several villagers who said



clearly: "We have no complaints against our government. We know Bhagwant Mann is working for us. He has not left us alone." Farmers recalled that in the past, natural



disasters often left them neglected. But this time, the government's machinery has been active at every level. From district officers to village-level workers, all are



moving under direct guidance from the Chief Minister, who has told them: "Your priority is not files, but people. Reach out and help without delay."

Showing his vision as a statesman, Bhagwant Mann has reached out not only to the people of Punjab but also to Punjabis living worldwide and to citizens across India. In a heartfelt appeal, he said: "Punjab has always been the food bowl of the nation. Today, Punjab is in difficulty, and I ask everyone—Punjabis abroad, and brothers and sisters across India—to come forward to help. Together, we can stand Punjab on its feet again." This call has already created ripples of solidarity.

Organizations of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Canada, the UK, the US, and Australia have expressed readiness to extend aid. Social workers and community leaders are mobilizing funds and relief materials, inspired by the Chief Minister's appeal.

Continued news page 2

"Preparedness Against Nuclear Threats Is Important": Defence Chief

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said that bio-threats are likely to increase in the post-COVID pandemic era and called for defence preparedness against them.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday called for preparedness against bio-threats and radio contamination from nuclear weapons for the future. Addressing the Scientific Session on the 100th Raising Day of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, Gen Chauhan said that bio-threats are likely to increase in the post-COVID pandemic era and called for defence preparedness against them. He said, "The world has been

through a period of intense travels and tribulations during the COVID pandemic. Bio-threats, man-made, accidental or natural, are likely to increase in future."

"Defence against such threats and treatment of infected persons require different treatment protocols. We must be prepared for this in future," he added. Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for an undeterred India against nuclear threats, the CDS highlighted the need for training against radiological

contamination.. "Post Operation Sindoor, our Prime



Minister has said that India will not be deterred by nuclear blackmail. While the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in our context is low, it would be prudent to take this into our

security calculus. Radiological contamination requires different protocols for treatment and must be part of our training," Gen Chauhan said. He added, "Preparedness against nuclear threats contributes to a deterrence against its use. I think that's important." Gen Chauhan also lauded the efforts of the Military Nursing Service, which contributed to medical treatment under harsh conditions. He also said that the nurses should receive emotional

Karur stampede: TVK Gen Secy 'Bussy' Anand moves Madras HC seeking anticipatory bail

TVK general secretary N Anand, also known as Bussy Anand, has moved the Madras High Court for anticipatory bail in the Karur stampede case that killed 41. In the petition Anand has alleged that he has been falsely implicated in the case for "political reasons".

Karur.(Agency)

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) general secretary N Anand, popularly known as Bussy Anand, has filed a petition before the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court, seeking anticipatory bail in the Karur stampede case. The stampede on September 27 killed 41 people. The bench will hear Anand's plea during the Dusshera vacation sitting on Friday.

'Politically motivated'

The FIR, filed in the aftermath of the stampede deaths, names Anand along with Karur district secretary Mathiyalagan and state joint secretary CTR Nirmal Kumar. However, Anand insists he had no role in the tragedy and maintains that he is being targeted for "political reasons".

What the FIR says

According to the police report, the chaos began when TVK chief and actor-politician Vijay allegedly reached Velusampuram

later than scheduled, after conducting unauthorised roadshows en route. His arrival, delayed by several hours, coincided



with a massive crowd that had been waiting in the heat without water or medical aid. The FIR states that cadres perched dangerously on rooftops and tree branches fell on those standing below, causing panic and suffocation. Police said repeated warnings to party functionaries about the risks of overcrowding went unheeded.

Neighbourhood instability often spills into maritime domain, says Rajnath

He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day 42nd Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference at ICG Headquarters.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday highlighted the impact of regional instability on India's maritime security, noting that disruptions in neighbouring countries "often spill into the maritime domain". The Ministry of Defence quoted Singh as saying that "frequent developments in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and other regional nations that impact the coastal security, especially in the Bay of Bengal, through refugee influx, illegal migration, and irregular maritime activities".

He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day 42nd Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference at ICG Headquarters. The Defence Minister urged the ICG to maintain geopolitical awareness while ensuring swift responses to external developments. He noted that while Bangladesh and Nepal have experienced regime changes following political unrest, Myanmar is facing internal strife, creating ripple effects along India's land and maritime borders.

Singh described the ICG as a vital pillar of national security. He highlighted its evolution from a modest fleet in February 1977 to a formidable force today, comprising 152 vessels and 78 aircraft, tasked with safeguarding India's 7,500-km coastline and island territories, including the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. "By patrolling the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the ICG not only deters external threats but also addresses illegal fishing, drug and arms trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking, marine pollution, and irregular maritime activities," he said. Rajnath Singh also warned that maritime threats are increasingly technology-driven, citing the use of GPS spoofing, drones, encrypted communications, and digital mapping by criminal and terrorist networks.



'Everyone deserves a respectable see off': Shocked at state of cremation grounds, Chhattisgarh HC slams govt

Raipur.(Agency)

When he recently attended a funeral at Rahangi Gram Panchayat in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha was shocked at the state of the cremation ground. There were no lights, fencing or approach roads to the area, which was overrun with wild growth and bushes — making it a breeding ground for snakes and other venomous creatures.

In an order on Monday, a Division Bench of Chief Justice Sinha and Bibhu Datta

Guru directed the Chhattisgarh government to draw up a road map to upgrade the state's cremation grounds saying every human being "deserves a respectable see off". This came on the back of suo motu Public Interest Litigation after the judge's visit. According to the Bench, the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right to a dignified death and cremation. "When a person leaves for heavenly abode, his body deserves a respectable see off. A dead body is not an object which can be



disposed [of] in an inhuman manner. Sentiments are attached with the person who had expired and hence, any family members/relatives etc. would

definitely like to bid an adieu in a respectful manner and in a pacifying ambience. It is the constitutional obligation of the State to ensure decent and sanitary conditions in such public facilities, and the failure to do so is an abdication of its duty under the Constitution, municipal Acts, and various environmental and public health laws," the order said. "When a person leaves for heavenly abode, his body deserves a respectable see off. A dead body is not an object.

"US Said 'Don't Start A War'": P Chidambaram's 26/11 Admission, BJP Pounces

Kerala.(Agency)

>The BJP has repeatedly said the May 10 ceasefire was the result of talks between the Pakistan and Indian military directors, and no third party, including the US, played a role.

India considered military retaliation against Pakistan — after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks — but decided against it amid pressure from the international community, including the United States, and the advice of senior diplomats, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, said Monday. The admission has been pounced on by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which was heavily criticised by the opposition, including the Congress, after the Operation Sindoor ceasefire; this was after US President Donald Trump claimed he told Delhi and Islamabad to stop fighting, and they listened. All of this played out in the days after terrorists from the Pak-based Lashkar-e-Taiba — also responsible for



the Pahalagam terror attack in April this year — slaughtered 175 people in coordinated strikes. Chidambaram, the Home Minister in the then-ruling Congress-led UPA government, told a Hindi news channel "the whole world descended on Delhi to tell us 'don't start a war'". This included a conversation with

ex-United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and it persuaded the government to reconsider an armed response, the Congress leader said.

"Two or three days after I took over (Condoleezza Rice came) to meet me and the Prime Minister (then, Dr Manmohan Singh) ... to say 'please don't react'. I said this is a decision which the government will take. (But) ... an act of retribution did cross my mind."

"The Prime Minister discussed this (retaliatory military action) even when the attack was going on... and the conclusion, largely influenced by the Ministry of External Affairs and the IFS (Indian Foreign Service), was that we should not physically react to the situation," he said.

Front continued news

Bhagwant Mann: A People’s Chief Minister Working Day and Night to Save Punjab’s Farmers from Flood Disaster

This call has already created ripples of solidarity. Organizations of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Canada, the UK, the US, and Australia have expressed readiness to extend aid. Social workers and community leaders are mobilizing funds and relief materials, inspired by the Chief Minister’s appeal. What has touched people the most is Bhagwant Mann’s style of leadership. Instead of treating the floods as just another file in the government office, he has made the tragedy his personal mission. He has told farmers directly: “I will not allow Punjab’s farmers to be destroyed. If I have to sacrifice everything for you, I will do it. This is my promise.”

This emotional connect has created a bond of trust rarely seen in politics today. Farmers see him not just as a Chief Minister but as a son of the soil who understands their pain. His sincerity has drawn praise even from neutral observers who acknowledge that his approach is very different from other leaders who stay away from ground realities.

At a time when the government is putting its full strength into relief and rehabilitation, the opposition has unfortunately chosen to indulge in false allegations. Yet, the ground reality speaks louder than words. Villagers across Punjab have openly dismissed the opposition’s claims, saying: “Those who criticize are not with us here in the mud and water.

It is Bhagwant Mann and his government who are standing shoulder to shoulder with us.” This widespread support for the Chief Minister has turned the opposition’s criticism into mere noise, ignored by the very people it tries to influence.

News box

Ghaziabad woman handed 3 years in jail for Rs 17 crore bank loan fraud

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A CBI special court handed a Ghaziabad woman three years in jail and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 in connection with a Rs 17-crore Syndicate Bank fraud case. Manisha Devi, along with her husband Kapil Kumar, was accused of conspiring with bank officials to secure a housing loan of Rs 96 lakh from Syndicate Bank’s Vaishali branch on the basis of forged property documents. Investigations revealed that the couple had submitted papers claiming ownership of a plot that did not belong to them. The loan, which was disbursed in 2015-16, turned into a non-performing asset, adding to the bank’s mounting losses. Special judge Anand Prakash Singh, while delivering the judgment, sentenced her to two years under two provisions of law and three years under another two sections. However, since all terms are to run concurrently and adjusted against the three years, five months, and 15 days she has already spent behind bars, Devi may walk out of prison soon. The court said it was taking a lenient view in light of her health conditions, and her two daughters are of marriageable age with no one to care for them as her husband, a co-accused in the case, was also in jail. "Considering the nature of the crime, the time already spent in custody, her financial condition and family situation, the sentence is adjusted accordingly," the order read. The case dates back to Sept 2017, when R Natrajan, then regional manager of Syndicate Bank (now Canara Bank), filed a complaint with the CBI’s Anti-Corruption Branch. An internal audit had revealed losses of Rs13.8 crore at the Ghaziabad branch, prompting a probe into widespread irregularities in loan disbursements. The FIR named 12 accused, including senior branch manager Gyhanchand Verma, panel advocate Tarun Agrawal, and several borrowers. Among them was Ramesh Chand Gupta, described by investigators as the kingpin who allegedly struck a "special understanding" with bank officials to extend fraudulent credit to his associates. During the trial, CBI deputy superintendent Dr Zahir Akhtar deposed that Devi and her husband had applied for the housing loan in connivance with others. They attached ownership papers in the name of one Asha Behal, though records showed the property had been sold to another person. Despite discrepancies, the bank sanctioned the loan.

Mathura man gets 10 yrs in jail for raping Dutch woman, mom 5 yrs for abetment

Agra. (Agency)

A court in Mathura has sentenced a 43-year-old man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping and cheating a woman from the Netherlands under the pretext of marriage. His 70-year-old mother received a five-year jail term for abetment. Additional district judge (first), fast-track court (crimes against women), Sushil Kumar, also imposed a fine of Rs 9.7 lakh on Harendra and Rs 1.9 lakh on his mother. If the fines are not paid, Harendra will serve an additional year in jail, and his mother six more months.

The Dutch woman visited Vrindavan in 2009 with an Indian friend who introduced her to Harendra, claiming he was a bank manager and a spiritual teacher well-versed in the Bhagavad Gita. "For 15 to 20 days, the three travelled to several religious sites together. Later, Harendra proposed to her. She said she was older, but he insisted and took her to meet his parents, who supported the relationship," additional district govt counsel Subash Chaturvedi told the court.

Over the next nine years, the woman made multiple visits to India, while Harendra also travelled to the Netherlands. During this time, he convinced her to part with 1,00,000 euros (more than Rs 1 crore) for constructing a guesthouse near Shri Krishna Janmasthan in Mathura. He retained her ATM card and withdrew large sums from her account. When she pressed for marriage, he and his mother allegedly threw her out of the house. The woman later learnt that Harendra was already married and had two children. She returned to Mathura in 2018 and personally submitted a written complaint at the office of the senior superintendent of police.

Stopgap measures fall short, waste pickup faces setback in Gurgaon

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Finalising an agency for the city's door-to-door waste collection is taking time. Two weeks ago, the department of urban local bodies (ULB) held a vendors' meet, seeking feedback from RWAs on how to improve garbage collection, transportation and processing. But sources say that the revised guidelines of the request for proposal (RFP), which is the crucial next step to appoint an agency, have not been released yet. Meanwhile, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya claimed that he received the RFP- based on which the tender will be floated in 10 to 15 days. The city's waste collection tender was abruptly cancelled recently before the vendors' meet on Sept 15, while the technical evaluation of bidders was already in progress. Officials have offered no clarity on why the process was scrapped midway, nor on how long residents will have to wait for a new tender. Dahiya told TOI, "I received the

revised RFP from the ULB department and we will float the tender within 10 to 15 days. It will take us four months to commence the work of door-to-door waste collection." When asked about the revised guidelines in the RFP, he said, "The number of vehicles for the dry waste recycling and segregation has been increased." Another officer, privy to the matter, told TOI, "An estimate is being prepared to hire two agencies for the entire city, which is divided into four zones. Each agency will be given two zones." In the absence of a dedicated agency or multiple agencies for doorstep waste collection, the civic body has resorted to ad hoc measures of hiring tractor trolleys and other waste collection vehicles to keep the city running. But for a city that generates 1,200 to 1,500 tonnes of waste every day, such temporary fixes are little more than window dressing.

Lalit Suraj Bhola, a resident of Sector 9A, said, "The stopgap arrangement is

useless. If we call the MCG helpline, then only these vehicles are sent and only to the household which has made the complaint. So, instead of relying on such service, we have hired private waste collection vehicles.

However, this is such a sorry state that we don't have a dedicated agency for such a basic service. The firm which was hired after Ecogreen too did not provide regular services." In June 2024, MCG served the final termination notice to the solid waste management concessionaire Ecogreen, six months after issuing a preliminary notice to the firm in Dec 2023. With the conclusion of the contract with Ecogreen, the corporation issued a work order to another firm, Bimalraj Outsourcing, in June 2024 to take up door-to-door waste collection in Gurgaon. The firm was given the contract for a year starting from June 18, 2024 to June 17, 2025, which the officials said could be extended further by one

year. However, it was not extended and multiple penalties were also imposed on the firm allegedly for its irregular service. In June, secretary and commissioner of the ULB department Vikas Gupta approved a proposal to hire 400 light commercial vehicles (LCVs) through a seven-day short-term tender. The plan involved deploying 100 vehicles in each of the city's four zones for six months, or until the new model RFP to hire an agency becomes operational. The state govt granted administrative approval for a new tender on July 22, with that being issued on July 26. Ideally, the tender process should have been completed before the agency's contract ended to ensure uninterrupted waste collection services. TOI reported on July 3 that MCG modified its plan for engaging door-to-door waste collection agencies for the third time. Initially, MCG in June proposed engaging two agencies for the city.

Cook threatens abduction and murder after being denied job in Gurgaon

Noida. (Agency)

Hiring a cook on trial through an agency turned into a nightmare for a woman, who was allegedly harassed by the man after she declined to keep him on.

According to the police, the accused, Vijay, sent her abusive messages on WhatsApp, social media and even on UPI payment platforms. He threatened to return with his 'gang' to abduct and kill her. The woman, a resident of a society in Gwalpahari, contacted an agency to hire a cook and domestic help. She had asked the agency to ensure proper verification of the workers before sending them, the complaint stated. On Sept 13, the agency sent Vijay for a trial. However, after observing his work, the woman decided not to hire him. She also added that the agency had not conducted any police verification of the cook. "The refusal allegedly triggered the accused. For over 11 hours, Vijay sent threatening and abusive messages through her mobile phone, social media accounts, and even on UPI payment platforms. In one of his threats, he allegedly warned that he would follow her Mercedes car with his gang, abduct her, and kill her," an officer said. The woman further stated in her complaint that Vijay also used derogatory language while repeatedly calling her. She filed a complaint at DLF Phase 1 police station on Sunday. An FIR was registered under section 351 (2) criminal intimidation and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). The accused is yet to be arrested. A police officer said further action will be taken once facts are established during the inquiry. "We are conducting an inquiry with the agency. If it did not conduct police verification and they are found to be negligent, action will be taken against them as well. We are looking into the facts of the matter and will proceed with the investigation accordingly," an official said.

from inside. Police were called to the scene and the main door was broken to enter the flat. Inside, the cops discovered Sweety and Ajay's bodies in the same



room. Citing preliminary investigation, the cops said Ajay may have killed Sweety by throttling her with a cloth.

"In one part of the video that Ajay Kumar shared with his friends, he can be heard saying that he killed Sweety. He then reveals his plans to end his life too," a police official said. Sweety's mother recounted her last conversation with her daughter around Sunday noon. She said Sweety mentioned that Ajay was fixing a bookshelf and she had advised him to consult the flat owner before drilling into the wall. The call ended with Sweety

promising to dial back, but she never called back. "I kept calling her — almost thirty times — but her phone was switched off.

I tried Ajay as well, but he did not answer. I sensed something was wrong," Sweety's mother said. According to her, Ajay and Sweety had worked at the same company before marriage, but their ties had turned testy from early on. "We took our daughter back with us when things got ugly. After a year apart, they decided to try again, but the quarrels continued even after they started working at different companies. I am certain Ajay killed my daughter," she alleged. Ajay's father is an electrician in Prayagraj, while Sweety's father runs a furniture business in Bengal. Deepak Gupta, Ajay's maternal cousin from Delhi, said the video message shared by Ajay mentioned his hopes for a happy family and plans for children, but also his decision to take the extreme step of killing himself. "By the time we got the call and reached the flat with police, it was too late. Ajay was always studious and an introvert.

Above, a smooth ride & below, urban decay: Filth lurks under Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway flyovers

Noida. (Agency)

Drivers rest in their vehicles while the stench of urine greets commuters amid abandoned vehicles — smooth rides along Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway hide the urban decay below. Be it Hero Honda Chowk, Shankar Chowk or IFFCO Chowk, filth and neglect plague areas under these express flyovers in the city. The flyovers were built to give commuters speed and relief from the city's notorious traffic snarls but the scene below these structures paints a grim picture of misuse and civic indifference. "These flyovers are the lifeline of the city, but civic authorities don't care what happens underneath. Even

basic upkeep is nowhere to be seen under these structures," says Satish Yadav, a resident of Sector 10A.

Authorities in the past carried out drives to clear under-flyover encroachments, including at Rajiv Chowk, where they promised to turn the reclaimed land into green spaces. But enforcement was short-lived. Encroachments were removed, but some came back. Removal of encroachments will not work permanently if they are not able to address the root cause. Even the fences they installed were stolen and damaged at some places within a few weeks," says VK Rajput, a resident of Sector 47.

At Hero Honda Chowk, the underbelly of the flyover is strewn with garbage, debris and plastic wrappers. The ground, once paved for pedestrian use, has turned uneven and muddy, forcing people to walk through filth. Bright murals on the pillars offer little distraction from the stench that hangs heavy in the air.

Abandoned vehicles lie dumped under the flyover, gathering dust, while rows of autorickshaws convert the space into an informal stand. Drivers rest in their vehicles and the area has turned into a congregation spot. The situation worsens at Shankar Chowk, one of the busiest intersections near Cyber City

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Nuh: In Nizampur village of Nuh, the lone teacher in the only govt school has swapped chalk and blackboard for a charpoy and a quiet afternoon nap.

The staff room — once meant for planning lessons and paperwork — now houses a single bed and the faint echo of children's voices drifting in from the playground, unsupervised and untaught. Villagers alleged that the teacher, Khurshid, had transformed the school into his personal bedroom, spending his days resting under the ceiling fan while children wander the grounds. "He has made the school his bedroom. Children just keep roaming outside or playing in the ground. There is no teaching happening," one villager lamented. Villagers have also secretly filmed Khurshid lying down during school hours — videos that have since become evidence of his neglect.

Jahid, the village sarpanch, has witnessed the situation firsthand. "It can be for a day or

two that a teacher is found sleeping. But here, I have personally seen him lying down in the staff room for days. The staffroom has two rooms — sometimes he sleeps on a chair and table in one, at times on a bed in the other. The videos were recorded and the timings noted down. On some days, like Monday, there was no student at all. When asked, the children said, 'padhai toh hoti nahi, kya jaye (why come, there are no classes here)', " Jahid said. Confronted with the allegations, Khurshid cited old age, poor health, and imminent retirement as reasons for his behaviour. The villagers, however, remain unconvinced, pointing to a deeper malaise than mere negligence. The real fraud, they alleged, lay in the school's attendance records. Official registers consistently show 100% attendance for all 190 enrolled students, yet surprise inspections have revealed barely 45 to 50



children present on any given day. In one case, for instance, the register listed 210 students, while only 43 were actually on the campus. Officials believe this inflated attendance is a deliberate ploy to siphon off govt funds meant for the midday meal scheme. The consequences are felt most by the children. Parents and students have raised serious concerns about the quality of food served — videos

show worms crawling in ration, and students admit to finding insects in their khichdi. "We feel scared to eat. But there is nothing else, so we just remove them and eat," a Class 4 student confessed. Another added, "We don't study much. Sir is usually resting. We just play or sit outside." Parents like Sahun, whose daughter is in Class 2, worry about the future. "No sooner does he reach school, the teacher immediately arranges pakoras for himself and gets the staff to prepare separate meals. My child has learnt nothing. I challenge officials to test students from classes 1 to 5 — most cannot even write their own names," he said. Education department officials have visited the school three times, confirmed irregularities in attendance, and issued warnings. However, meaningful action is yet to follow. Officials blamed frequent transfers of district education officers —

sometimes every one or two months — for the lack of sustained oversight. Sources said this was not Khurshid's first brush with controversy. He had been suspended three times before.

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Fresh debate on need to revisit archaic criminal defamation

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: More than nine years after upholding the validity of criminal defamation law, the Supreme Court has reignited the debate over decriminalisation of defamation in India. "I think time has come to decriminalise all this...", Justice MM Sundresh said while hearing a petition challenging summons issued to 'The Wire' in a criminal defamation case filed by Prof Amita Singh of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Defamation means harming a person's reputation by making a false and derogatory statement against that person without any lawful justification. A defamatory statement can result in both civil and criminal defamation cases. Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaced Section 499 and Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), criminalises defamation and prescribes two-year jail or fine or both or community service as punishment. Interestingly, truth is not a complete defence in criminal defamation cases as it's required to be proved that the 'defamatory statement' in question was made 'for the public good'. However, there is a constitutional justification for criminal defamation law. Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression. But defamation is one of the eight grounds mentioned under Article 19(2) of the Constitution on which

the state can impose reasonable restrictions on the right to free speech. In May 2016, the Supreme Court dismissed petitions filed by

defame the other. Protection of reputation is a fundamental right. It is also a human right. Cumulatively it serves the social interest,"



BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the then Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging the validity of Section 499 and Section 500 of the IPC that dealt with defamation. "Right to free speech cannot mean that a citizen can

the top court had said upholding the constitutional validity of criminal defamation law. Politicians file criminal defamation cases against their rivals and journalists to silence criticism. The Jayalalithaa government in Tamil Nadu had filed over 100 criminal

defamation cases against journalists and media houses during 2002-06, while the DMK lodged more than 40 defamation cases against the media during 2006-11. It's also abused by big corporations by filing 'Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation' (SLAPP suits) to stop publication of information of public importance that they thought were detrimental to their interest. But the 2016 verdict meant that individuals and media platforms would continue to be vulnerable to threats of being prosecuted for defamation. Citing its chilling effect on free speech, the Editors' Guild of India has been demanding decriminalisation of defamation as applicable to journalists. The UN Human Rights Committee maintained that defamation laws must be crafted with

care to ensure that they did not lead to stifling of free speech. Defamation has already been decriminalised in most parts of the democratic world. The UK, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland have done away with it. The US doesn't have criminal defamation laws at the federal level. Even neighbouring Sri Lanka has decriminalised it. Originally introduced by Lord Macaulay in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the criminal defamation law is an anachronism in 21st century democratic India. It's time to get rid of it. In any case, those wrongly defamed have the option of filing civil suits to claim damages. Having triggered a fresh debate on the issue, the top court should refer the issue to a larger Bench to reconsider its 2016 verdict on criminal defamation law.

Bike taxi driver held with pistol, stolen cellphones

New Delhi: A 36-year-old Rapido bike taxi driver, Saleem Khan, was arrested near Seemapuri in connection with an organised mobile phone theft network. Saleem, a resident of Old Mustafabad, North East Delhi, was found in possession of a country-made pistol, two live cartridges and eleven stolen mobile phones. He has been booked under relevant sections of the Arms Act. According to the police, the arrest follows an investigation by the Crime Branch into gangs involved in mobile phone theft in North East Delhi. Technical surveillance and inputs from local informers helped identify Saleem as a key intermediary in the theft and distribution of stolen phones. Saleem disclosed that he purchased stolen phones from pickpockets operating in the Delhi Metro and local buses. He then sold these phones to an individual named Wasim, who determined the price and final buyers.

Couple arrested for stealing jewellery from shops across Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have arrested a couple who allegedly stole jewellery by posing as customers at shops across the city, an official said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Rajeev (35) and his wife Sanya (34), both residents of Amritsar, Punjab, were drug addicts. The police said they had committed at least seven thefts since April this year in areas including Burari, Paschim Vihar, ISBT Monastery Market, Lajpat Nagar, Khan Market, and Dwarka, three of which were linked to FIRs. According to the police, the duo followed a set modus operandi. "Rajeev would engage shopkeepers in conversation, while Sanya would quickly pocket jewellery items. They frequently changed their appearance and mobile numbers to avoid detection," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka), Ankit Singh. The arrests were made while investigating a theft reported at a jewellery shop in Dwarka South in July. Acting on a complaint, CCTV footage was examined, which showed a couple entering the shop and stealing ornaments. Their movements were later tracked through cab bookings, which helped police zero in on the suspects, the officer said. A raid was conducted based on technical surveillance, leading to the arrest of the couple. One gold ring, a pair of gold earrings, a gold locket, and Rs 8,000 in cash were recovered from their possession, police said. During interrogation, the accused revealed that both had fallen into drug addiction after financial setbacks in Punjab. To sustain themselves, they began targeting jewellery shops in Delhi. They confessed to selling the stolen items at a 'cash-for-gold' outlet in Kalkaji, police said.

Delhi government plans to realign revenue district boundaries with civic body zones

New Delhi: The Delhi Government is planning to align the boundaries of its revenue districts with those of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), an official said on Friday. Currently, the national capital has 11 revenue districts, while the MCD is divided into 12 zones and New Delhi, managed separately by the NDMC. Sources said the proposed redrawing of boundaries could increase the number of revenue districts from 11 to 13. Officials explained that the move is aimed at simplifying administration and speeding up development works in the city. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also recently stated that all 11 revenue districts would be reorganised in line with the 12 municipal zones. At present, mismatches between revenue districts and MCD zones create difficulties both for residents and officials. For example, residents of Mayur Vihar seeking land-related work fall under the East Delhi revenue district but come under Shahdara MCD zone

Self-styled 'godman' isolated students by seizing their phones: Victim's friend

New Delhi: Self-styled godman Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati, accused of sexually harassing 17 students at a Delhi-based institute, allegedly controlled their lives by taking away their mobile phones and original certificates, leaving them feeling compelled to comply with his dictates, a friend of one of the victims has claimed. "He marked students first and asked them to deposit their phones so they could 'focus on studies'. The phones would remain in his custody for some time, and in return, he would hand over a new one of his choice. This ensured that communication was under his control and did not reach anyone else," the man, who studied at the same institute, said. Requesting anonymity, he said, once a student was admitted, his rule made it mandatory to submit all original documents and certificates, which were returned only upon completion of the course. "This created a sense of fear, as every student's career was locked here. If anyone

dared to resist or complain, they were worried that their certificates might never be returned, ruining their careers," he noted. The friend also alleged that female students were threatened with failure or expulsion for not complying with Saraswati or his close aides. "Girls were frequently warned that their careers would be destroyed if they opposed him. Some were even expelled from the institute. Finally, someone dared to raise her voice," he added. He further alleged that Saraswati's staff, particularly three women — one of whom had been a student from the same institute — acted as conduits for his instructions. The man recalled an incident in

which a friend was punished for resisting. "She was made to stand outside for hours until she broke down. Later, when she managed to escape, Baba's guards and driver even searched for her at her relatives' homes and in her hometown. Their behaviour was more like that of a goon than a saint," he alleged. He claimed that the atmosphere of fear was compounded by that their certificates might never be returned, ruining their careers," he noted. The friend also alleged that female students were threatened with failure or

expulsion for not complying with Saraswati or his close aides. "Girls were frequently warned that their careers would be destroyed if they opposed him. Some were even expelled from the institute. Finally, someone dared to raise her voice," he added. He further alleged that Saraswati's staff, the frequent visits of influential

people, including politicians, foreign delegates, and company representatives. "Saraswati flaunted his high-level contacts. He called himself a billionaire, a feminist, and boasted of embassy connections," he added. According to him, Saraswati's "modus operandi" was to first trap students with assur-

ances of good jobs and then isolate them through psychological pressure, surveillance, and threats. Saraswati is currently absconding, and a lookout circular has been issued against him. Multiple police teams are working tirelessly to locate him.

NAME CHANGE

I, UDDHAV is legally father of No. 2803158F Rank-HAV Name-SOLAV GOVIND UDDHAVRAO, R/O VILL-BARBADI, POST-PIMPALA LOKHANDE, TEH-PURNA, DIST-PARBHANI, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-431511, have changed my name from UDDHAV to UDDHAVRAO MUNAJI SOLAV and date of birth from 11/06/1962 to 01/01/1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 25.09.2025 before Public Notary Delhi

NAME CHANGE

I, Raunak Hasnain Zaidi S/O: Ali Hasnain, R/O 22, Kidwaynagar, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh - 251002, have changed the name of my minor son ALA ABBAS aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Mohammad Zaidi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Jatinder Singh S/O Surjeet Singh Pahuja R/o 102 Narang Colony, Near Metro Station Janakpuri West, Janakpuri, New Delhi, West Delhi, Delhi, 110058 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jatinder Singh Pahuja.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Sonam W/o Mahendra Goyal R/o 7No-45, DDA Flats, Ramprasth School Road, Ramprasth, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sonam Goyal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Shobha W/o Mr. Netrapal Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential Vacant Plot area measuring 25 Sq. Yds. i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs. out of Khasra No. 11/3 Situated at Bharat Nagar, Khoda Colony Pargana Loni Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 01.06.2016. Vide Doc No.6013, Book No.1, Volume No.11188, on Page Nos.281-308, Registered on 01.06.2016, in S.R-II Ghaziabad, till date and has lost/misplace his Original Sale Deed dated 10.06.2011. Doc No.5712, Book No.1, Volume No.4855, on Page Nos.195-216, Registered on 10.06.2011, in S.R-II Ghaziabad, it was executed in favour of Mr. Ram Aasre S/o Mr. Jagru Prasad Sahu now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been financed by AAAS FINANCIERS LIMITED Branch: Noida Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA (ADVOCATE)
Off: 438, Third Floor, Patparganj Vihar, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-11 M-NO-7252922875

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Kundan Singh S/O Jagat Singh R/o Puri, Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kundan Singh Kanyal in my minor son Priyanshu Kanyal aged 13 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Kundan Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Mehvish D/o Asrar Ahmad Khan R/o House No-C-47/1, Gali No-11/3, Near Billa Masjid, Chauhara, Banger, Seemapuri, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Mehvish D/o Asrar Ahmad Khan and Uzma Khanam in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father and mother are Asrar Ahmad Khan and Uzma.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shiv Dhan Gupta S/O Kalp Nath Gupta R/O 6/258, Rao Vihar, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041, have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Nandani aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Nandani Gupta.

NAME CHANGE
I, Chander Mohan S/O Hem Raj R/O House No-C-4/56, C-4 Block, Yamuna Vihar, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053, have changed the name of my minor daughter Shradhdha Singh aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as Shradhdha.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shiv Dhan Gupta S/O Kalp Nath Gupta R/O 6/258, Rao Vihar, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041, have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Nandani aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Nandani Gupta.

NAME CHANGE
I, Chander Mohan S/O Hem Raj R/O House No-C-4/56, C-4 Block, Yamuna Vihar, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053, have changed the name of my minor daughter Shradhdha Singh aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as Shradhdha.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANDA is real Mother in respect of Army No. 2809375N Rank HAV Name SAPRE BABASAHEB DILIP, Unit 11 Maratha 11 and resident of AT-WAHGACHA AKHADA, POST-RAHURI, DIST-RAHURI, DIST-BALODIA, STATE-MHARASHTRA, PIN 413705 have changed my name from MANDA to SAPRE MANDA DILIP and date of birth from 3 APRIL 1964 to 01 Jan 1969 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 06.09.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PAPPU S/O SANJAY SHAH, R/O A-10, B-block, Jai vihar phase - 2, Nagafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKSHAT SHAH.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SO NO: 430/2014 Delhi Police/Crime Branch, Delhi
LR NO: 3253258/2025
RADHEY KRISHNAN S/O SH. SHISH RAM YADAV, R/O V.P.O. KAPASHERA, SOUTH WEST, Delhi, have LOST MY ORIGINAL PROPERTY DOCUMENT NO-AC.37.03 Village, lands situated in ThiruUthira kosamangal of Agricultural dry Thiruthira kosamangal Group, Ramanathapuram Taluk & District, comprising in Survey Numbers: 18228, 1424, 1456A, 14580, 1714, 2832, 2893, 2831, 331/1, 2872, 295/1 Part (Western Side), 304/2, 295/2, 286/1, 31/1, 155/1 & 157/1, by virtue of Sale Deed duly Regd. as Document No. 1311, Sheet No. 12, on 02/05/2004, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Keelakkara, Village Thirulthirakosamangal State Tamil Nadu

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SUSHILA KUMARI PAL W/O ASHOK KUMAR PAL R/O PETARIYAPUR, BELHA, PRATAPGARH, UTTAR PRADESH-230132, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUSHILA DEVI in my minor son AKSHAT PAL, aged 9 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SUSHILA KUMARI PAL, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SUSHILA KUMARI PAL W/O ASHOK KUMAR PAL R/O PETARIYAPUR, BELHA, PRATAPGARH, UTTAR PRADESH-230132, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUSHILA DEVI in my minor son ABHINAV PAL, aged 15 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SUSHILA KUMARI PAL, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Imrashi Rastogi D/O Satya Narayan Rastogi W/O Yogesh Sindhu R/O H. No. V-158/4, Street No-4, Near Shiv Mandir, Ghonda Arvind Nagar Ghonda, North East, Delhi -110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Imrashi Rastogi

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Wassem s/o Mohd Qasim R/O H No-T-666, Gali No-10, Gautampuri, Seelampur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Mohd Vasim permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bimla Devi W/o Satish Kumar Dikari R/O WZ-10, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bimla.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Nirmala Devi W/o Bhrm Prakash R/O P 7/53, Mangolpuri, Mangolpuri N Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nirmia.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD FAHEEM S/O BASHIR KHAN R/O C3/40 Gali No-3, C-BLOCK, KABIR NAGAR GOKAL PUR NORTH EAST DELHI 110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FAHEEM KHAN

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, ARIVUDURAI SENTHIL RAJAN S/O SEENIAPPAN ARIVUDURAI Present Address:- Y-4, HUDCO PLACE TYPE-IV (S), BLOCK-Y, HUDCO PLACE EXTENSION, NEW DELHI-110049, Permanent Address:- 1/101, KAMARAJAR STREET, RAMANATHAPURAM, SIVAGIRI, TIRUNELVELI, TAMIL NADU-627760 declare that name of mine has been written shortly as A SENTHIL RAJAN in my Service Record. The full name of mine is ARIVUDURAI SENTHIL RAJAN which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection

NAME CHANGE

I, SULAXANA W/O SUDEEP KUMAR resident of C-253, 2ND FLOOR, MAYFIELD GARDEN, GURGAON, HARYANA 122018, have changed my name to SULAXANA SINDHU for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Kamal Garg, S/O Roshan Lal Garg, R/O SD-446, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, declared that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as VIRAAJ ROSHAN GARG in my minor son's school records. The actual name of my minor son is Viraj Garg respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SURJEET KUMAR SARJO S/O BUDDI PRASAD R/O 147, T-Hills, Mayapuri Vihar, Hari Nagar, South West Delhi-110064 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as PRACHI DEVI in my minor daughter PRACHI SARJO aged 14 years in her School Records. The actual name of my minor daughter is PRACHI SARJO

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, GAURAV GUPTA S/O JACODISH CHAND R/O 1726/125 3rd Floor, Gali No-125, Near Bank of Baroda, Shanti Nagar, Tri Nagar, Okkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as VERSHA GUPTA in my minor daughter namely SWASTI GUPTA aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of my wife is VARSHA GUPTA which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Gajendra Singh to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Raj Kumari W/o Mr. Gajendra Singh is purchasing the Residential House of Area Measuring 59.80 Sq. Yards, Khadra No.561, Situated at Daulatram (Escort) Colony, Kasba Dabir, Pargana and Tehsil Dabri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh from Mrs. Priyanka who became owner vide Sale Deed dated 29.07.2025 (Document No.39694) and same to be finance & mortgage by Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., Branch Loni, That, Original Sale Deed dated 27.01.2012 Executed by Mrs. Atri Devi in favor of Mrs. Dol Sharma, vide Document No.1699, Book No.1, Vol No.4068, Page No.353-368, SR-Dabri has been replaced. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within a week from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Advocate Abhishek Singh
B-82, Ground Floor, DLF Disha Ext-II, Bhopura, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005
Mobile: 7706007066, 9310370510
Email: advabhishek1993@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Vedant Grover alias Anyaman Grover S/O: Sumit Grover, R/O B-27, Sector-33, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARRYAMAN GROVER.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GEETA JOSHI daughter of KRISHNA NAND JOSHI wife of BRU MOHAN PANDEY, residing at D-20, STREET NO 7, NEAR SABJI MANDI, MANDAWALI, UNCHIE PAR, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092, have changed my name after marriage and shall hereafter be known as GEETA PANDEY. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connec

NAME CHANGE

I, Rajpal Singh S/o Dharan Singh R/o Near Nand Lal Associate, Shastri Nagar Ward No-17, Kamal(Rural) (Part)(1) Kamal Haryana-132001, have changed the name of my minor Daughter Nainshi Nand Nancy Singh aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Nancy Singh.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as DULJE W/o ACCHEJA LAL R/O B-14, Gali No. 1, Bhagratih Vihar, Gokal Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DOOLI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Pankaj Arora alias Pankaj Arora S/O Satish Kumar Arora R/O WZ- A/138, 1Ind Floor Street No-8 Krishna Park Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pankaj Arora.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Haushila Prasad S/O Ram Avadh R/O A-221, Harjan Camp, Kirti Nagar, Chunnabhatti, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi - 110015, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Haushila in my minor son's namely Shivam in his 10th class educational document The actual name of mine is Haushila Prasad

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SANDHAYA W/O RAHUL KUMAR R/O A-77 Krishna Endave, Near BHAGWATI GARDEN EXTENSION UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, I have changed my name to ANKITA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, LILA SETHI W/O SHARVAN KUMAR SETHI R/O ESSKAY FARM 19 A OAK DRIVE SULTANPUR ROAD MEHRAULI SOUTH DELHI-110030, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LEELA SETHI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, SHARMA SORBHA S/O SATYA NARAYAN SHARMA R/O H NO 1188, OPP GOVT SCHOOL, BHONDSI, GURGAON, HARYANA-122102 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SOURABH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, VISHWAJEET SINGH BALHARA S/O RISHI PAL SINGH R/O 1921, Lodhi Road Complex, Type-2 Second Floor/Poket-4, Center School, Lodhi Road, Lodhi Road, P.O: Lodhi Road, Dist: Central Delhi, Delhi-110003 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as VISHWAJEET and SONIA in my minor daughter namely PALLAVI CHOUDHARY aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of mine and my wife VISHWAJEET SINGH BALHARA and SONIA RANI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SANJAY GUPTA W/O RAGHU RAJ PRASAD GUPTA R/O H NO B 448/4, Gali No-5, Jait Pur Extension Part-2, J B Public School, Badar Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 declare that name of mine and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as SANJAY KUMAR GUPTA and BHUMI in my minor daughter namely BHUMI GUPTA aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of mine and my minor daughter are SANJAY GUPTA and BHUMI GUPTA which may be amended accordingly.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)

(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2025/TK-II/22/63 (ZITMS)

New Delhi, dt.: 30.09.2025

Corrigendum No. 5

Sub : E-tender no. TM -2501 for procurement of Integrated Track Monitoring System from Zero Speed (ZITMS) and its operations and Maintenance

The Corrigendum No. 5 regarding holding of 22nd pre-bid meeting of ZITMS Tender No. 2501 on 07.10.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:00 hrs has been uploaded on website <http://reps.gov.in>.

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender shall remain unchanged.

(Anurag Kumar)

Executive Director/Track (Mod.)

Railway Board

Tele No. 011-47845530

Email id: anuragkumar.dtk2@gmail.com

30/09/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BOX

Accenture Lays Off 11,000 Employees, CEO Reveals Why It's Necessary

world. (Agency)

A massive Artificial Intelligence (AI)-focused restructuring programme is underway at Accenture, with the company laying off at least 11,000 employees in the last three months.The IT giant has decided to part ways with the workforce it can't retrain with AI skills, but also plans to hire more people over the next year or so, according to a report in Business Insider. The "number 1 strategy", according to CEO Julie Sweet, is "upskilling". But "we are exiting on a compressed timeline, people where reskilling, based on our experience, is not a viable path for the skills we need."

It also plans to help upskill staff on AI systems. “Every new wave of technology has a time where you have to train and retool. Accenture's core competency is to do that at scale,” she said.In the last six months, Accenture has generated \$2.6 billion in revenue for its AI consulting work. The restructuring plan appears to have its roots in AI's growth potential for the company.Its latest measure is likely to cost the company around \$865 million in severance packages, Tech.co reported. Accenture's workforce, post the layoffs, has shrunk from 791,000 to 779,000 between May and August this year, the report added. Layoffs, however, aren't the only measure of the bigger plan. Angie Park, the chief financial officer, said that apart from "rapid talent rotation," Accenture will also divest two acquisitions."These actions will result in cost savings which will be reinvested in our people and our business," Park said. Accenture views AI as "expansionary" and not "deflationary", Sweet said, adding it's part of everything we do. The IT giant is the latest company to plan things around AI.

For instance, Microsoft has laid off people, but the company has also onboarded new people, keeping the headcount unchanged.

Student Killed, 65 Feared Buried In Indonesia School Building Collapse

Sidoarjo. Indonesia.(Agency) :

Rescuers ran oxygen and water to students trapped in the unstable concrete rubble of a collapsed school building in Indonesia, as they desperately worked to free survivors Tuesday morning more than 12 hours after the structure fell. At least one student was killed, dozens were injured and 65 were presumed buried in the rubble.Rescue workers, police and soldiers digging through the night pulled out eight weak and injured survivors more than eight hours after the collapse at Al Khoziny Islamic Boarding School in the East Java town of Sidoarjo. Rescuers saw additional bodies, indicating the death count was likely to rise.Families of the students gathered at hospitals or near the collapsed building, anxiously awaiting news of their children. Relatives wailed as they watched rescuers pull a dusty, injured student from the buried prayer hal.A notice board at the command post set up in the boarding school complex listed 65 students as missing as of Tuesday morning. They are mostly boys in grades seven to 11, between the ages of 12 and 17.Oh my God... my son is still buried, oh my God please help!" a mother cried hysterically upon seeing her child's name on the board, followed by the cries of other parents whose relatives had suffered a similar fate.

“Please, sir, please find my child immediately,” cried a father, holding the hand of one of the rescue team members.Heavy slabs of concrete and other rubble and unstable parts of the building hampered search and rescue efforts, said Nanang Sigit, a search and rescue officer who lead the effort. Heavy equipment was available but not being used due to concerns that it could cause further collapse.“We have been running oxygen and water to those still trapped under the debris and keeping them alive while we work hard to get them out,” Sigit said. He added that rescuers saw several bodies under the rubble but were focused on saving those who were still alive.

All About Tomahawk Missiles Ukraine Wants To Use In Strikes On Russia

World.(Agency)

Russia said on Monday that its military was analysing whether the United States would supply Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine for strikes deep into Russia, a step that Russian officials say could trigger a steep escalation.Supplying Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine could significantly expand its strike capabilities, enabling it to hit targets deep inside Russian territory, including military bases, logistics hubs, airfields and command centers that are currently beyond reach.What Makes Tomahawk Missiles So Powerful?

The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile is a long-range cruise missile typically launched from sea to attack targets in deep-strike missions. The precision-guided Tomahawk cruise missile can strike targets from 1,000 miles (1,600 km) away, even in heavily defended airspace. The missile measures 20 feet (6.1 meters) long with an 8.5-foot wingspan and weighs about 3,330 pounds (1,510 kg).

Cost And Production OfTomahawk Missiles RTX's Raytheon unit makes the non-nuclear Tomahawk missile which can be launched from land or sea. According to Pentagon budget data, the U.S. plans to buy 57 missiles in 2026. They have an average cost of\$1.3 million. There is also an ongoing effort to spend millions to modify and upgrade the weapons including the guidance systems.Recent Combat Usage In The Middle East

US and allied militaries have flight tested the GPS-enabled Tomahawk and used it in an operational environment including when the U.S. and U.K. Navies launched Tomahawk missiles at Houthi rebel sites in Yemen.

Islamic school building collapses in Indonesia, at least 65 students presumed buried under rubble

Rescue workers, police and soldiers digging through the night pulled out eight weak and injured survivors more than eight hours after the collapse

SIDOARJO. (Agency)

At least 65 students are presumed buried under the rubble of an Islamic school building that collapsed in Indonesia. Rescuers ran oxygen and water to students trapped in the unstable concrete rubble of a collapsed building, as they desperately worked to free survivors Tuesday morning more than 12 hours after the structure fell.

At least one student was killed, dozens were injured and 65 were presumed buried in the rubble.Rescue workers, police and soldiers digging through the night pulled out eight weak and injured survivors more than eight hours after the collapse at Al Khoziny Islamic Boarding School in the East Java

town of Sidoarjo. Rescuers saw additional bodies, indicating the death toll was likely to rise.Families of the students gathered at hospitals or near the collapsed building, anxiously awaiting news of their children.

Relatives wailed as they watched rescuers pull a dusty, injured student from the buried prayer hall.A notice board at the command post set up in the boarding school complex listed 65 students as missing as of Tuesday morning. They are mostly boys in grades seven to 11, between the ages of 12 and 17.

“Oh my God... my son is still buried, oh my God please help!” a mother cried hysterically upon seeing her child’s name on the board, followed by the cries of other parents whose relatives had suffered a similar fate.“Please, sir, please find my child immediately,” cried a father, holding the hand of one of the rescue team members.Heavy slabs of concrete and other rubble and unstable parts of the building hampered search and rescue efforts, said Nanang Sigit, a search and rescue officer who lead the effort. Heavy equipment was available but not being used

due to concerns that it could cause further collapse.“We have been running oxygen and water to those still trapped under the debris and keeping them alive while we



work hard to get them out,” Sigit said. He added that rescuers saw several bodies under the rubble but were focused on saving those who were still alive.Several hundred rescuers were involved in the effort and had equipment for breathing,

extrication, medical evacuation and other support tools.The students had beenperforming afternoon prayers in a building that was undergoing an unauthorized expansion when it suddenly collapsed on top of them, provincial police spokesperson Jules Abraham Abast said.Residents, teachers and administrators assisted injured students, many with head injuries and broken bones. Female students were praying in another part of the building and managed to escape, survivors said.One male student, a 13-year-old boy, was killed and 99 other students were injured and taken to hospitals, some of them in critical condition, officials said.Authorities were investigating the cause of the collapse. Abast said

the old prayer hall was two stories but two more were being added without a permit.“The old building’s foundation was apparently unable to support two floors of concrete and collapsed during the pouring process,” Abast said.

EAM Jaishankar meets Canadian FM, says appointment of envoys 'welcome step' in rebuilding ties

DEIR AL-BALAH. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand here, as he termed the appointment of envoys to Delhi and Ottawa as a "welcome" step to rebuild ties between the two countries.

"A good meeting with FM @AnitaAnandMP of Canada this morning in New York," Jaishankar said in a post on X Monday."The appointment of High Commissioners is welcome as we rebuild ties. Discussed further steps in that regard today. Look forward to welcoming FM Anand in India," he said.In August, India announced that Dinesh Patnaik has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Canada. Last week, Patnaik presented his credentials to Canada's Governor General Mary Simon and exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties.

Patnaik is a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer."High Commissioner @DineshKPatnaik presented Letter of Credence to H.E. The Right

Honourable Mary Simon, the Governor General of Canada, followed by a Tete-a-tete. They exchanged views on strengthening India-Canada bilateral relations," said the Indian mission in Canada in an X



post on Thursday.Last month, India and Canada appointed envoys to each other's capitals, signalling their efforts to repair ties that came under severe strain following the killing of a Sikh separatist in 2023.In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks

with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 summit at Kananaskis in Canada. In the meeting, both leaders agreed to pursue "constructive" steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties, including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals.Ties between India and Canada plummeted to an all-time low following a diplomatic spat over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Nijjar.In October last year, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case.India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

However, Liberal Party leader Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April helped begin the process of resetting relations.

Criminals Offer Reporter 'Life-Changing' Money To Hack BBC: "You'll Never Need To Work Again"

PROVO.(Agency)

In a chilling glimpse into the world of cybercrime, a notorious ransomware gang recently approached a BBC cyber correspondent with a wild offer. Joe Tidy, who covers digital threats for the BBC World Service, received an unsolicited message in July from a hacker who promised her a substantial amount of money if she helped cyber criminals access BBC systems through her laptop.The contact came via the encrypted app Signal. The hacker, initially using the alias "Syndicate" before switching to "Syn," said, "If you are interested, we can offer you 15% of any ransom payment if you give us access to your PC." This would allow the criminals to steal sensitive data or deploy malware, holding the broadcaster hostage for bitcoin payouts. Ms Tidy, sensing a rare opportunity to investigate, engaged cautiously after consulting BBC editors. She posed as a potential insider, probing Syn's motives. Later,

Syn ramped up the pitch. Claiming affiliation with the Medusa ransomware group, the hacker promised 25% of the final ransom--potentially tens of millions."We aren't sure how much the BBC pays you but what if you took 25% of the final negotiation as we extract 1% of the BBC's total revenue? You wouldn't need to work ever again," the hacker said. To build trust, Syn shared a link to Medusa's darknet site and invited Ms Tidy to their secure Tox chat, favoured by cybercriminals. He even offered a "trust payment" of 0.5 bitcoin (about \$55,000) as a deposit, guaranteeing more once login details were handed over. Notably, Medusa, a ransomware-as-a-service outfit, lets affiliates hack targets worldwide. Believed to be run from Russia or allied nations, the group has struck over 300 victims in four years, per a US cybersecurity alert. They avoid Russian-speaking countries and thrive on dark web forums. Syn boasted of prior successes,

like insiders at a UK healthcare firm and a US. emergency services provider. "You'd be surprised at the number of employees who would provide us access," he added. Meanwhile, Syn grew impatient, firing off questions about BBC IT setups and sending code to run on Tidy's laptop, which she wisely ignored. "When can you do this? I'm not a patient person," Syn pressed, dangling visions of "living on the beach in the Bahamas." A deadline of midnight on Monday was set. When the hacker ran out of patience, the reporter's phone was bombarded with two-factor authentication notifications from the BBC's security login app. These pop-ups, known as MFA bombing, flooded her screen every minute. This technique, famously used in the 2022 Uber hack, aims to trick victims into accepting login attempts, potentially granting unauthorized access.She immediately contacted the BBC's information security team, and as a precaution.

What to know about the Gaza peace plan agreed to by Trump and Netanyahu

CAIRO. (Agency)

After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threw his support behind the U.S. peace plan for Gaza, the question now is whether Hamas will agree.Hamas faces a bitter tradeoff, the proposal demands that the group effectively surrender in return for uncertain gains. But if it rejects the deal, the U.S. could give Israel an even freer hand to continue its punishing campaign in the already devastated territory.Under the proposal, the Hamas would have to disarm in return for an end to fighting, humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and the promise of reconstruction in Gaza, all desperately hoped for by its population.

But the proposal has only a vague promise that some day, perhaps, Palestinian statehood might be possible. For the foreseeable future, Gaza and its more than 2 million Palestinians would be put under international control.An international security force would move in, and a “Board of Peace” headed by Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to oversee Gaza’s administration and reconstruction. The territory would remain

surrounded by Israeli troops.Trump and Netanyahu said they agreed on the plan Monday after talks at the White House.The proposal includes one provision that Netanyahu and his hard-line government most strongly oppose: It says the Palestinian Authority will eventually govern Gaza. But Netanyahu is likely betting that will never come to pass. Israel also rejects any Palestinian state.The White House issued the text on Monday of its 20-point proposal. Here is what to know.

The ceasefire

The plan calls for all hostilities to immediately end. Within 72 hours, Hamas would release all hostages it still holds, living or dead. The militants still hold 48 hostages, 20 of whom are believed by Israel to be alive.In return, Israel would free 250 Palestinians serving life sentences in its prisons as well as 1,700 people detained from Gaza since the war began, including all women and children. Israel would also hand over the bodies of 15 Palestinians for each body of a hostage handed over.



Troop withdrawal

The plan calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal. But it would only take place after Hamas disarms and as the international security force deploys to fill in areas that Israeli forces leave.

Israel would also maintain a “security perimeter presence” – a vague phrasing that could mean it would keep a buffer zone inside Gaza.Those terms could bring pushback from Hamas, which has said it will not release all its hostages unless it receives a “clear declaration” the war will end and Israel will leave Gaza completely. The fate of Hamas and postwar Gaza

Hamas would have no part in administering Gaza, and all its military infrastructure, including tunnels would be dismantled. Members who pledge to live peacefully would be granted amnesty, and those who wish to leave Gaza would be allowed to.

The international security force would ensure Hamas’ disarmament and keep order. It would also train Palestinian police to take over law enforcement.

Mediator Egypt has said it is training thousands of Palestinian police to deploy to Gaza.Meanwhile, humanitarian aid would be allowed to flow into Gaza in large amounts and would be run by “neutral international bodies,” including the U.N. and the Red Crescent. It is unclear whether the Gaza Humanitarian Fund, a controversial alternative food distribution system backed by Israel and the U.S., would continue to operate.The plan also specifies that Palestinians will not be expelled from Gaza, and that there will be an international effort to rebuild the territory for Palestinians.

YouTube to pay \$22 million in settlement with Donald Trump

NEW YORK. (Agency)

YouTube has agreed to pay \$22 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump after the company suspended his account over the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, according to a court filing Monday.The online video platform, a subsidiary of Google parent Alphabet, is the latest Big Tech firm to settle with Trump after he lodged legal cases challenging his broad deplatforming after January 6.

The \$22 million will go toward Trump's latest construction project at the White House, through a nonprofit called Trust for the National Mall, which is "dedicated to restoring, preserving, and elevating the National Mall, to support the construction of the White House State Ballroom," per a notice of settlement filing in a California federal court.

Besides the \$22 million to Trump's ballroom venture, YouTube agreed to payments of \$2.5 million to a host of other Trump allies, including the American Conservative Union.Major platforms removed Trump after January 6 amid worries he would promote further violence with bogus claims that voter fraud caused his loss to Joe Biden in 2020.The platform blocked Trump from uploading new content on January 12, 2021, pointing to "concerns about the ongoing potential for violence." The move came in parallel to actions by Facebook and Twitter that also suspended Trump's ability to post after the January 6 upheaval.

The 79-year-old Republican took social media companies and YouTube to court, claiming he was wrongfully censored.

Trump's lawyers maintained he was kicked off under "non-existent or broad, vague and ever-shifting standards," according to the original July 2021 complaint against YouTube and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai.Trump's posting privileges were curbed after more than 140 police officers were injured in hours of clashes with pro-Trump rioters wielding flagpoles, baseball bats, hockey sticks and other makeshift weapons, along with Tasers and canisters of bear spray. They wanted to block Congress from certifying Biden's win.Free speech violation?Legal experts have seen Trump's claims against the tech giants as shaky at best, noting that the First Amendment of the US Constitution bars the government, but not a private actor, from restricting speech.YouTube "is not a state actor and its exercise of editorial discretion over its private service does not implicate Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights," the company said in a December 2021 rebuttal to Trump's brief.Journalism watchdog group Media Matters decried the settlement, saying it portends continued First Amendment problems under Trump."YouTube's capitulation is shameful and shortsighted. Needlessly folding now will only help encourage Trump's efforts to stifle dissent by bringing media and online platforms to heel.

Telangana police deport 23 foreigners for overstaying



Hyderabad . (Agency)
Cyberabad police have deported 23 foreign nationals and initiated repatriation procedures for several others found overstaying illegally in India.
The action followed an August 14 raid on a farmhouse in Bakaram, where police, acting on complaints of loud music and nuisance, discovered a birthday party being held without permission. Inside were 51 foreign nationals, including 37 Ugandans, two Nigerians, three Liberians and others from Botswana, Kenya, Cameroon, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Malawi.
Document checks revealed 36 persons — 29 women and seven men — were overstaying without valid passports, visas or permits. They were placed under Movement Restriction Orders by the FRRO Hyderabad and shifted to detention centres in Hyderabad and Cyberabad.
So far, 23 individuals, including 22 Ugandans and one Sudanese, have been repatriated with the help of FRRO and their embassies. Exit permits and one-time travel documents were arranged for those without passports. Deportation of nine more is in progress, with six already cleared and the rest awaiting embassy approvals.

Thiruvananthapuram’s flood water woes create ripples at council meet

Mayor Arya Rajendran said that the matter related to NHAI will be taken up with the district collector.



Thiruvananthapuram. (Agency)
The corporation council meeting held on Monday discussed flooding issues and the delay in opening of Veli breakwater that led to severe waterlogging in low-lying areas in the state capital in the recent rains. UDF councillor P Padmakumar, who raised the issue, said that various corporation wards lying close to the National Highways including Muttathara, Manickavilakam, Puthenpally, Thiruvallam and Vellar areas are facing severe waterlogging.
“The stormwater drains under NHAI are clogged and causing flooding in residential areas. Despite raising the issue many times, the NH authorities are not taking any action,” he said. During the council, Padmakumar said that the sanitation workers are ill-equipped and there is no equipment to pump out water from flooded homes.
Mayor Arya Rajendran said that the matter related to NHAI will be taken up with the district collector. The mayor said that serious action will be taken against the contractor for the delay in the opening of Veli breakwater that led to severe flooding in the capital. She assured that measures will be taken to ensure that such mistakes don’t happen in the future.

Maharashtra: FIR filed after Congress post on X showing a BJP office in flames

“The BJP should not test people’s patience. Or else as Gen Z has set the BJP office on fire in Leh, similar situation will arise across country,” read a post by Congress on its X handle

Mumbai. An FIR was filed on Monday after Maharashtra BJP filed a police complaint against Congress state unit over a post on X that was allegedly intended at “creating unrest in the state and the country”.
The Marine Drive police station on Monday evening registered an FIR against an unidentified person for a post showing a BJP office in flames and warning of similar unrest across the country.
The FIR has been registered based on a complaint lodged by Prakash Gade, BJP’s social media head in Mumbai, who stated that on September 28 the @INCMaharashtra account tagged multiple Congress and BJP handles and posted: “BJP should not ignore the plight of the people. Otherwise, just as the Gen Z in Leh set fire to a BJP office, a similar situation could arise across the country,” the post had said.
The post also included an image showing

Tender worth Rs 125 cr for Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment cancelled

The tender was floated in June and ended in July. It was for curation, content development, exhibit fabrication and outdoor sculpture works of the project

Ahmedabad .(Agency)
The Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust (MGSAMT), which is implementing the Rs 1,200-crore Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project, has cancelled its tender worth Rs 125 crore that was floated to design and develop museums and exhibitions in around 28 buildings in the redeveloped ashram, within nearly two months of closing the bids. The trust will float two separate tenders for designing and building.
Top sources associated with the project said that the decision has been taken after it was realised that it would not be possible to fairly evaluate bids received under the design-build-operate-transfer (DBOT) mode. After cancelling the tender, the MGSAMT authorities have decided to float two tenders to execute the two tasks of selecting the

designer and the executor.
The tender was floated in June and ended in July. It was for curation, content development, exhibit fabrication and outdoor sculpture works of the project. A total of four firms had submitted their bids and three of the four bidders had been qualified for the tender.
A senior officer said, “The tender was to design and develop the museums and exhibitions in the buildings of the ashram on DBOT mode. During evaluation, we realised that the bids could be quite different, depending on the manner in which they plan to design and execute the same and it would not be able to fairly compare the two. For example, a bidder may bid considering frugality as the driving principle of the design. Whereas, another bidder may give a bid with design that



includes digital elements in the design. Both could be good designs, but their pricing could be different. So, the tender has been cancelled and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs 2 crore has been returned to the bidders.”
The officer said, “Now, we plan to float two tenders. First, we will decide the design of

museums and exhibitions. And for that, a designer will be selected through a tender process. After selection of the designer and subsequent fixing of the design, another tender will be floated to execute the design. The two new tenders will not be in DBOT mode, but just to execute the task.” The officer also said that to decide the elements of the design of the museums and exhibitions at the buildings of the redeveloped ashram, a committee is likely to be appointed by the state government.
Under the project, the MGSAMT had earlier issued several tenders for different works such as restoration of old buildings, construction of the boundary wall of the campus and external infrastructure development, including civil, mechanical, electrical and fire fighting, among others.

Ahmedabad school stabbing: Offline classes for Class 10 and 12 students to begin on October 3

Ahmedabad .(Agency)
Offline classes for Class 10 and 12 students at the school in the Khokhra area of Ahmedabad, where a Class 10 student was stabbed to death just outside the gates allegedly by another student on August 19, will begin on October 3.
Following a High Court order, the Gujarat education department has decided to allow the school to begin offline classes for Class 10 and 12 students from October 3, Ahmedabad City District Education Officer (DEO) Rohit Chaudhary said, adding that two Class-2 observers have been appointed to the school. If safety protocols are followed by the school, a decision on beginning offline classes for other classes will be taken in the coming days, the DEO said.
The school is yet to take the security measures suggested by a special team and remained uncooperative with the investigation being done by the education department, the DEO said. Speaking to , Chaudhary said, “The school

officials are not cooperating with the investigation. We have sought some specific documents from the school, but they are yet to



submit those. We don’t know whether they don’t have the documents, or they don’t want to share them. So, we will be sending a final notice demanding the school to submit a list of documents to the department. Even the High Court has asked the school to cooperate with the investigation of the department.”

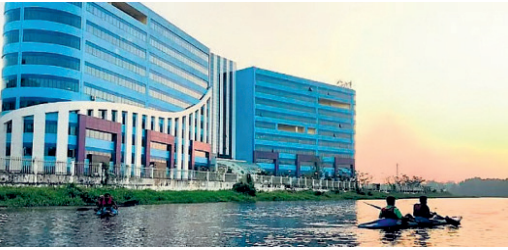
Asked which security protocols and conditions the school had not yet fulfilled, the DEO said: “The school was asked to put up CCTV cameras in various areas, but the lobby, stairwell and grounds are yet to be covered. The school also has not appointed proper security guards. The safety committee has found many such lacunae.”
As many as 10,800 students are enrolled in the school and 500 had collected school Leaving Certificates (LCs) after the student’s death.
A protest erupted at the school on August 20, hours after the Class 10 student succumbed to a stabbing wound he suffered outside the school’s main gate the previous day. The deceased was allegedly stabbed by another student of the same school over an altercation between them a week ago.
Protesters had assaulted teachers and the principal and damaged the school building and its property, before the police could bring the situation under control.

MoU signed, Infopark Phase III on fast track

Process to identify owners of 300 acres earmarked in Kizhakkambalam and Kunnathunadu expected to start now

Kochi .(Agency)
With Infopark and Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the third-phase development of the technology park, the ambitious project expected to turn Kochi into the state’s IT hub has moved a step closer to realisation. The MoU for Infopark Phase III was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday.
Procedures related to the identification of landowners on the 300-acre site earmarked in Kizhakkambalam and Kunnathunadu panchayats in Ernakulam district are now expected to begin now.
“The aim is to finish land pooling formalities within a month,” GCDA chairperson Chandran Pillai told.
“Right now, the authority has identified 1,500 acres in these two taluks for the project. The next step in the process involves the identification of the most suitable land parcel that satisfies all the criteria for an IT park. It

should be noted that the land parcel that has been surveyed comprises solid land and wetland,” he said. Once the survey is completed, the landowners will be identified and discussions held with regard to the land pooling formalities,



Pillai pointed out.
Meanwhile, Industries Minister P Rajeev posted on Instagram that once 75% of landowners agree to the GCDA offer, the project will proceed quickly as the project is being undertaken through land pooling. “After the draft project document is prepared, public opinion will be sought and necessary changes made before the final project document is

prepared.
Subsequent to development activities in the pooled areas, a certain percentage of land will be returned to the landowners. The Infopark Phase III project, which is being designed in an Integrated IT Township model, will involve an investment of Rs 25,000 crore and will provide direct employment to two lakh people and indirect employment to four lakh people,” Rajeev said.
Earlier, to fast-track the expansion process, Infopark changed its status from that of a charitable society to a company. Being registered as a company gives the IT park the flexibility needed for future ventures. Besides, a corporate structure helps with the IT park’s plans to go public in the future. Sources hinted that Infopark Phase III might grow beyond the projected 300 acres.
“It may take up around 500 acres,” a source said. As for the deadline for the completion of the Phase III project, the source said the effort now is to ensure that at least half of the work gets completed by 2030.

From nutrition kits to unhygienic ‘She Toilets’, health panel chief flags lapses

Chennai. With the expiry dates not mentioned on the boxes, there are concerns about the quality of the nutrition kits being distributed to pregnant women, the chairman of the standing committee (health) of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) said in the council meeting on Monday. G Shanthakumari, the health committee chairman, said the absence of labelling was worrying as patients rarely check expiry dates before use.
It is the responsibility of the health department to ensure quality, for which expiry dates on boxes is essential, she told . Raising several other issues, Shanthakumari said the



‘She Toilet’ initiative launched by Mayor R Priya was widely welcomed, but the toilets are not being maintained properly. Sanitary napkins are often unavailable and some toilets on Marina Beach are also observed to be unhygienic, she said.
“**No transparency on unused funds**”
The health committee chairman also said that officials have not been transparent about the status of the unused funds in the health department from 2022. It was not until recently that the city health officer revealed the amount to the standing committee but without clarification as to whether the funds were being carried forward to the next financial year or its intended usage.
On waste management, the committee chief said data on garbage sent to the Kodungaiyur dumpyard was incomplete, with no clarity on waste transported from Ambattur Industrial Estate and ICF areas. She further alleged that contractors handling construction and demolition debris often dump waste under bridges instead of taking it to designated processing units.

Blame policy failures, not the courts

I am not entirely thrilled with how the judiciary functions in terms of its recent decisions affecting the country’s polity, nor am I a great votary of the processes and procedures the higher courts follow in respect of listing and disposing of matters. I also believe that the problems in the functioning of the collegium system of appointments to the higher judiciary need urgent attention.

However, it came as an utter surprise to me when Sanjeev Sanyal, the former Principal Economic Advisor to the Government of India and now a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, went on a diatribe against the judiciary recently, alleging that the judicial system in our country was the single largest roadblock to rapid economic growth and for India becoming Viksit Bharat. He lamented the judiciary’s inability to enforce contracts in time and to deliver justice. A major overhaul in the judicial ecosystem was the need of the hour, he said.As far as infrastructure development is concerned, the government, he said, will manage that. He claimed that unless the legal system is aligned to deliver at a rapid pace, no matter what happens in other parts of the economy, we will never be able to achieve our goal of Viksit Bharat, and that our legal processes need to be radically changed, including the need for a cultural transformation. He argued that instead of the judiciary congratulating itself for what it has done so far and blaming our colonial legacy, it needs a radical transformation.

He referred to recent developments in relation to mediation, saying that it is not a solution to the economic problems we face; mandatory mediation in commercial disputes creates problems and delays resolution of disputes, and that 98–99 percent of mediations fail. I was delighted to note that he believed that merit should be the basis of appointments to the higher judiciary.I fully appreciate Sanyal's concern about the functioning of the judiciary. However, I do believe that the pace at which this government has acted since 2014 to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, which we are all dreaming of, suggests that the government’s abject failures are being blamed on the judicial system. Regarding meritocracy in appointments to the higher judiciary, Sanyal should look within as to how the appointment processes are being interfered with and how political considerations weigh heavily in making such appointments. Meritocracy is being jettisoned, and independent judges are being penalised for their forthright judicial pronouncements.As far as economic growth is concerned, Sanyal congratulates himself by publicly stating that India is the 4th largest and the fastest-growing major economy in the world, and that in the years to come, it will be the 3rd largest, without disclosing publicly what the per capita income of our country is. The fact is that it is the lowest at \$2,880, even amongst the BRICS countries {China \$13,690, Russia \$14,260, Brazil \$9,960, and South Africa \$6,400}. I hesitate to compare the per capita income of our citizens with that of Europe, the USA, Australia, Japan and Canada. Surely, the judiciary is not to blame for the laggard economic growth. I believe that 6 percent growth is easily achievable due to domestic demand, given our population size.Sanyal must inform us what this government has done in the last 11 years to give an impetus to research and development (R&D) in this country, given the fact that its annual spend on R&D is to the tune of \$71 billion as opposed to \$783 billion in the US and \$723 billion in China. Unless you create wealth through innovation, which can only happen in the university system, India can never achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat.

The tightening noose

In these turbulent times, India needs to identify its place in the global scheme of things

RECENT events once again push me to contemplate on India’s place in the global scheme of things, the power play being enacted and the role which South Bloc needs to be playing. Lately, a lot has been made of US President Trump and his personality which is driving American strategy. While this is a factor, to consider it all-encompassing is an oversimplification of the affairs of state; especially so when the nation in question is a superpower.Perhaps our own politics, which for long has been individual-based as opposed to institutional, compels us to view others in the same light... it is a grievous error in my opinion. To begin with, take the US-Pakistan relationship. While Pakistan may at times have been a problem child for the US (especially during the al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden phase), it has by and large been an instrument of US policy for South and Central Asia.Pakistan played an important role during the Afghan Mujahideen rebellion against the USSR. Subsequently, during the US invasion of Afghanistan and the war with the Taliban, Pakistan provided both logistic support and intelligence, thereby playing a double game with the Taliban and the Haqqani network, albeit at a high cost to itself.Beginning with the ‘Patton’ tanks and subsequently the F16 fighter planes, Pakistan’s military has also largely been equipped and trained by the US. Of course, more recently, it has also discovered a strong supporter in China. I bring this old connection up to highlight the strategic interests which the US has had (and still does) in the region. Now once again the US President has demanded that Afghanistan hand over the Bagram air base to America, indicating that kinetic action is forthcoming.Our relations with the USSR and especially the induction of Russian-built arms and ammunition for all the three services (most of our older equipment is Russian) had kept India-US relations cold or at best lukewarm for the most part of the 20th century. The break-up of the Soviet Union and the opening up of the Indian economy created a conducive environment for a fresh start. The India-US civil nuclear agreement during PM Manmohan Singh’s tenure ended a decades-long nuclear technology ban on India and gave it de facto recognition as a nuclear weapon state. This gave a lot of positive momentum to India-US ties.

During the first term of President Trump, things seemed to be improving for India-US relations. However, the signs



The invitation to the Army Chief of a country having a President and a PM tells its own story. An invite was also extended to our PM, who was in Canada at that time, but he declined as he had prior engagements (the current occupants of the White House would not have taken this lightly).In his election rallies last year, Trump had called India the ‘tariff king’ and threatened to impose high tariffs on India and other countries which he claimed had unfair trade balances and practices with the US. Eventually, hefty tariffs were levied; 25% at first, which was a snub as our neighbouring Asian countries, barring China, have much lower tariffs and then the extra 25% for buying Russian oil (bringing the total to a prohibitive 50%).For some reason, or foreign and commerce ministries and a large section of the media appeared to be in denial of this looming threat, hoping that the personal

rapport of our leaders would save the day. Currently, not a day goes by when further punitive measures are not threatened against our economy. The H-1B visa fiasco (imposition of \$1,00,000 fee) is the latest salvo fired in our direction. This will have massive long-term ramifications for our IT firms and professionals. We should try and create a conducive environment for the likely reverse migration of these highly trained professionals instead of losing them once again to some other foreign country.

So, why are we being isolated and targeted? Is it mainly a question of Russian oil? If that were the case, then Europe and many NATO countries would be guilty of the same. If not, then are we becoming the ‘patsy’ in a much bigger game? For how does a Saudi-Pak military pact come about so quickly? Without the blessings of the US, it’s not possible.The other punch delivered quietly to our gut was the rescinding of the sanction waiver on the Chabahar port in Iran. This port was one of our major strategic interests in the region and it would have helped us reach the Central Asian markets and Afghanistan. Maybe the recent bombing of Iran by the US has influenced this as well as the deals being made between the US and Pakistan. Maybe these are moves being made to counter Chinese influence in the region. China is a major buyer of Iranian oil. China and Afghanistan have been striking deals on rare earth mining. The Belt and Road Initiative passes through this region — there could be many games at play.I would like to bring our immediate neighbourhood into focus. Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have all had violent government changes within a short span of time. They appeared to be sudden eruptions, and it is not certain whether they were the result of internal unrest alone or trouble fomented by foreign powers. We have not succeeded in finding a solution to the Manipur problem and there are serious fault lines being deepened in the North-East, which is surrounded by Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal. After a long gestation period in which no effort was made to identify the problem and solve it, Ladakh has finally come to a boil. This on the back of our existing border issues with China does nothing to help the cause of the Indian state. The use of lethal weapons against our own citizens should be the last resort, if at all.Given the turbulent nature of the times, with tensions being generated all over the globe and nation-states veering to protectionism and deglobalisation, we need to identify our own place in the scheme of things, lest we be overpowered by events.

Lesson from Karur: Charisma no substitute for crowd planning

While some blame the rampage on the denial of permission to hold the rally on a larger ground, others point out the mismanagement of the crowds, which gathered from multiple points and converged on an already overcrowded site

The stampede that claimed 40 lives in Karur, Tamil Nadu, clearly exposes the deadly consequences of poor crowd control and inadequate police intelligence. It is a flagrant repeat of previous stampedes during Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, RCB’s IPL-win celebrations in Bengaluru, and several religious and political events across the country, where people perished like locusts falling on rocks. Predictably, accusations, conspiracy theories, and political posturing have followed. FIRs and court battles are routine, but they rarely reach a logical conclusion.

Women and children who perished in Karur on Saturday only wanted to get a close look at their beloved screen hero Vijay, who recently waded into politics with his newly-formed Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Enjoying Kollywood’s largest fan base, the actor-politician has been on a statewide tour to expound on his manifesto. Since TVK’s birth, he has clarified his political stance by opposing DMK in the state and BJP at the Centre. The massive turnout at his rallies has obviously unnerved his opponents, who preferred to dismiss the crowd as movie



fans.Amid chaos in Karur after the incident, Vijay and TVK’s functionaries disappeared from the scene. This does not exemplify strong leadership in a time of crisis. There is yet no clarity on what led to the disaster. While

some blame it on the denial of permission to hold the rally on a larger ground, others point out the mismanagement of the crowds, which gathered from multiple points and converged on an already overcrowded site. Vijay’s delayed arrival seems to have caused several people in the crowd to suffer from dehydration and faint. A minor lathi-charge might also have contributed to the chaos. The state government has set up an inquiry commission, headed by former High Court Judge, Justice Aruna Jagadeesan. Meanwhile, TVK has approached the Madras High Court with a plea to order an independent probe into the tragedy.While Vijay, like other political leaders, has the right to undertake political campaigning, his party should have taken all precautions to limit the number of people gathered as per the approval. The police also cannot shrug off their responsibility of managing the crowd. Questions were raised about the limited number of cops assigned to handle the crowd. There is a clear need for a strict national protocol to prevent such tragedies.

Fasting anatomy requires feasting autonomy

There is a strong case for greater autonomy to Indian HEIs in the spirit of being ‘Atmanirbhar’ as much as its given to foreign university campuses in India

The festive Navaratri season fasting is for the resting body, mind and soul to search elevated ideals. Once the fasting season ends, comes the feasting festival of sorts, Deepavali that elevates peoples’ moods to fun and food. This transition from fasting to feasting is an annual ritual in our Indic tradition practiced in an unparalleled way with unbroken continuum. Just as this celebration feasting from regimental fasting signals human anatomy’s lifestyle transition, there needs to a cerebral feasting from regimental fasting in higher education institution (HEI) to signal academic autonomy transition. Here is more.Let me begin with the Trumpian volte-face as an ex-Presidential candidate to his current Presidential stance that is tellingly visible. Trump’s sudden H1B policy reversal salvo is a red card jerk to his election campaign assurance of a diploma on graduation with a green card perk. Be that as it may, the repercussions of the same has different effects for different nations. For Indian techies, it’s an opportunity to step into a new future with the past providing certain guidance vectors. The latest dispatch of The Economist states that seven of the top 10 tech companies that benefitted from the H1B visa are American including the Big 5: Amazon, Apple, Google, Microsoft and Meta, and three Indian firms—TCS, Infosys and Cognizant. The majority beneficiary of H1B visa is the Indians who have garnered over 60 per cent of the H1B visas issued between October 2020 to June 2025 with China a distant 12 per cent (pause to ponder the benefits that China has accrued domestically) and no other country greater than two per cent. Another



National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) study by Wharton provides an interesting perspective on how globalised American MNCs internationalise workforce by circumventing local restrictive policies. For every visa rejection, such firms employ 0.9 people abroad at their own facilities (read GCCs) with India, China and Canada their preferred off-shore destinations, an emerging opportunity for India to capitalise. There is a strong case for greater autonomy to Indian HEIs in the spirit of being ‘Atmanirbhar’ as much as its given to foreign university campuses in India. Here is why.As per the latest Open Doors data of the Institute of International Education, Indian students constitute 30 per cent of the international student community with STEM and Management

education (60 per cent) being the most sought after in the top 5 destinations—US, UK, Canada, Australia and Germany. The main reasons for students flocking to international destinations are: charm of a foreign land, flexibility and institutional autonomy that foreign universities enjoy and promise of a foreign job, and lifestyle. At a domestic level for India, we definitely can boast of a rich culture but still grappling with infrastructure issues despite improving trajectory. The second is related to academic policy making which has begun well but still restricted to the ‘elitist’ few and needs to extend to deserving plenty. The third is linked to policy reforms that are bilateral with each sovereign nation’s interest being of paramount importance. In the middle of this three-dimensional

confluence, lies the hope for Indian higher education. If hope is not delayed disappointment, then the action has to begin now in Deepavali Dhamaka fashion.The NEP 2020 is a charter for reforms in which institutional autonomy forms the centrepiece for higher education transformation through skilling, training, education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship. The first five years have been a mixed bag of sensitisation and action with the former gaining majority space and energy. The next decade belongs to NEP 2020 actions that shall propel Viksit Bharat @ 2047 to matured work in process by 2035. One actionable agenda is the need to provide complete autonomy— financial, administrative, and academic to all deserving HEIs. Unless this is given, there is very little scope and incentive for institutional reforms which is a key trigger to retain domestic talent. The current mode of full autonomy to select-few HEIs has demonstrated a welcome reversal in student traffic and a case in point for sweeping reforms in HEI autonomy, a much-needed main course.

NEP 2020 is the anatomy of India’s higher education transformation and its appetiser reforms have shown promise. It is now the time to serve the main course with multiple options for HEIs to choose from. The status-quo restrictive fasting menu has to expand to a full-autonomy driven feasting menu to retain Indian talent in India making India the preferred off-shore destination for global technology companies. In short: Fasting Anatomy Requires Feasting Autonomy. Is anybody listening?

New Railway Projects Connecting India and Bhutan announced To Further Strengthen Connectivity and Trade

The Sikh Times

Maligaon : Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw held a special briefing at the National Media Centre, New Delhi on new railway connectivity projects between India and Bhutan, underlining the shared commitment of the two countries to strengthen regional connectivity, sustainability and economic cooperation. The announcement detailed key cross-border railway initiatives set to transform bilateral ties. Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Shri Vikram Misri also jointly outlined the vision, implementation strategy and significance of the upcoming projects. Two major links have been identified under the plan: the 69 km Kokrajhar – Gelephu line, connecting Assam with Bhutan's Gelephu, and the 20 km Banarhat – Samtse line, linking West Bengal with Bhutan. Together, these projects estimated at Rs. 4,033 crores will provide a significant boost to trade, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Samtse and Gelephu are the major export import hubs in Bhutan and serve 700 km long India-Bhutan border.

Gelephu is being developed as mindfulness city and Samtse being developed as an industrial town by the Government of Bhutan. To expedite implementation, the Kokrajhar – Gelephu line has been declared

ensures that the maximum share of infrastructure lies on the Indian side, while extending full support to Bhutan's development needs. India is Bhutan's top trading partner and these railway projects will further cement economic ties while supporting balanced regional development. Bhutan will be able to leverage the extensive Indian Railways network for seamless connectivity with Indian Ports to facilitate efficient export and import of goods, enhancing trade connectivity and economic growth. Environmental considerations are being integrated at the planning stage to ensure minimal ecological disruption in the Himalayan foothills. Additionally, coaches for the new railway lines will be manufactured in India, underscoring the commitment to Make in India and reinforcing India's role as Bhutan's closest partner in infrastructure development. These new projects go beyond physical connectivity reflecting the enduring friendship between India and Bhutan, aligned with India's Neighbourhood First and Act East policies. Once operational, the lines will enhance accessibility, promote balanced regional growth, create employment opportunities and stand as a new chapter in India-Bhutan cooperation.

Kokrajhar – Gelephu new Line



a Special Railway Project, enabling fast-tracked clearances and land acquisition. On the financial side, the Ministry of Railways will bear investments for works on the Indian side, while the Government of India, through the Ministry of External Affairs, will support the Bhutanese portion as part of Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan. This model

Amid demand for minister, secy removal, Assembly passes flood resolution slamming central aid

Ludhiana . (Agency)

Amid a demand for removal of Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal and Principal Secretary of Water Resources Department Krishan Kumar for the second consecutive day during the special session of Vidhan Sabha, and angry posturing between Leader of Opposition Partap Bajwa and Finance Minister Harpal Cheema, the House passed a 'Rehabilitation of Punjab' resolution condemning the Centre for "meagre" Rs 1600 crore as flood relief for the flood-ravaged state.

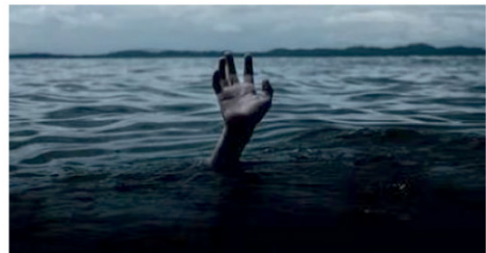
The resolution was passed unanimously in the absence of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators. The BJP had organised a parallel mock Vidhan Sabha session in Chandigarh on Monday. The BJP is represented Ashwani Kumar Sharma, BJP's acting president in state and Jangi Lal Mahajan. Both had stayed away from the discussion on the resolution on Friday also. The resolution was tabled on Friday. The discussion on the resolution saw Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema sparring in the House and Speaker Kuldeep Singh Sandhwan adjourning the house for 10 minutes when both were seen posturing angrily. This started when Bajwa demanded a house committee to inquire into the work of cleaning of drains and water bodies before the floods. He said the committee would bring out the truth. Before Bajwa, Congress legislator Aruna Choudhary had made a similar demand during a point of order during the speech of Dera Baba Nanak MLA Gurdeep Singh Randhawa, who was extolling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government that it had cleaned all drains, rivulets and other water bodies including the Sakki Nullah in Gurdaspur.

Family trip turns tragic as dad, two daughters drown in the sea

Chennai. (Agency)

A family outing took a tragic turn on Sunday evening when a 39-year-old man and his two daughters were swept away in sea off Sularikadu Kuppam beach near Mamallapuram.

The deceased has been identified as Venkatesan, a resident of Agaram near Perambur. He, along with 17 of his relatives, had embarked on a day-long trip along the East Coast Road. After visiting the Tirupporur Murugan temple in the evening, the group proceeded towards Mamallapuram and stopped at Sularikadu



Kuppam beach around 5.30 pm.

Despite repeated warnings from fishermen about the dangerous sea condition, the family entered the sea, and Venkatesan, his daughters Karthika (17) and Thulasi (16), and his elder sister Hemavathi (40) got caught in the waves.

The alert fishermen rushed to their aid and managed to rescue Hemavathi, who was immediately admitted to a private hospital. On Monday morning, Venkatesan's body was recovered from the shore and sent to Chengalpattu Government Hospital for postmortem. Search operations for Karthika and Thulasi are ongoing. The Mamallapuram police have registered a case under the BNS Act, 194, along with sections related to missing persons.

‘ISRO took less time to reach moon’: panel pulls up HSVP over 6-yr delay in payment verification

Kumar told The Indian Express that an installment payment of nearly Rs 3.6 lakh, made in 2019, was not reflected in the authority’s records despite his numerous written appeals to the HSVP.

Chandigarh . (Agency)

Harish Kumar, a former officer of the State Bank of India, had to wait six long years just to have his payment details updated in the records of the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), formerly known as the Haryana Urban Development Authority.

Kumar told The Indian Express that an installment payment of nearly Rs 3.6 lakh, made in 2019, was not reflected in the authority's records despite his numerous written appeals to the HSVP. He even approached the Prime Minister's portal and filed complaints through the CM Window- a public grievance redressal platform launched by the Haryana government. It was only after the intervention of the Haryana Right to Service Commission that his payment details were finally updated. The Commission also

directed HSVP to compensate Kumar with Rs 5,000 and issued a warning to the officials responsible. According to a communication from the Commission, HSVP will release the compensation amount from its funds and may recover it later from the officials found accountable after an inquiry.

In his order, the Commission's Chief Commissioner, TC Gupta, expressed deep concern over the situation: "It is, therefore, deeply concerning that such a simple verification exercise took six years and the intervention of the Commission to reach an appropriate outcome. In fact, far less time was taken by ISRO to reach the moon, which is 3.8 lakh kilometres away, in its Chandrayaan missions." The order was delivered on September 25 and conveyed to HSVP on Monday.



Under a lottery system, the authority had allotted Kumar a 160 square yard plot in Sector-78 of Faridabad, valued at nearly Rs 28 lakh. Kumar stated that he had been paying his yearly installments on time. "In 2019, I paid an installment of nearly Rs 3.6 lakh through online mode but it was not updated in

the records. Despite my repeated letters to the authority, it remained unrecorded. I paid all my installments in 2022, but I still could not take possession of the plot because the 2019 payment was not reflected, and the plot could not be registered in my name," Kumar said, adding that he ultimately had to approach the Commission in April of this year.

The Commission, in its order dated June 18, 2025, had already noted that HSVP abolished the practice of demanding original receipts after June 2017 and had switched to relying solely on online records. The Commission remarked that keeping such a straightforward verification pending for six years and completing it only after the Commission's intervention reflected deep administrative apathy.

Karnataka govt must execute pending projects instead of new ones, say experts

Bengaluru. As over 90 per cent of Bengalureans have opposed the state government's decision to construct tunnel roads and double-decker flyovers, experts and citizens said the focus should be on executing old pending projects instead of taking up new ones that are economically not viable. They said that around 20 such projects that were announced and even started have been pending for the last two to seven years.

They pointed to the Karnataka High Court orders which stated that if a project is not mentioned in the Revised Master Plan (RMP) - 2015, prepared by the Bangalore Development Authority, then it stands no ground for execution. "In the absence of RMP-2040, the state government continues to follow RMP-2015, which is a decade old.

The high court had termed it void while hearing cases of particular layouts in Bengaluru. Also during the NICE

corridor case hearing, it stated that if any project is not listed in the master plan then it is illegal. Going by this, the government cannot take up the tunnel road project.

The Metro rail project can also be termed illegal as there is no mention of it in the RMP-2015, for it was prepared in 2007," said activist Sandeep Anirudhan.

Members of Bengaluru Town Hall said the government's ad hoc planning and method of execution of works are only worsening Bengaluru's situation. "The government should instead strengthen the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC) as per the 74th Amendment of the Constitution and also prepare a new RMP focusing on the requirements of the city," the members said. Raj Duggar from the Citizens for Citizens said that four parallel online petitions are going on seeking public opinion on tunnel road, and many have raised objections.

UP ATS arrests four men for ‘conspiring to topple govt through violent jihad’

Lucknow . (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh Police's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested four persons from different locations across the state on allegations of conspiring to topple the "democratically elected government in India" through violent jihad and to enforce Sharia law.

The accused also intended to form a "Mujahideen army" and procure weapons as part of their plan, officials said. Those arrested are Akmal Raza, a resident of Sultanpur, Safel Salmani alias Ali Razvi of Sonbhadra, Mohammad Tausif of Kanpur and Qasim Ali, a resident of Rampur.

The ATS claimed to have recovered Aadhar cards, PAN cards, credit cards and other items from them. According to police, they received inputs that people from different districts of

the state were allegedly planning to "overthrow the democratically elected government" in India through violent jihad and to impose Sharia law with arms after



getting influenced by extremist organisations in Pakistan.

They were holding meetings at different locations and actively participating on social media groups, the officials said.

They were inciting people by sending audio chats and videos and were raising funds to

procure weapons and other materials for terrorist activities, it was alleged. A plan was also made on these groups to carry out targeted killings of non-Muslim religious leaders in the near future, they said. A case was registered in this regard at the ATS police station.

Police said during their interrogation the accused admitted that they were planning to wage jihad against non-believers to avenge alleged atrocities against Muslims. To achieve this, they were recruiting like-minded individuals by radicalising them and had identified several targets. The accused were involved in collecting, writing, and distributing violent jihadist literature and were actively working to form their own militant group for these activities, the officials claimed.

With a mammoth Tent City for over 30,000 scouts, Lucknow gears up to host National Jamboree after 6 decades

Lucknow . (Agency)

With less than two months left for Uttar Pradesh to host the 19th National Jamboree of Bharat Scouts and Guides, work on setting up a mammoth Tent City began in Lucknow's Defence Expo Ground on Monday. The one-of-a-kind Tent City, which will serve as the venue for the national event, will have 3,500 tents; 1,600 toilets; a 25,000-capacity arena; 64 kitchens; a 100-bed hospital; 15 dispensaries; 100 exhibition stalls; a Jamboree Market with 100 shops; a Global Village; an Adventure Zone; a Wi-Fi Zone, and a 24/7 control room.

The Tent City will host 30,000 scouts and guides from across the country, 2,000 international participants, and 3,000 officials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the event on November 24, while President Droupadi Murmu will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony on November 28. Uttar Pradesh is

hosting the event after 61 years. The state last hosted the National Jamboree in 1964 in Prayagraj, then called Allahabad. It was the fourth edition of the event.

On Monday, a group of state ministers conducted the groundbreaking ceremony. The foundation stone was laid by Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna. On this occasion, the logo and mascot of the 19th National Jamboree were also unveiled.

The weeklong event will have several attractions, including the Air Force's Air Agniveer exhibition, a HAM radio station, and an IT hub.

Participants can take part in adventure activities such as high ropes courses, ziplines, trekking, while also learning essential scouting skills, including first aid, knot tying, and survival techniques, said officials.

The cultural events at the Jamboree will showcase folk dances, drama,



and music as part of the "Global Village".

"Alongside robotics and science exhibitions to introduce the youth to innovation and technology will also be held. Activities focused on

social service, environmental protection, and teamwork will also be organised to inspire participants to develop into disciplined and responsible citizens," said an official.

"All arrangements follow green and circular economy principles, ensuring safety, sanitation, health, transportation, and environmental balance," the officer.

Heavy rain, thunderstorm lash Delhi-NCR, airlines issue advisory

►The showers brought much-needed relief from the sweltering heat as thousands of revellers flocked to pandals across the city for the ongoing Durga Puja festivities.

Agency New Delhi. Heavy rain and thunderstorms lashed Delhi and its adjoining regions on Tuesday, with a forecast for more showers, which could potentially dampen the festive spirit across the region. The showers brought much-needed relief from the sweltering heat as thousands of revellers flocked to pandals across the city for the ongoing Durga Puja festivities. Meanwhile, Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet and Akasa Air have issued advisories, asking passengers travelling to and from Delhi to check their flight status in the wake of the sudden rainfall. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an alert at 11.03 am, predicting scattered showers in some parts of Delhi until 2 pm. The rainfall is expected to remain below 5 mm. As per the IMD forecast, Haryana's Sonapat, Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, Farukhnagar, Sohna,

Rewari, Nuh; while Uttar Pradesh's Noida, Khatauli and Sakoti Tanda will also receive



light showers today. The sudden showers have also brought down the temperature in the national capital, which has been experiencing unusually high temperatures this September.

On Monday, the maximum temperature touched 37.5 degrees Celsius. A day earlier, the city recorded 38.1 degrees Celsius, making it the hottest September day in two years. On September 5, 2023, Delhi logged 38.6 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature today is expected to settle at around 35 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, the minimum temperature was recorded at 28.7 degrees Celsius, 5.4 notches above normal. Relative humidity stood at 74 per cent at 8.30 am, the IMD said. Delhi's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 114 at 8 am, falling in the 'moderate' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor' and 401 to 500 'severe'.

Bomb threat to Mumbai-Delhi IndiGo flight, emergency declared at airport



Agency New Delhi. The Delhi Airport was placed on emergency alert around 8 am on Monday following a bomb threat on an IndiGo flight from Mumbai. Flight 6E 762, operating from Mumbai to Delhi, was reported to have received threat calls, prompting heightened security measures at the airport. Operations at the airport returned to normal after security checks cleared the aircraft. Passengers were temporarily held for precautionary screening, but no untoward incident occurred. An IndiGo spokesperson said, "A security threat was noticed onboard IndiGo flight 6E 762 operating from Mumbai to Delhi on 30 September 2025. Following established protocol, we informed the relevant authorities immediately and fully cooperated with them in carrying out the necessary security checks before the aircraft was cleared for operations."

"We have made all efforts to minimise inconvenience to our customers, including offering them refreshments and sharing regular updates. As always, the safety and security of our customers, crew and aircraft are our topmost priorities," the statement further added. Authorities confirmed that the situation was under control and normal operations have resumed.

UPS Vs NPS: What Changes For Central Government Employees

Agency New Delhi. It's deadline day for central government employees to switch from the market-linked National Pension System (NPS) to the newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS). Eligible employees who do not switch before September 30 will remain under NPS by default. The original June 30 deadline to opt for UPS was extended to September 30, allowing employees more time to consider their pension options. After the deadline, the ones who choose to remain in NPS cannot opt for UPS under any circumstances. In an official notification earlier this month, the Ministry of Finance announced, "The last date for eligible employees and past retirees under NPS to opt for UPS is September 30, 2025."

"This initiative aims to provide informed choice to Central Government employees in planning their post-retirement financial security. By opting for UPS, the employees retain their choice for switch to NPS at a later date," it added.

- Key Guidelines to switching from UPS to NPS**
- According to the Finance Ministry, the specific conditions for switching from the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to the National Pension System (NPS) are:
- Eligible UPS employees can only switch to NPS once and cannot switch back.
 - The switch must be made at least one year before superannuation or three months prior to voluntary retirement, whichever is appropriate.
 - Those who do not choose the switch within the specified time will continue to use UPS by default.
 - The switch option will not be available in the event of removal, dismissal, or involuntary retirement as a penalty, or in circumstances where disciplinary proceedings are ongoing or planned.
 - Employees who choose to remain in NPS are not eligible for UPS after September 30

CCTV doesn't support deliberate ramming of bike: Court on bail to BMW crash accused



Agency New Delhi. A Delhi court has granted bail to Gaganpreet, the accused in the recent BMW crash case, pointing to contradictions in the prosecution's version of events. The court said CCTV footage of the accident altered the prima facie assessment of the case, weakening the allegation of culpable homicide. The court observed that the FIR narrative – that the BMW had struck the motorcycle from behind in a direct collision – was not corroborated. Instead, CCTV footage showed the car losing control, hitting a divider, flipping, and in the process coming into contact with a motorcycle and a bus. "The footage does not support a deliberate high-speed ramming of the motorcycle from behind," the court noted, adding that the sequence pointed more towards rash and negligent driving than culpable homicide. The prosecution also failed to provide evidence on the speed of the vehicle despite speed cameras being installed along the stretch.

Accused of rape by girlfriend, techie dies by suicide; betrayed in love, says note



Agency New Delhi. A 29-year-old engineer died by suicide by jumping in front of a train in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur city after reportedly experiencing significant distress following a rape allegation made against him by his girlfriend. Authorities recovered a suicide note which said, "I have been betrayed in love." Gaurav Savanni's body was found on the Usalapur railway track on September 27. According to the police, the 29-year-old victim met the woman through a matrimonial website while working in Noida. The relationship grew closer over time, but a rape allegation was later filed against him by the woman. Following the case, Gaurav was arrested and spent time in jail before being released on bail approximately 15 days prior to his death. After returning home, Gaurav reportedly showed signs of deep distress and social withdrawal. He stopped interacting with neighbours and appeared consistently upset. A close friend of the victim, Sandeep Gupta, said that Gaurav was always bright and cheerful, but recent events broke him. Another friend, Topsy Makkar, said that in recent days, he did not talk much to anyone and seemed very mentally disturbed. Senior Superintendent of Police Rajnesh Singh said that a detailed investigation is being conducted into the reasons for the suicide.

India saw a crime every 5 seconds in 2023; cyber cases jumped 31%: Government data

Agency New Delhi. India recorded 6.24 million cognisable crimes in 2023, marking a 7.2% rise from 2022, according to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Crime in India 2023 report released on Monday. On average, a crime was registered every five seconds. Of the total cases, 3.76 million were Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes while 2.48 million fell under Special & Local Laws (SLL). The crime rate per lakh population climbed from 422.2 in 2022 to 448.3 in 2023.

CYBER CRIMES AND ST ATROCITIES DRIVES SURGE

One of the most striking trends was the sharp increase in cyber crimes, which surged by 31.2% to 86,420 cases, with fraud accounting for nearly 69% of them. Crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) also spiked alarmingly



by 28.8%, with 12,960 cases in 2023 compared to 10,064 in 2022. The steepest rise came from Manipur, which, amid ongoing ethnic violence, reported 3,399 cases against STs, up from just one case in 2022 and none in 2021. These included 260 cases of dacoity, 1,051 of arson, 203 of intimidation, and 193 land disputes. The NCRB noted that "simple hurt" (21.3%) and riots (13.2%) formed the largest chunk of offences against STs. In contrast, crimes against Scheduled

Castes (SCs) rose only marginally by 0.4% (57,789 cases). **WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN VULNERABLE** Crimes against women rose slightly by 0.7%, with 4,48,211 cases registered. The bulk involved cruelty by husbands or relatives (29.8%), followed by kidnapping and abduction (19.8%), and sexual assault (18.7%).

Crimes against children climbed by a sharper 9.2%, crossing 1.77 lakh cases. Notably, kidnapping and abduction of children (45%) and POCSO Act cases (38.2%) dominated.

MURDERS DOWN, ABDUCTIONS UP

While murders declined by 2.8% to 27,721 cases, kidnapping and abduction rose 5.6% with 1,13,564 cases, involving over 1.16 lakh victims.

NEET aspirant, 22, shoots himself dead, family says he was in extreme stress

Agency New Delhi. A 22-year-old NEET aspirant in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur city shot himself dead inside his residence. Sanskar Singh's family has said that he was under extreme stress and depression due to exam pressure. The incident took place on September 27. Sanskar was alone in his room when family members heard a gunshot. He was already dead by the time they found him. The police have said that reasons for the suicide will be clear only after the post-mortem report is available. Taken parts of their land and water resources," he said. Om Kumar (71), a fifth-generation



resident, said that the land was used for farming and cattle grazing before 1965, and families lived farther away—where T1 arrival gate now stands. "My forefathers were zamindars. Government authorities shifted us here and gave a token of 60 houses, promising the rest would be

taken care of. How can they ask us to vacate now? The NSG came into existence much later, in 1986. They've already taken our water sources, temples, and even the cremation ground. This is injustice," he said. Preliminary information has revealed that the victim had been experiencing significant mental stress and depression in recent times. Family members reported that the student was busy preparing for the high-competitive exam and was constantly under stress. Neighbours and friends reported that Sanskar was a smart and hardworking student, but in recent months he appeared mentally troubled.

Veteran BJP leader Vijay Kumar Malhotra dies at 93; PM Modi pays tribute

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his death of the BJP veteran, describing Malhotra as an "outstanding leader" who had a deep understanding of people's issues. "He played a vital role in strengthening our Party in Delhi. He is also remembered for his Parliamentary interventions. Pained by his passing away," the PM wrote.

Agency New Delhi. Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former parliamentarian Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra passed away at the age of 94 on Tuesday morning. The Delhi BJP confirmed his demise, saying he had been undergoing treatment at AIIMS for the past few days. "Senior BJP leader and the first president of the party's Delhi unit, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji, passed away this morning. His life was a shining example of simplicity and dedication to public service," Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said in a statement. He added that Malhotra's contribution dated back to the Jan Sangh era, when he worked tirelessly to expand the Sangh's ideology in the capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his death on X (formerly

Twitter), describing Malhotra as an "outstanding leader" who had a deep understanding of people's issues. "He played a vital role in strengthening our Party in Delhi. He is also remembered for his Parliamentary interventions. Pained by his passing away. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," the PM wrote. A stalwart of Delhi politics, Malhotra was a five-time MP and two-time MLA, often seen as the BJP's most recognisable face in the capital through the 1980s and 1990s. He also served as Delhi's chief executive councillor, a position equivalent to today's chief minister. Incidentally, his death comes just a day

after Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Delhi BJP's first permanent state



office on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, a milestone that party leaders noted Malhotra had long envisioned. The party said his mortal remains will be brought to his official residence at 21, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road, around 8:45

am for party workers and admirers to pay their last respects. Malhotra was one of the early stalwarts of the Delhi BJP, serving as the Leader of Opposition in the assembly and was also projected as the party's chief ministerial face in 2008 in an election in which the Congress under Sheila Dikshit maintained its winning streak. A five-time MP and two-time MLA from Delhi, Malhotra had defeated Congress candidate Manmohan Singh from South Delhi in the 1999 Lok Sabha polls. Singh went on to become prime minister in 2004. He was the former president of Jana Sangh and BJP in Delhi. Malhotra was also involved in sports administration and headed several sports bodies during his public life.

NEWS BOX

IND vs SL: Harmanpreet Kaur's India eyes winning start to home Women's World Cup

New Delhi. (Agency)

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup returns to India after a 12-year hiatus, and for the hosts, the tournament represents more than just cricket. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India will open their campaign against Sri Lanka at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday, carrying the hopes of a nation eager for its first women's ICC title. India, ranked world No.3, head into the home World Cup full of confidence after recent victories over England in both ODI and T20I series and by ending a worrying losing streak against Australia in a pre-tournament series, narrowly falling short while chasing 413 in the final ODI in New Delhi against the seven-time champions. Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who has been in outstanding form, will spearhead the Indian batting line-up in the ICC tournament. The left-hander has struck four ODI centuries this year, including consecutive hundreds against Australia, averaging 66.28 with a strike rate of 115.85. Her partnerships with young opener Pratika Rawal have bolstered India's top order, providing stability and a solid platform to post or chase big totals in Shafali



Verma's absence. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, playing her fifth World Cup, brings experience and a tournament average of over 50, consistently delivering in high-pressure matches. Jemimah Rodrigues has added composure to the middle order, scoring 66 in a warm-up against England, while Richa Ghosh, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, and Amanjot Kaur provide further depth and balance across the line-up. India's bowling, however, remains an area of concern. Renuka Singh Thakur returns from injury to spearhead the pace attack, but her support—Kranti Goud, Arundhati Reddy, and Amanjot Kaur—has limited experience, collectively having played just 25 ODIs. Injuries continue to cast a shadow, with Reddy forced off the field in a wheelchair during a warm-up match and Amanjot returning from a minor setback. India's spin quartet—Deepti Sharma, Radha Yadav, Sneha Rana, and N. Sree Charani—is well-suited to home conditions, though the flat pitches may offer limited assistance. Mental resilience will also be tested; India have previously faltered in crucial finals, including the 2017 World Cup and the 2022 Commonwealth Games, both narrowly lost to Australia.

Glenn Maxwell suffers freak injury in nets, likely to miss India T20Is with broken arm

MILAN. (Agency)

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has suffered a freak injury ahead of the team's first T20I against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui. The star cricketer fractured his forearm after a straight drive from Mitchell Owen struck his bowling hand during a net session, ruling him out of the three-match T20I series. The 36-year-old, who is expected to play a key role in Australia's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign, is also unlikely to feature in the upcoming five-match series against India. This eight-match block against New Zealand and India was seen as a critical phase in Australia's preparation for the global tournament, but multiple injury setbacks have disrupted their plans. Maxwell's injury happened while bowling in the nets ahead of the team's opening T20I on Wednesday. The spinner was unable to avoid Mitchell Owen's shot, resulting in a fracture. He has been sent



home and will see a specialist in the coming days. Josh Philippe will replace Maxwell in the squad for the three matches against the Black Caps. A prolific run-scorer in Australia's Big Bash League, Philippe is expected to add firepower to the batting line-up, as well as take over the wicketkeeper's role as a backup to Alex Carey.

Australia's Injuries in Run-Up to T20 World Cup

The 2021 T20 World Cup champions were hopeful of a good preparation going into the 2026 tournament. Australia beat favourites India in the ODI format of the World Cup in 2023, and would have been optimistic about their chances once again. However, multiple injuries have dented their plans, leaving them in a fix, just four months before the tournament.

Mohun Bagan withdraw from ACL 2 as foreign players refuse to travel to Iran: Report

Harbhajan Singh has claimed that the Asia Cup was always about how well India would perform in the tournament and said that the rivalry with Pakistan was well and truly over. India defeated Pakistan to win the Asia Cup 2025 final.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mohun Bagan have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League 2 after six of their foreign players declined to travel to Iran. According to the Times of India, the club was scheduled to play their away game against Sepahan FC but was forced to abort the trip after the overseas stars opted out of the game, citing "advisories from their respective countries." All the six foreigners have declined to travel following travel advisories from their respective countries. The team management fully supports the players' sentiments and decision," the official



said. With Iran currently at war with Israel, the Mohun Bagan officials had sought a written assurance from the AFC about the safety of the players. Sources close to the club claimed that the AFC failed to provide anything of the sort, due to which the club had to prioritise its own safety. "Several communications were made to the AFC, with a copy to AIFF. However, no assurances (about the safety of the players) were

provided. So, after a meeting involving all players and Indian staff, a collective decision was made not to travel — prioritising their own safety and their responsibility toward their families," the official added.

The club said it approached the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Saturday to "seek a fair resolution and safeguard its interests" in the matter. "MBSG prioritises the safety and well-being of its players,

officials, and support staff. Our players and their families have expressed concern over travel to Iran," the club said on its social media handle. "After careful consideration of the government advisories and the potential uncovered risks involved, and upholding the players' sentiments, the club has approached the CAS to seek a fair resolution and safeguard its interests."

Earlier, Mohun Bagan had requested the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to shift their September 30 ACL 2 match against Sepahan SC out of Iran, citing safety concerns.

The Mariners had lost their ACL-2 opener to Ahal FK at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on September 16.

Sanction Concerns for Mohun Bagan

Failure to turn up for an AFC Champions League game could mean heavy sanctions for Mohun Bagan and jeopardise the future participation of Indian clubs in ACL 2. Last season, Mumbai City FC were forced to play in Tehran without key foreigners.

Last year, when Mohun Bagan didn't travel to Iran to face Tractor SC of Tabriz, citing player security amid political tension in the West Asian region, the AFC deemed the ISL champions "withdrawn" from the continent's second-tier club competition as well.

In Tilak Varma-Shivam Dube's epic stand, shades of MS Dhoni-Yuvraj Singh duo linger

New Delhi. (Agency)

Dubai may be called the 'City of Gold' for its glittering markets, but on Sunday night, India unearthed treasures of a different kind as Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube shone brilliantly, putting together a stand that carried India past Pakistan to Asia Cup glory.

Under the floodlights, with immense pressure weighing on their shoulders, the duo turned the tide when it mattered most. Their innings won't be remembered solely for the sixes or fours, but for how they reshaped the game, delivering India a famous victory at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium — a ninth Asia Cup title and a landmark triumph over Pakistan. The stakes were higher than usual. Considering the political undertones that loom over IND-PAK fixtures, the pressure to perform was immense. Players often face



constant scrutiny, with some even questioning their loyalty for daring to play. In such an environment, most might crumble. But Tilak and Dube proved they were cut from a different cloth. Tilak Varma, who has begun to nail the middle-order slot in bilateral games, has yet to cement his reputation in big-match scenarios. Coming into this tournament, his opportunities were limited, but when the moment came — especially in the last two fixtures against Pakistan and Sri Lanka — he stepped up.

Dube, on the other hand, is a more established campaigner. His T20 World Cup title speaks volumes about his credentials. Yet in this final, his role saw a complete transformation. Though primarily a batter in recent times, tasked with clobbering spinners, he was asked to fill the void left by Hardik Pandya's injury and bowl the new ball — something he had never done in international cricket. The 32-year-old rose to the challenge. Swinging it away to right-handers, he kept the batters in check in the power play, leaving fans from both sides stunned.

Mischievous schoolboys can't win Asia Cup: Pakistan focus on theatrics, fail as pros

MADRID. (Agency)

Waqar Younis was livid — and rightly so. Pakistan collapsed like amateurs in the Asia Cup final against India. At 113 for one in just 12.4 overs, they looked set for dominance. What followed was nothing short of embarrassing: nine wickets gone for 33 runs in 39 balls. The grit of Fakhar Zaman and Sahibzada Farhan was shredded by a lineup that looked clueless under pressure. The Asia Cup turned into more of a theatre of antics than a battle of cricket. Pakistan made it a circus with their on-field mischief — Haris Rauf flashing his infamous '6-0' gesture, Sahibzada Farhan pointing his bat like a rifle. All noise, no cricket. When the time came to deliver, they imploded. India's five-wicket win in the final exposed Pakistan's hollow bravado. To make matters worse, ACC President and PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi stormed off with the trophy and medals after India refused to accept them from him, leaving the champions without silverware on stage. And that's the larger shame — Pakistan are more invested in theatre than substance. They strut, they posture, they



will continue to script their own humiliation, no matter how loud the noise off the field. The blame does not rest with the players alone. Run by a board that has treated them like pawns and failed to protect them when necessary, Pakistan cricket has been in free-fall. The constant musical chairs of coaches and captains have only made matters worse. There is no accountability — only chaos.

Pakistan repeat the same mistakes

Pakistan's batting frailties came under the spotlight once again, and frustratingly, it was the same story that had haunted them earlier in the Asia Cup. In the Super 4 clash against India, they looked unstoppable at 90-plus inside the first 10 overs, only to implode in dramatic fashion, losing wickets in heaps and handing the game away.

The final should have been their moment of redemption, but instead, Pakistan pressed the same self-destruct button and threw it all away. Sahibzada Farhan and Fakhar Zaman gave the perfect start, stitching an 84-run stand that had fans believing this was finally the day Pakistan would break free. A total of 180, even 200, looked within reach. But from there, the innings turned into a nightmare. Aside from Farhan, Fakhar and Saim Ayub, who barely managed double digits, the rest simply folded. Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Haris and Faheem Ashraf all walked back for ducks, leaving the innings in tatters. Reckless shots, zero composure under pressure, and no intent to build partnerships — Pakistan once again snatched defeat from the jaws of promise.

After 12 years, India set for Women's World Cup return in cricket's grand festival

New Delhi. (Agency)

The 2025 Women's World Cup is here, and excitement is at a fever pitch as India and Sri Lanka gear up for a thrilling opener at Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium on September 30. After a 12-year hiatus, the World Cup returns to Indian soil, and the anticipation is nothing short of electrifying. The round-robin format promises nail-biting encounters, with every team facing off to build momentum toward the knockouts and the grand finale on November 2. Adding to the spectacle, Shreya Ghoshal's enchanting performance at the opening ceremony will light up the stage, blending music, glamour, and cricket in a celebration befitting the sport's biggest stage. Australia, the seven-time champions, and England, brimming with experience, cast formidable shadows over the tournament. Yet, the Indian team,



fuelled by roaring home support, is ready to rise to the challenge. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur exudes calm leadership, while Smriti Mandhana dazzles with her elegant stroke play.

STORIES YOU M

All-rounder Deepti Sharma, middle-order anchor Jemimah Rodrigues, and wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh add depth and flair. The pace duo of Renuka

India at Women's World Cup: Can Harmanpreet Kaur's side script history at home

New Delhi. (Agency)

Harmanpreet Kaur's words will resonate deeply with millions of Indians, especially young girls who dream of picking up a bat or ball to follow the path of a Mithali Raj or a Jhulan Goswami, but are often forced to silence their dreams under societal pressure and choose other professions. The year 2025 is a chance to finally change that age-old narrative. In 2005 and 2017, India reached the World Cup final against Australia and England, but both times the dream slipped away. In 2005, Karen Rolton's brilliant 107 crushed their hopes, while in 2017, Anya Shrubsole's unforgettable six-wicket haul at Lord's left the team stunned and broken. Women's World Cup 2025 Full Coverage In 2022 came perhaps the deepest heartbreak, when South Africa shattered India's semi-final chances after Deepti Sharma bowled a fateful no-ball in the last over with the Proteas needing just three off two balls. And the last time the World Cup was played in India, the team could not even qualify for the Super Six, leaving fans across the country devastated. Now, after 12 long

years, India return to the stage at home. Having come agonisingly close and endured the weight of heartbreaks, especially the crushing blow of 2022, the team must be charged up like never before if they are to fulfil their dream — and the dream of a nation still waiting for its maiden ICC title.

Smriti Mandhana: The glue of India's batting

Smriti Mandhana is the heartbeat of India's batting, combining elegance with unerring consistency. Averaging 47.92 in ODIs, she has delivered numerous match-defining performances, and her recent return to the top of the ICC Women's ODI rankings underscores her stellar form and leadership.

Mandhana recently set the record for the fastest hundred by an Indian in ODIs, cementing her reputation as the 'Queen' of Indian batting. Ahead, she is poised to chase more records and elevate her stature further. Supporting Mandhana, Pratika Rawal has carved a niche in the middle order since replacing Shafali Verma. Averaging 50.12, she became the fastest to 500 ODI runs, seamlessly blending stability with flair.

Harleen Deol, after her century against the West Indies last year, adds dynamism with aggressive stroke play. Jemimah Rodrigues, recovering from illness, remains a linchpin



in the middle order, while Richa Ghosh, with a strike rate over 150, provides explosive finishes and Deepti Sharma's power-hitting bolsters the lower order. 'Debutant' Harmanpreet set for major campaign Harmanpreet Kaur steps into uncharted territory as India's captain. While she has graced four previous World Cups, this marks her first time leading the side, a responsibility that carries immense

expectation. At 36, the veteran batter faces the bittersweet reality that this might be her final chance to chase World Cup glory, making every match a defining moment.

Known for her fearless strokeplay and calm under pressure, Harmanpreet has amassed over 4,000 ODI runs and delivered iconic performances, including her match-winning 171 not against Australia in the 2017 World Cup. Beyond the numbers, her leadership shines through, honed during the 2023 and 2025 Women's Premier League where she guided Mumbai Indians to the title. As India's hopes rest on her shoulders, Harmanpreet embodies both the weight of experience and the hunger to script history for Indian women's cricket.

Formidable spin attack

India's spin attack for the upcoming series looks both dynamic and menacing, thanks to the quartet of Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, N. Sree Charani, and Radha Yadav. Deepti, with her calm demeanour and sharp off-spin, often dictates the rhythm of the innings, turning games with her clever variations.

Sensex jumps 250 points, Nifty above 24,500; BEL gains 1%

New Delhi.(Agency)
Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday, boosted by a rally in metal stocks on the weekly expiry day for Nifty. Rise in PSU banks and consumer durables also supported positive movement.The S&P BSE Sensex was up 299.85 points to 80,664.79, while the NSE Nifty50 added 71 points to 24,705.90 as of 9:24 am.Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the near-term market structure appears weak."Sustained FII selling and absence of positive triggers are preventing any strong recovery in the market. Any attempt to climb up is facing selling pressure. This is evident from the negative closing yesterday despite the positive institutional inflow of above Rs 1000 crores," he added.The top five gainers were Power Grid, which rose 1.82%, Asian Paints up 1.36%, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) up 0.94%, Titan gaining 0.85%, and HDFC Bank rising 0.75%.
The market also saw some early losers with ITC down 0.36%, Reliance Industries slipping 0.29%, Eternal down 0.14%, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) falling 0.12%, and Trent down 0.09%."Long-term investors can use this drift in the market to accumulate the potential winners of the medium to long-term. Priority can be given to segments which are seeing good demand and order inflows. Defence stocks are fairly valued given their robust order pipeline. High quality financials are attractively valued. PSU banks are cheap," said Vijaykumar.The Nifty Midcap100 gained 0.01% while Nifty Smallcap100 rose 0.02%, and India VIX climbed 1.09%.Among the sectoral indices, several showed positive momentum with Nifty PSU Bank leading at 1.27%, followed by Nifty Metal at 0.91%, Nifty Media at 0.84%, Nifty Private Bank at 0.30%, Nifty Financial Services at 0.15%, Nifty Auto at 0.07%, Nifty Oil & Gas at 0.07%, Nifty Healthcare at 0.07%, Nifty Pharma at 0.06%, and Nifty IT at 0.05%. Nifty Consumer Durables remained flat with no change.

All India Index Of Industrial Production Recorded A 4% YoY Growth In August 2025

NEW DELHI.(Agency)
India's industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), recorded a year-on-year growth of four per cent in August 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday. The growth in August came after the index had risen 3.5 per cent in July 2025. The Quick Estimates of IIP stood at 151.7 in August 2025, higher than 145.8 recorded in the same month last year."The index is compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from the producing factories/establishments. These Quick Estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP," the ministry said.Breaking down the August 2025 figures, the mining sector grew 6 per cent, manufacturing rose 3.8 per cent, and electricity generation increased 4.1 per cent. The indices for these three sectors stood at 113.5, 151.6 and 221.1, respectively.Within the manufacturing sector, 10 out of 23 industry groups reported positive growth compared to August 2024. The top three contributors were the manufacture of basic metals, which grew by 12.2 per cent; coke and refined petroleum products, which expanded by 5.4 per cent; and motor vehicles, trailers, and semi-trailers, which rose by 9.8 per cent.
In the basic metals industry, items such as mild steel slabs, hot-rolled coils and sheets, and steel pipes and tubes helped drive growth. In petroleum products, diesel, petrol and liquefied petroleum gas were the main contributors. In motor vehicles, auto components, axles and commercial vehicles played a major role in the increase.As per the use-based classification, primary goods recorded an index of 148.9, capital goods stood at 112.1, intermediate goods at 170.4, and infrastructure or construction goods at 200.8 in August 2025.

Only 4.3% of Central staff opt for UPS; unions seek more time for switch, says report

Kolkata.(Agency)
September 30 was the deadline to opt for Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), the pension scheme for Central government employees that was rolled out on April 1 this year but it has met with less than lukewarm response with only 4.34% of the employees opting for this pension structure that has provisions for a guaranteed pension for the employee as well as for the spouse after the death of the employee. Unions have sought more time for the employees to consider and join and reports indicate that the authorities are mulling the possibility of extending the deadline that expires on Tuesday.Multiple employee associations have already urged the cabinet secretary to grant an extension of the deadline by two months. According to reports, employee representatives met officials from different ministries and urged for deadline extension and late on the evening of September 29, officials from finance and other departments discussed the possibilities and probable outcomes of granting another extension. The first extension was allowed to nudge more employees to adopt this scheme, for which they had the time till June 30 to migrate.
Those working in remote areas
On September 25, the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery for Central government employees wrote to the cabinet secretary that a large number of employees could not migrate to UPS as they are working in remote areas, stated media reports.

Asian markets steady in cautious trade; China data and US shutdown risk keep investors on edge

China’s official manufacturing PMI for September slipped to 49.8, contracting for the sixth consecutive month, reflecting persistent strain on larger state-backed firms.

CHENNAI.(Agency)
Asian equities traded in a narrow range by late morning on Tuesday, as investors balanced weak economic signals from China with uncertainty over a possible US government shutdown. The MSCI Asia-Pacific index (excluding



Japan) was up around 0.3%, with most regional benchmarks posting small gains. Japan’s Nikkei 225 was flat to slightly higher, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng hovered near the previous close, and Shanghai’s Composite Index gained about 0.4% despite weak factory activity readings. China’s official manufacturing PMI for September slipped to 49.8, contracting for the sixth consecutive month, reflecting

persistent strain on larger state-backed firms. Meanwhile, a private services survey showed growth at 52.9, a slight moderation from August, with employment falling at its fastest pace in more than a year. Export demand offered some relief, but domestic weakness continued to weigh on sentiment. Commodity moves shaped market direction as well. Gold prices touched record highs,

New RBI proposals to make borrowing easier, tighten credit checks

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a series of amendments and draft proposals that could reshape borrowing, gold-based lending, capital raising by banks and credit information systems.Announced through seven directions and circulars on September 29, 2025, three of these changes will take effect from October 1, while four others have been released for public consultation until October 20, 2025One of the most important changes relates to how banks set interest rates on floating loans. Under current rules, banks can alter the spread over external benchmarks only once in three years, except for credit risk. This system often left borrowers locked into higher spreads even when market conditions improved.The new amendment allows banks to reduce spreads earlier, creating scope for borrowers to benefit sooner from favourable lending conditions. While banks were earlier required to

offer a fixed-rate option during resets of floating rate loans, they will now have greater discretion in providing this facility. The move is expected to



make retail loans, such as housing and auto loans, more borrower-friendly while giving banks room to adjust lending practices.
EASIER LOANS AGAINST GOLD AND SILVER
The RBI has also widened the scope for lending against gold and silver. At present, banks cannot finance purchases of primary gold or silver, though working capital loans are

allowed for jewellers. The amendment now extends this carve-out to borrowers using gold as raw material in manufacturing or industrial processes.In addition, Tier 3 and Tier 4 urban co-operative banks will also be permitted to extend working capital loans against gold, bringing smaller banks into the fold. This change is likely to benefit regional jewellers and small businesses engaged in gold-based manufacturing.
MORE FLEXIBILITY IN CAPITAL RAISING
To support banks in strengthening their balance sheets, the RBI has revised rules on issuing perpetual debt instruments (PDI) under Basel III. By raising the eligible limits on PDIs denominated in foreign currency or rupee bonds overseas, banks will gain more headroom to raise Tier 1 capital from international investors. This measure is expected to help banks diversify their funding sources and bolster capital adequacy.

Gold surges to record highs; safe-haven rush, rate cut bets drive momentum

CHENNAI.(Agency)
Gold prices extended their record-breaking rally on Tuesday morning, climbing to fresh all-time highs as global investors sought safety amid economic and policy uncertainties. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), December futures were trading close to Rs 1,17,700 per 10 grams, marking a new peak after a sharp rise of over 1 percent earlier in the day. In global markets, spot gold touched about \$3,867 per ounce, its highest level ever, supported by expectations of US monetary easing and heightened risk aversion.Key drivers of the gold price rally included: Safe-haven demand: Concerns over a possible US government shutdown, fragile Chinese factory activity, and volatile equity markets have boosted gold’s appeal as a hedge.Rate cut bets: Futures markets are pricing in likely U.S. Federal Reserve rate cuts in the

coming months, lowering the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold. Rupee weakness: The Indian rupee remains near record lows, making imported gold costlier and further lifting domestic prices.Gold’s sharp rise has been backed by strong volumes, confirming the momentum of the rally. Technical analysts note that the breakout above Rs 1,17,000 on MCX signals continuation of the bullish trend, with immediate resistance now shifting higher to around Rs 1,18,200. On the daily chart, RSI readings are in the overbought zone (above 70), reflecting strong bullish sentiment but also hinting at the risk of near-term consolidation.The yellow metal is trading well above its 50-day and 200-day moving averages, underlining long-term bullishness. The steep gap between current prices and these

averages, however, indicates an overextended trend. On MCX, the first support lies near Rs 1,16,800, followed by stronger support around Rs 1,15,900. A sustained break below these levels could trigger profit-taking.
Silver follows suit
Silver futures also moved higher, mirroring gold’s strength. Contracts on MCX advanced toward Rs 1,47,000 per kg, reflecting broad-based interest in precious metals amid safe-haven demand.
Market expectation
With record highs in place, gold’s trajectory remains upward in the medium term, supported by macroeconomic uncertainties, expectations of easier monetary policy, and currency weakness. However, traders caution that the sharp run-up has increased the risk of short-term pullbacks.

Will Post Office Savings Schemes like PPF and NSC witness a rate cut

New Delhi.(Agency)
Interest rates on popular Post Office savings schemes such as the Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana and Senior Citizens’ Savings Scheme may soon be revised. The Finance Ministry is scheduled to review the rates on September 30, 2025, and any decision taken will apply to the October–December 2025 quarter. For the past three quarters, the government has kept these rates unchanged, even though the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate three times this year. This has raised the possibility that a cut may now be considered.
REPO RATE CUTS PUT PRESSURE ON RETURNS
Since January, the RBI has brought down the repo rate by a total of 1%. It lowered the rate by 25 basis points each in February and April, and then by another 50 basis points in June. After these reductions, many banks cut interest rates on fixed deposits and even withdrew some high-interest special FDs.Despite this easing cycle, small savings schemes have held their ground so far. But with banks already lowering returns, many believe the government may now move to align Post Office schemes more closely with market trends.
LAST REVISION WAS IN EARLY 2024
The most recent change to Post Office interest rates came in the January–March quarter of the 2023–24 financial year. At that time, the government increased the Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana rate from 8% to 8.2% and raised the rate on three-year time deposits from 7% to 7.1%. All other schemes were left unchanged.Since then, there have been no revisions.
SHOULD YOU INVEST NOW?
Experts say the decision to invest should depend on the nature of the scheme. Products with a lock-in period, such as NSC and SCSS, offer rate protection once you invest. If the rate is cut later, your returns remain unchanged for the full tenure. For this reason, many feel investing before the review could be a wiser move if you want to lock in current rates. For schemes without a fixed lock-in, such as recurring deposits or savings accounts, returns are adjusted periodically. In such cases, timing matters less. Investors who need liquidity can divide their funds and wait for the next review.For now, the possibility of a rate cut cannot be ruled out. But whether the government chooses to act immediately or wait longer will depend not only on bond yields and monetary policy.

TCS shares slide as uncertainty grows over job cuts, staff report fluidity list

TCS stock has fallen 4.65% in the past five days and 6.72% in the past month. Over the past year, it has lost nearly a third of its value, with reports of large-scale layoffs creating fresh panic among employees.

New Delhi.(Agency)
IShares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have been under pressure in the past few sessions and hit a 52-week low of Rs 2,892 on September 26.TCS stock has fallen 4.65% in the past five days and 6.72% in the past month. Over the past year, it has lost nearly a third of its value, with reports of large-scale layoffs creating fresh panic among employees.The IT major’s market capitalisation stood at Rs 10.47 lakh crore on Monday. Investors have seen a loss of Rs 4.34 lakh crore this year alone, with the stock declining 29.58% since January. On

a one-year basis, TCS shares are down 33%.
PANIC OVER LAYOFFS
The latest reason for the sharp fall in sentiment comes from reports of widespread job cuts. Two months ago, TCS Chief Executive Officer K Krithivasan had told Moneycontrol that India’s largest IT services firm would cut 2% of its workforce, or around 12,000 jobs. However, employees and unions believe the actual number of layoffs is much higher.Moneycontrol reported that panic and uncertainty have gripped staff across levels amid sudden resignations and forced exits. Multiple sources told the publication that the number could be well above 30,000, although this has not been officially confirmed.
THE ‘FLUIDITY LIST’
Employees said that managers have been working with what is being called the “fluidity list” — a set of names marked for layoffs. According to affected staff, the list is not linked to employee performance, skills, or years of experience. Instead, it is often decided by individual managers, making the process

seem arbitrary.“This list is not based on grades, ratings, or skills but depends on individual Delivery Managers or senior managers naming people. Even employees with good ratings, in-demand skills, or employees who have cleared internal interviews are being included,” an employee named Vijay (name



changed) told Moneycontrol. Employees on the list are reportedly blocked from joining new projects even after clearing interviews. They are then contacted by HR, who give them two options within 30 days: resign voluntarily or face termination.Sources also claimed that project managers are instructed via back-channel emails not to consider

profiles of employees on the list. In some cases, clients are given alternative explanations, such as “employee is unwell” or “childcare issues,” when staff are actually removed due to downsizing. “This is pure mental harassment and a mockery of policies rather than a normal performance-based exit process,” Vijay alleged.While TCS insiders insist that “fluidity list” is not an official term, reports suggest the practice is widely being used.Earlier, CEO K Krithivasan had said layoffs were linked to a lack of opportunities for redeployment amid a skills gap, not because of efficiency gains from artificial intelligence. “This is driven by where there is a skill mismatch, or, where we think that we have not been able to deploy someone,”he told Moneycontrol in July.However, many employees argue the process does not align with the explanation given publicly.
MARKET OUTLOOK
The layoffs, combined with weak global demand, US H-1B visa fee hikes, the rapid rise of generative AI, and lacklustre earnings, have added to the negative outlook for the stock.



Jiya Shankar

Paints the Town Red and Fans Are Loving It: ‘Is This Lady For Real?’

Jiya Shankar, who rose to fame with her appearance on Bigg Boss OTT 2, has once again left her fans spellbound with her latest fashion moment. The actress took to her Instagram account on Sunday, September 28, and shared a series of breathtaking photos from a dreamy location. While the background itself was postcard-worthy, it was Jiya’s glamorous outfit that truly stole the show. The 30-year-old actress stepped out in a head-to-toe red ensemble that screamed elegance. She wore a fitted, sleeveless corset-style top paired with a flowing satin maxi skirt. While the fitted top accentuated her frame, the skirt added charm and grace to her look. Given the opulence of her outfit, Jiya ditched extravagant pieces of accessories. She paired the red outfit with delicate earrings, a classy wristwatch and carried a beige handbag. For makeup, she went for a bold yet sophisticated look, opting for smoky eyes, heavily blushed cheeks, and bold red lips, which perfectly complemented her overall appearance. She left her hair open in soft waves. The photos captured her various moods in the picturesque backdrop. In one set of pictures, she posed on a staircase with the sunset and ocean painting the perfect backdrop. In another set, she stood against a beautiful cityscape of white-walled buildings. Jiya playfully wrote in the caption, “Opaaaa!” followed by a red heart emoji. She used AP Dhillon’s song Wo Noor as the background score for the post. **Jiya Shankar’s Fans Can’t Stop Gushing Over Her Look** In no time, Jiya Shankar’s fans took to the comments section of the post, gushing over her latest pictures. One of her fans said, “Is this lady for real???” Another added, “You look gorgeous and beautiful.” “Uffffff this look”, a different fan wrote. Someone else penned, “Woahhhhhhhh you slayed!” Meanwhile, the majority of her fans dropped red heart emojis.



Salman Khan Refused To Do A Show Until Co-Stars Received Full Payments, Reveals Sheeba Akashdeep



Salman Khan is one of the most loved and biggest actors in the Indian film industry, and is lovingly called Bhaijaan. He never backs down when it comes to helping the people he is working with. Sheeba Akashdeep, in a recent interview, talked about how he helped her get paid for a show that they were supposed to do together. While speaking to Filmigyan, Sheeba recalled how Salman Khan took charge and made sure that everyone, along with him, got their payment on time. The actress shared, “I remember an incident when I, along with a few other girls, was doing a show with Salman Khan, and we hadn’t received our money till the very end. Backstage, we were discussing it, and Salman came and asked us, ‘What happened? What are you guys discussing?’ We told him, ‘Yaar, ab tak paise nahi mile hain,’ and Salman, who had already received his payment, called the organiser and asked them to clear our payments, or else he would not go on stage.” Earlier, in a conversation with Pinkvilla, she recalled how Salman Khan helped her take the biggest decision of her life and said, “I was very good friends with him (Salman Khan). In fact, when I took Akash to meet him and said, ‘This is the guy I want to marry,’ he was very happy for me.” The actress added, “So he (Salman) said, ‘Itna acha hai and it’s okay. You’ve tried your best and your husband tried to make Rangeela for you, Miss 420, nahi hua na (It didn’t work). Abhi kar le chup chaap shaadi’ (Now just go ahead and quietly get married).” She continued, “So that was very sound advice. I was extremely young, but it was the perfect advice because how much can you push that cart uphill?” On the work front, Salman Khan will next be seen in the war drama The Battle of Galwan. Directed by Apoorva Lakshia, the film revisits the harrowing 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops—a rare border skirmish that turned deadly without any firearms being used. Instead, soldiers resorted to hand-to-hand combat with sticks and stones, making it one of the most emotionally charged stories in recent Indian history.

Bigg Boss 19: Gauahar Khan Guides Awez Darbar on Gameplay: ‘Make Your Point, Win the Game’



Fans wait the whole week to watch the Bigg Boss 19’s Weekend Ka Vaar, which is filled with pure drama, entertainment and eviction. Last week, they were expecting an eviction, and it was none other than Awez Darbar. Yes, you read that right! After the evictions of his partner Nagma Mirajkar and Natalia Janoszek, the buzz around his eviction reached new heights. But do you know the real story behind it? Sources reveal that family intervention and strategic moves played a key role in keeping him in the game. In 1996, he relocated to Netaji Nagar, Kolkata, to continue building his career in the entertainment industry. Salman Khan, known for his signature blend of scathing counsel and humorous comments, said, “I can only help if you can help yourself. For the entire week you did not speak for yourself, likewise I won’t speak either.” But it was Awez’s sister-in-law, Gauahar Khan, who appeared on Weekend Ka Vaar to encourage him and made sharp observations about his attitude. Awez Darbar couldn’t be more grateful for her support. (For those unaware, Awez is Gauahar’s brother-in-law, being the sibling of her husband, Zaid Darbar.)

Gauahar Khan Encourages Awez Darbar After making a striking entry, the Bigg Boss 7 winner and actress Gauahar Khan addressed Awez directly and said, “Awez, I love you. Apni awaaz uthao, we are waiting. Waha sab wait kar rahe hain. The family is extremely proud of you. But bohot se aise log hain jo dusr ke muddon pe bhi baat karte hain aur jhagra shuru kar dete hain, just because they know. Agar aap sochte hain ki apki acchhai aap dil mein rakhke log apko jeeta denge, Awez, ye nahi hone wala.” To this, Awez responded, “I understand.” Gauahar added, “Aapko kuch cheez buri lag rahi hai toh aap boliye. You know, on a sports field sab darte hain aap ke saath khelne ke liye, kyuki aap itne fighesty aur honest competitor hain. Aur jab aap task karte hain, toh wo hume dikta hai.” Salman Khan chimed in, “Khel rahe ho toh backfoot se khelo yaar. Itni lambi laath maro ki uss goal tak ball chale jaye.” Gauhar agreed. Salman further added, “I am just saying ki tameez ke daire mein bhi toh you can take a stand na?” Gauhar replied, “Bilkul, tameez ke daire pe bohot kuch bola ja sakta hai. But make your point.”

Avika Gor’s

Mehendi Design Celebrates Not Just Love, But Family Bonds Too

Avika Gor and her longtime boyfriend, Milind Chandwani’s wedding ceremonies have already kick-started with a haldi function on the set of the Colors TV reality show Pati Patni Aur Panga. Recently, glimpses from their Mehendi ceremony are painting the town red. From the diva’s look to their cutesy dance, the lovebirds are indeed



enjoying their pre-wedding moment. In a video posted on Instagram from Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani’s traditional pre-wedding ritual, we can spot Bollywood’s popular mehendi artist Veena Nagda adorning her hands with intricate patterns and beautiful designs. Additionally, it was the bride-to-be’s fiancé, who won many hearts by patiently being seated with his ladylove all the while she was getting her mehendi done.

Avika Gor Writes In-Laws’ Names On Her Mehendi The lovebirds opted for colourful ensembles for their mehendi ceremony. Avika looked stunning in a multi-coloured panel lehenga choli, which she paired with pretty accessories. On the other hand, Milind complimented his bride-to-be in a wrap jacket outfit with a Rajasthani turban and a white dhoti. But what gained everyone’s attention was the diva’s touching gesture for her in-laws. In one of the videos shared by the mehendi artist on Instagram, we can spot the actress flaunting her mehendi-clad hands to the lens. Later, she revealed to the paps that her mehendi design not only included the name of her fiancé but also the names of her in-laws, leaving everyone excited. She revealed that one of her hands features the names of her in-laws, while the other one also includes a special mention about her family members, which shows her love and respect for everyone. **Avika Gor And Milind Chandwani’s Dance During The Mehendi Night** The duo even grooved a bit during their mehendi ceremony to add a touch of glamour to the pre-wedding event. In a video, the to-be-married duo was seen performing a dance sequence serving pure goals for many other couples.





One needs to have a definite sleep schedule. This involves timeliness and the recommended slot spans from 10 pm to 7 am. Seven hours minimum.

Oversleeping on weekends cannot compensate for lack of sleep on weekdays. It won't reverse the damage, nor will afternoon naps. A mid-day snooze must end by 4 pm so that nighttime sleep pattern isn't affected. Keep your mind clutter-free. All of life's important decisions and analysis can wait till the next morning. Don't use your pre-slumber moments to stress about work. Jot down all important tasks for the next day in your diary or on a piece of paper, to keep your mind at ease. You should have a gadget cut-off time. Switch off the TV latest by ten. No matter how tempting, do not message, call or surf social networking sites after 10. Your mind needs time to switch off. Give it a break. Caffeine, alcohol and nicotine hamper a good night's rest. If you have to consume them, give a gap of at least an hour and a half between your last drink/smoke/coffee before bedtime. Opt for comforting rituals like a warm bath, a foot soak that soothe your senses. If all fails and you still have trouble sleeping, try

including a physical exercise into your daily schedule: jogging, yoga exercises or a music and dance class during the day. Always sleep on your back so that your face is not compressed by anything. For those who cannot conquer this for habitual reasons, opt for bedsheets and pillow covers in silk. Silk has the amazing ability to keep us cool when it's warm; and make us feel warm when it's cold outside. This leads to a more relaxing and rejuvenating sleep. Avoid snacking before bedtime, particularly on grains and sugars. They raise blood sugar levels and interfere with your sleep. They also keep your digestive system active, preventing you from falling asleep with ease. Avoid using loud alarm clocks to wake yourself up. If you need a clock to give you a wake-up call, opt for one with a light, soothing tune. It should be just loud enough to wake you up! If you're used to reading before you go to bed, make sure it's pleasurable and slow-paced. Try not to read anything over-

10 tips for

Beauty Sleep

stimulating, such as a mystery or suspense novel, as you may find yourself engrossed for hours, taking away a lot of your sleep time. It is good to sleep in complete darkness. But if

you're living in a lively city, it may be difficult to block out every stream of light using curtains, blinds or drapes. In such cases, opt for an eye mask to block out the remaining light.



5 beauty benefits of Sesame oil



Apart from its culinary use, sesame oil, extracted from sesame seeds, has several health benefits and is even popular in alternative medicine. Here are some of its beauty benefits.

Natural sunscreen: If you didn't get a chance to buy a new sunscreen before heading for a vacation, just carry a bottle of sesame oil. Applying it prevents sun tan.
Heals skin: Applying sesame oil on cuts and wounds helps heal them faster since the oil contains antibacterial properties. Due to its good anti-inflammatory properties, it also helps in curing several skin conditions like psoriasis and eczema.
Helps moisturise: The oil contains essential fatty acids like palmitic, oleic, linoleic, and stearic acid that makes it a good moisturizer. Apply it on a regular basis to keep your skin soft and smooth. You can also add it to your bathing water as it can help treat cracked heels and dry knees and elbows.
Delays ageing: Wanna look younger? Add sesame oil to your diet. Containing antioxidants, vitamin E and sesamol, which help prevent radical damage, sesame oil

helps hold back the ageing process of your skin. Improves circulation: Since it has high viscosity, the oil can seep deep into the skin and nourish it from within. If you want glowing skin, opt for regular sesame oil massage that will improve blood circulation and repair damaged skin cells.



Here's how to wear this trend
Choose the right shade
The perfect way to sport red lips is by choosing the right colour. If you have fair skin, you can opt for a candy-apple red that will suit your complexion. However if you are wheatish or dark, you can always go for shades with maroon or purple tones in it.
Opt for the right formula
However only selecting the right shade won't be enough. You also need to choose the right formula so that it suits you. If you want your lipstick to last longer, choose a matte red lipstick. For a more modern look, try using a glossy red lipstick



instead. They add a sophisticated touch to your lips. Further if you do not wish to go for a matte or a glossy lipstick, use a tinted one that will protect your lips as well as also add colour.

lips pop and also look brighter. With a small brush apply a little concealer on the outside of your lips. Gently blend the outer edge of the line for a natural look. This will help draw attention to your lips and will blend in

How to sport red

Lips

with the natural tone of your skin.
Add the lip liner: Once you are done highlighting your lip line, use a lip liner of the same shade or a shade lighter and outline your lips.
Fill in the colour: After you are done outlining your lips, pick the shade that you choose to wear and apply it evenly on your lips.



Experts suggest smoothening over straightening to re-texture your unruly locks. Find out why
Straightening hair is often our last resort or probably the first remedy to rectify frizzy and fuzzy hair. While a few do this to tame their hair, a majority get their hair straightened to sport a trendy look. But does straightening give your hair a fake texture? Is smoothening hair a better option than straightening?
"Smoothening is always a better option than straightening. Smoothening makes hair look natural soft, unlike the results from straightening that can give the

Hair Smoothening better than straightening?

hair pin-straight tips, which contributes a fake look," says Theertha Sasidharan, a beauty expert. Hair stylists can sweep your wavy or curly hair into straight, soft and shiny strands, all with the iron rod and chemicals. "Most of my customers prefer to have a naturally straight hair, which is why we advise smoothening, though the process and duration of the result are the same," says beauty expert Beena. However, Beena warns that the effects of smoothening are better when it is done on thin hair, than thick locks. Though most of them walk in to get their hair straightened, when informed about the end-results of smoothening, they would not hesitate to experiment and invest in smoothening. For extremely curly hair, she suggests straightening therapy. "This of course is similar to straightening, but the product used is different," she adds.