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## BJP hits back at Rahul Gandhi, says his 'vote chori hydrogen bomb' is a damp squib

**Ravi Shankar Prasad accuses Congress leader of demeaning his LoP post, says Gandhi's claim shows arrogance.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
The BJP on Monday mocked Rahul Gandhi's claim that he will soon come out with a "hydrogen bomb" as part of his "vote chori" charge, saying that his "atom bomb" had turned out to be a damp squib, and accused him of demeaning his position of the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha with irresponsible comments.

Taking on Gandhi, whose Vote Adhikar Yatra concluded in Patna, for his barbs at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress leader and his party have a history of "abusing" Modi. But people, he added, have repeatedly rejected Gandhi and reposed faith in the prime minister. By alleging fraud

and deceit behind the BJP's victories under Modi's leadership, the Congress leader has been insulting voters, he said. "This is arrogance and we will tell voters to punish him for his arrogance," he said.

The former Union minister took repeated jabs at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as well for playing "second fiddle" to Gandhi in Bihar despite the Congress lacking a political base in the state. Yadav has claims over the chief minister's chair but has ceded the front seat to Gandhi, he added. The Yatra, he asserted, will have no impact on the Bihar assembly polls, expected to be held in October-November. Defending the ongoing Special Intensive Review of electoral rolls in



the state, Prasad claimed that the opposition's campaign against it is solely driven by two reasons. Opposition leaders want "right and might to capture booths" and that infiltrators should be allowed to vote, he said, recalling the state's history of poll violence and incidents of booth-capturing. Gandhi's campaign, he asserted, is born out of his frustration over the Congress' repeated poll defeats, and if he carries on with a similar conduct, then his party will suffer an even worse fate.

The BJP leader noted that the ruling party suffered setbacks in states like

Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections due to the opposition's "false" campaign that the Modi government would change the Constitution if it were re-elected. However, people soon realised the truth and voted the BJP to record wins in Haryana and Maharashtra, he added, asserting that the ruling alliance will notch up a similar victory in Bihar.

The SIR removed from electoral rolls 22 lakh dead voters and eight lakh duplicate voters, he said, wondering if their names should have been allowed on the voters' list.

The BJP's sharp attack on Gandhi and his allies came after he said his party will soon come out with a "hydrogen bomb" of revelations about "vote chori" and that Modi will not be able to show his face to the country afterwards.

"We will not let them (BJP) murder the Constitution and that is why we took out a yatra. We got a tremendous response. People came out in large numbers and raised the slogan 'vote chori gaddi chhor'," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said. Gandhi had called his allegations about the electoral roll irregularities in the Mahadevapura assembly segment in Karnataka's Bangalore central Lok Sabha seat an "atom bomb". Hitting back, Prasad said Gandhi's so-called atom bomb was not even like the Diwali firecracker that does not go off. "One really has to try hard to understand what he means in his speeches in and outside.

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

New Delhi, September 2, 2025

The Delhi Government is taking decisive steps to make the national capital the most event-friendly city in the country. In this direction, today Delhi's Minister of Tourism and Art, Culture & Languages, Kapil Mishra, met Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya at his residence and discussed several important matters. Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, along with senior representatives from the Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), were also present in the meeting.

In line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, extensive deliberations were held on how Delhi can be developed as the leader of the



Concert Economy and how the city can be fully prepared for hosting major international and national events. The objective of the meeting was to establish Delhi as the largest hub for cultural activities and live entertainment.

Special focus was given to reducing rental charges and simplifying the event hosting processes at key stadiums, including Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. During the meeting, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that "We are committed to making Delhi a global hub for live events and entertainment. By easing proce-

dures and offering stadium rentals at concessional rates, we aim to create a vibrant cultural atmosphere that benefits both artists and audiences." He further added, "Even if I attend an event myself, I will buy a ticket—this is the true respect we can give to art and artists." The Union Minister also announced that the annual event calendar will be displayed on the Sports Authority of India (SAI) websites, enabling organizers to access advance information and convenience.

Delhi's Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra presented the roadmap for taking this initiative forward. He said, "Our goal is to transform the national capital into a Global Event Hub."

This initiative will not only boost tourism and employment but also elevate Delhi's identity to new international heights, positioning the city as the 'Global Live Entertainment Capital.'"

## "Those Pointing Fingers...": Oil Minister On Trump Aide's "India Laundromat" Remark

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has dismissed White House trade adviser Peter Navarro's 'laundromat' remark, asserting that India has not violated any rules in purchasing Russian oil and its energy trade since the Ukraine war has helped stabilise global markets and keep prices in check. In a signed article for The Hindu, Mr Puri reject-

ed claims of profiteering, saying India has long been the world's fourth-largest exporter of petroleum products, well before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and its export volumes and margins have remained broadly the same.

"Some critics allege that India has become a 'laundromat' for Russian



oil. Nothing could be further from the truth," he

wrote without directly naming Mr Navarro. India's imports of Russian oil soared from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of total crude intake after the Ukraine war, driven by steep discounts as Western nations cut purchases to penalise Moscow. While the move ensured cheaper energy for India, it drew

criticism from the Donald Trump administration, which accused New Delhi of profiteering by refining and exporting Russian crude, including to Europe. Last week, Mr Navarro, in a series of posts on X, labelled the Russia-Ukraine war as "Modi's war" and accused New Delhi of funding Russian President Vladimir Putin's "war machine".

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Another sign of discord appears to be brewing within the AIADMK, with senior leader KA Sengottaiyan set to hold a meeting with his close followers on September 5. Sengottaiyan told them that he would speak his mind publicly on Friday, fuelling speculation about a potential fresh rift in the party. According to sources, Sengottaiyan has been advocating for a unified

AIADMK and is said to be in favour of bringing back VK Sasikala, the expelled former interim general secretary, into the party fold. His position is seen as a challenge to the current leadership of Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), who has firmly ruled out any reconciliation with Sasikala. Sengottaiyan, a senior leader and former minister, had earlier shown signs of dissent within the party. He had travelled to

New Delhi at a time when speculation was rife about internal differences in the AIADMK, though his open defiance quietened down after EPS held a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. In February 2025, he abstained from attending a function held to felicitate EPS, citing the absence of images of AIADMK stalwarts MG Ramachandran (MGR) and J Jayalalithaa on the event banners.

## Senior AIADMK leader jolts EPS camp, calls for party unity with Sasikala's return

## CM Rekha Gupta Meets Flood Victims

**The Sikh Times**  
**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, 2 September 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday inspected the flood relief camp near Geeta Colony Flyover and the Old Iron Bridge to review the Yamuna's water level and the condition of affected areas. She met families staying in relief camps, listened to their concerns, and assured them of all possible assistance. The Chief Minister emphasised that the government is maintaining round-the-clock vigilance and that departments concerned are working tirelessly to mitigate the impact. She reassured citizens that there is no need to panic.

The Chief Minister spent significant time in the affected localities and received detailed briefings from officials. She instructed authorities engaged in relief operations to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential items such as clean drinking water, food, medical aid, and safe accommodation. She underlined that the safety, health, and well-being of residents in flood-hit regions remain the government's top priority.

The Chief Minister said that the situation in the capital is currently under control. She informed that the maximum water released from the Hathnikund Barrage will reach Delhi by this evening. She added that this time, departments had already made extensive preparations in advance. The desilting of the Yamuna and city drains over the past six months, she said, had already shown significant results. All barrage gates along the Yamuna are open, ensuring no waterlogging. The river is flowing freely, with water moving downstream as swiftly as it enters. To manage the flow, most barricades on city-side drains have been closed. Based on current data, she clarified, water levels are not expected to surpass past records.

The Chief Minister explained that water entering the Yamuna floodplains is natural, as it is the river's designated course, and reassured that there is no risk of flooding in outer areas. She reaffirmed the government's full commitment to the safety of Delhi's residents, noting that officials are submitting hourly updates. Mrs Rekha Gupta assured that continuous monitoring and relief operations would remain in place for as long as the floodwaters persist. She appealed to residents to cooperate with the administration and follow the safety guidelines issued by the government.



## Nation's mothers insulted: PM tears into RJD-Congress over abuse to dead mother

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday laid into the RJD and the Congress over expletive-laden chants directed at him and his late mother at a recent rally in Bihar. Describing the abuses as an affront to women across the country, PM Modi said that it was "unimaginable" that his dead mother would be insulted like this from a political stage.

"Mother is our world. Mother is our self-respect. I had not even imagined what happened a few days ago in this tradition-rich Bihar. My mother was abused from the stage of RJD-Congress in Bihar," Modi said while addressing a public programme.



"These abuses are not just an insult to my mother. These are insults to the mothers, sisters and daughters of the country. I know how bad all of you, every mother of Bihar, felt after seeing and hearing this. I know, as much pain as I have in my heart, the peo-

ple of Bihar are also in the same pain," he added. Modi questioned why his mother, who had no connection with politics, was dragged into partisan attacks. "My mother had nothing to do with politics, so why was she abused by the RJD and Congress?" he

asked. The Prime Minister alleged that those who hurl such abuses reveal a mindset that considers women weak. He said the incident that occurred during Congress' 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar, had insulted not just him but every woman in the country. Speaking at the launch of a new cooperative initiative to promote entrepreneurship among rural women associated with self-help groups, Modi said the NDA government in Bihar has consistently prioritised women's empowerment. "This new cooperative will become a strong platform for the daughters and sisters of Bihar to move forward," he said.

## KCR suspends daughter K Kavitha from BRS over remarks against party

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday suspended its MLC K Kavitha from the party with immediate effect. The decision was taken by her father, former Telangana Chief Minister, and Party President K Chandrababai Naidu, who cited her recent comments and activities that went against the policies and principles of the party as the reason for disciplinary action. Kavitha's suspension marks a major development within the BRS, coming at a time when the party is already navigating internal chal-

lenges. Only a day before her suspension, she sparked a storm within BRS by openly blaming party colleagues for damaging KCR's image. She accused senior leader T Harish Rao and ex-MP Megha Krishna Reddy of attaching a "corruption tag" to her father, and alleged conspiracies by Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar to sideline her. On August 22, Kavitha was abruptly removed as honorary president of the Telangana Boggu Ghani

Karmika Sangham (TBGKS) while she was



abroad. She accused party insiders of plotting against her and said her ouster was politically motivated.

She alleged that the election was politically motivated, conducted at the party office without her knowledge, and potentially in violation of labour laws. "A grudge was held against me for simply questioning the party's internal functioning," she said, directly blaming conspirators within the organisation. She pointed to a leaked letter she had written to her father and party president after the BRS's silver jubilee meeting as a trigger for the hostility against her.

## Maratha Reservation Protest Disrupts Cargo Movement Across Maharashtra

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

The ongoing Maratha protest has brought cargo movement across Maharashtra to a grinding halt, with all major connectivity routes to South Mumbai—including Atal Setu, Navi Mumbai routes, Panvel, and the Eastern Freeway—completely shut for heavy vehicles and ODC consignments, the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) said in a release on Monday.

According to the AIMTC, exporters, importers, and project cargo operators are facing massive losses as time-bound shipments are stranded en route to Mumbai Port. One such critical example is heavy equipment machinery bound for the vessel Jabel Ali Nine, scheduled to sail tomorrow morning. The machinery must reach the port this evening, but loaded vehicles have been denied access. If the shipment misses the sailing, it will invite heavy penalties, contract cancellations, and a severe blow to India's credibility in global markets.

"This is not a single case—hundreds of consignments are stranded. Export-import cargo worth thousands of crores, critical for infrastructure and development projects, is being delayed. Idle containers, demurrage, detention charges, and penalties are mounting, while drivers are left stranded without basic amenities. This situation is leading to financial disas-

ter, mental stress, and harassment of operators," Bal Malkit Singh, former president and advisor, AIMTC, said.

He further warned, "If urgent corrective measures are not taken, the situation will result in global reputational damage to Maharashtra and India, as shipments are being missed and contracts cancelled. While we respect the right to protest, essential cargo and export-import consignments must not be brought to a standstill."

The All India Motor Transport Congress has urged Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra



Fadnavis and the State Transport authorities to grant immediate special permissions with police escort facilities for the movement of export-import cargo vehicles and to create a dedicated emergency corridor to ensure smooth operations during such disruptions, added the AIMTC release.

Mumbai's Azad Maidan has been witnessing a large number of people from the Maratha community protesting to press their demands for 10 per cent OBC reservation in government jobs and colleges.



# Work on Shankar Chowk subway on its last leg, launch by month end

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
Work on the subway at the city's busy junction, Shankar Chowk on NH 8, has entered its final stage, with finishing touches underway. The agency aims to complete the project by the end of Sept. The 100m-long structure, built nearly 7m underground, is designed to provide safe passage for the thousands of pedestrians who cross the junction daily.

According to officials from the construction agency, one staircase is already complete, while work on the other side is ongoing. Plastering inside the subway has begun, and lighting along with other electrical components are being procured so far. The project, estimated at Rs 25 crore, is being developed by the DLF Foundation under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. In addition to lifts, modern lighting, and safety features, the subway will include escalators to ensure smooth pedestrian movement. "We have started finishing work, but the ongoing monsoon has hindered progress, which may slow down the pace. However, we are making every effort to complete the work by the end of Sept. Both sides will have lifts, and escalators are also being added to handle heavy footfall," said an official. Once



operational, the facility will connect the National Media Centre on one end with DLF Downtown on the other. With daily pedestrian traffic estimated at 20,000-25,000, the subway will help commuters avoid the risks associated with crossing the heavily congested highway.

According to the traffic police's engineering department, over 1,000 pedestrians cross the road, and 4,000 vehicles pass through the area within 15 minutes during rush hours. Shankar Chowk remains one of the city's busiest junctions, surrounded by office complexes in Cyber City, DLF Downtown, Udyog Vihar, and the Rapid Metro station. For years, pedestrians have faced

difficulties crossing the highway, especially during peak office hours. The plan to build the subway was under discussion since 2017 and was finally approved in 2022. Data from the district road safety committee shows that 39 accidents were reported at the Shankar chowk between 2017 and 2022, resulting in 17 fatalities, including four pedestrians. In Nov 2023, a 22-year-old woman was fatally run over by a speeding vehicle while attempting to cross the highway. Construction began in Feb 2023 with an initial target of completing it within 12 months. However, the project faced several challenges, including resistance from a nearby residential society over

the proposed entrance location, which stalled construction for months.

Additionally, shifting underground utilities such as

gas pipelines and sewer lines, along with delays in obtaining the necessary permissions for tree felling and traffic diversions.

## 15 years on, road riddled with craters, Gurgaon Sector 65 residents seek proper condo link

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
Residents of Emerald Hills in Sector 65 have raised serious concerns over lack of a proper connecting road to their colony, despite approvals granted more than 15 years ago. In a letter addressed to senior town planner, department of town & country planning (DTCP), residents highlighted that the 24m wide road — proposed in the approved layout plan under licence number 10 of 2009 and licence number 113 of 2011 — has not yet been constructed.

The society, which already obtained its occupation certificate (OC), continues to suffer from poor access roads marked by potholes, uneven surfaces, and lack of paving. Last week, Haryana industries and commerce minister Rao

Narbir Singh ordered that builders in Gurgaon will not be granted OCs unless they complete the approach roads promised to homebuyers, following mounting complaints about developers neglecting essential infrastructure.

"The condition of the road causes inconvenience to school-going children, working professionals, and especially emergency services like ambulances and fire brigades," the residents wrote. They also highlighted the difficulties faced by delivery vehicles and waste management services due to the absence of a functional road. Demanding immediate action, including the construction of the connecting roads, installation of drainage and street lighting.

## Soon, bird census with drones, cams at Sultanpur park in Haryana

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
Sultanpur National Park is gearing up for a bird census next month just when migratory species begin arriving. From capturing elusive flocks, detecting rare species, tracking arrivals and departures in near real-time, to spotting habitat stress or environmental threats early — this isn't routine counting. It builds on shifting migration trends. The plan is to deploy cameras on all watch towers and launch drones across the sanctuary. Haryana Wildlife Department will use this gear to sharpen its bird counts. The park draws over 250 bird species, including more than 100 migratory ones, making it a hotspot in the winter months. Past bird counts at Sultanpur were limited as they were short, often just a day or a few hours.

This new approach is different: With continuous data collection, drones and cameras will allow experts to map changes over weeks instead of relying on snapshots. Combining cameras on existing watch towers (four of them, strategically placed to cover land and water zones) with drone surveillance will deliver a fuller, more precise census. Chief conservator of Wildlife for south Haryana Subhash Yadav said, "There is no detailed census so far. Every census is for a few hours or a day. It hardly tells us

anything. This census is aimed at population, species count and migration pattern." "This isn't about watching birds quietly. It's about recording their story with accuracy. Cameras and drones don't blink. They capture patterns and changes we might miss," Yadav added. Bird expert Pankaj Gupta, who led the Big Bird Day at Sultanpur, said, "This is a good initiative, but the area needs to be expanded to Chandu as well to understand the migration pattern of birds more precisely. The park's mix of water and forest draws species year after year. Tech can help us understand if there are any migration pattern changes and act before it's too late." With the Oct census, the aim will be to track year-on-year shifts in species and numbers — flagging rare or threatened species, like pintails, bar-headed geese, spoonbills, storks, or eagles, fast; and fine-tuning habitat management, water levels, vegetation and visitor zones. In the 2025 Asian Waterbird Census, about 2,593 migratory birds from 48 species were recorded. That's a bit lower than 2024's 2,686 individuals and 43 species but way down from 2023 — 9,026 birds and 51 species logged. Experts say delayed monsoons, late winters, shrinking wetlands and human disruption are throwing off bird migration patterns.

# Thousands trapped in Gurgaon traffic on Delhi-Jaipur expressway amid heavy rains

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
Gurgaon witnessed severe traffic chaos on Monday as waterlogged roads and vehicle breakdowns left commuters stranded across the city. The traffic police helpline received around 200 distress calls till 7.30 pm, with residents seeking help to move stalled vehicles, report breakdowns, and find less congested routes. Major traffic congestion was reported on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway (NH-48) near Rajiv Chowk, where a water pump was deployed to drain the flooded road. Also read: 'Gurgaon has collapsed': Hours-long jams force commuters to book hotels; rains trigger citywide chaos Traffic was also significantly affected at Narsinghpur, Hero Honda Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, and near Kherki Daula toll plaza. The footage captures the night-time gridlock, with an unbroken line of cars stuck in traffic, their red and white



headlights stretching far into the distance. The downpour submerged several areas under two to three feet of water and triggered a 4km traffic jam from Hero Honda Chowk to Narsinghpur. Other bottlenecks included Khushal Chowk, Mahavir Chowk bus stand (where an underpass was inundated), Gurgaon Railway Station Road, Sheela Mata Temple Road, Airforce Station, Agrasen Chowk, Bhondsi Road, Vatika Chowk, Tulip Chowk, Malibu Town, Bilaspur, Signature Tower, CRP Chowk, Subash Chowk, Golf Course Road, and near Galleria Market

in DLF Phase-4. A bus near Jharsa on the Jaipur-Delhi Expressway added to commuters' woes, while bikes and cars were removed by traffic police with the help of cranes and manual assistance. Commuters expressed frustration at the prolonged delays. Sunidhi Sharma, stuck on NH-48, said, "Usually it takes me around 20 minutes to reach Shankar Chowk from Atlas Chowk, but today it took me around 90 minutes. The roads are broken, there are multiple bottlenecks, and authorities work only on paper. Nothing

changes." Similarly, IT professional Niharika Singh said, "What usually takes 20 minutes from my office in Cyber City to home in Sector 14 took one-and-a-half hours today. The entire expressway was packed, and traffic was crawling." DCP Traffic Rajesh Mohan said authorities deployed traffic personnel at over 100 waterlogging points, with 23 critical points managed closely. "Traffic police coordinated with relevant departments to drain water from flooded areas and ensure smooth movement. Vehicles stuck or broken down on the road were moved to safe locations using cranes and manual assistance," he added. The city's traffic woes underscore the recurring challenges Gurgaon faces during even brief spells of rain, exposing weaknesses in infrastructure and road maintenance despite repeated warnings from residents.

## How ex-shop worker in Punjab became financial adviser in Laos digital arrest scam

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
It was the web of "easy profits". The arrest of a 22-year-old college dropout from Ludhiana's New Vijay Nagar has exposed how entire highrises in Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone — located along Mekong river in Laos — have been converted into scam factories. After Gurgaon cyber police apprehended the Laos-based scammer — Shiva alias Harsh — officials say over 50,000 Indians are allegedly trapped, alongside hundreds of other foreign nationals, under the control of Chinese cybercrime syndicates. The arrest of Shiva — who worked as an investment adviser and scammed innocent victims in India — has provided investigators with rare insight into the inner workings of these scam compounds, which house 200-300 buildings. One such case surfaced in May this year, when a Gurgaon resident complained that he was trapped

by such a scam. Based on this complaint, a case was registered at Cyber West police station, leading to Shiva's eventual arrest. Police say Shiva, who had left India a year ago, operated from one such building, a 20-storey tower in Laos, where on the fourth floor he shared space with about 50 other Indian recruits and 30 African nationals. Over them stood six Chinese "bosses," one known only by the codename Shin K, who coordinated operations and handled siphoned money. Shiva's role was what insiders call "typing jobs".

His job was to pose as a social media investment adviser on WhatsApp and Telegram groups, luring victims with promises of easy profits. Once a person was drawn in, the scam escalated. According to ACP (Cyber) Priyanshu Dewan, the frauds followed two broad patterns. "In the first type, victims are added to investment

groups and offered guidance in trading. In the second, they are befriended through fake profiles — often women — who claim they are living a successful life through investments. 'Iski vajhe se abhi main ameer hun (I am rich due to these investments)', victims are told. Once the victim takes the bait, they are directed to the handlers who drain their money through mule accounts and eventually into cryptocurrencies," Dewan said. Each worker was expected to target 12-13 people daily, of which at least two to three would fall prey. For this, Shiva was paid \$100 a month, plus incentives based on the number of successful traps. "Their living conditions were minimal. However, the lifestyle is mostly Chinese — with a nightlife, parties and eateries," investigators said. Before entering the underworld of cybercrime, Shiva's life was ordinary.

## 100mm in five hours: Day after season's heaviest rainfall, orange alert in Gurgaon

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
A heavy spell of monsoon rainfall pounded the city on Monday, prompting the Met department to issue safety warnings as more intense showers are forecast for the region. The district disaster management authority (DDMA), headed by the deputy commissioner, recorded 100mm of rainfall between 3pm and 8pm on Monday. India Meteorological Department (IMD) data showed the city's average rainfall at 42mm till 5.30pm, with much of the heavy showers witnessed thereafter. Going by DDMA's data, Monday's deluge is set to make Sept 1 the wettest single day of this monsoon season. In Aug, the city recorded total average rainfall at 230mm. Even the July 9 downpour — which caused traffic chaos and claimed at least five lives due to electrocution and drowning — had recorded 51mm. Following Monday's red alert, the Met department issued an orange alert for 'heavy to very heavy rainfall' across the region on Tuesday. Locally, Wazirabad bore the maximum brunt of heavy rain, at 85mm. Kadipur and Harsaru each logged 80mm. Areas such as Badshapur (25mm), Sohna (23mm), Manesar (22mm),

Pataudi (13mm) and Farrukhnagar (10mm) received relatively lighter showers, according to IMD data. The Monday afternoon downpour also marked a sharp spike in intensity — district-wide rainfall had averaged merely 3.8mm the previous day. To put this in perspective, the city typically receives just 10-15mm of rain



in a day during monsoon, making Monday's average (till 5.30pm) nearly three to four times higher than normal. Meteorologists attributed heavy rainfall to a "rare and intense two-system interaction". "The monsoon trough is converging with an active western disturbance. Together, these systems are driving relentless rain across the Himalayan belt, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, while also impacting Haryana and Punjab. This overlap amplifies moisture buildup and wind patterns, creating unstable conditions

that trigger heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides," an IMD official explained. With an orange alert in effect for heavy rainfall and thunderstorms across much of Haryana, authorities have warned of potentially hazardous conditions lasting through early Wednesday morning. "Conditions could turn dangerous, with localised flooding, slippery roads and reduced visibility. Authorities and the public should remain alert and follow safety guidelines closely," the official cautioned.

The city recorded a minimum temperature of 24.9 degrees Celsius — 0.4°C below Sunday's reading — while overcast skies kept conditions humid but cool. The maximum temperature touched 29.9 degrees Celsius, marginally higher than the previous day. Meanwhile, several parts of Delhi also received incessant rain on Monday. There are chances of very light to light rain over the next few days. No colour-coded warning has been issued for the next five days. Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, logged 25.6 mm of rainfall from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm. During the same period, Najafgarh received 61 mm, Palam 43.2 mm and Pusa 24.5 mm.

Pause razing Yamuna bank farmhouses, says Allahabad HC to Noida

**NOIDA. (Agency)**  
Allahabad high court has ordered the Noida Authority and farmhouse owners to maintain status quo in an ongoing dispute over alleged illegal constructions on Yamuna floodplain.

This means the Authority can't conduct demolition drives in the area for now, and the residents can't carry out further construction. The directive comes in response to a fresh petition filed by a group of 30 farmhouse owners seeking to quash demolition notices and related orders issued by the Authority. The petitioners alleged that the Authority had acted arbitrarily by following a pick-and-choose policy — targeting certain farmhouses for demolition while leaving others untouched. HC orders status quo after farmhouse owners file fresh plea against demolition.

They also urged the court to ensure that the Yamuna floodplain near their villages was demarcated in line with the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016. According to the petition, the farmhouses in question are located 4-5km from the Yamuna riverbank — outside the high flood.

## Gurgaon rain traffic chaos: 4km eway jam, 200 calls to police

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**  
A four-hour deluge hit the city at the worst possible time on Monday afternoon, flooding roads and highways during peak office rush and turning the ride into an attritional battle for many who spent hours navigating through gridlocks and breakdowns to reach home.

The downpour submerged several areas under two to three feet of water and triggered a 4km traffic jam from Hero Honda Chowk to Narsinghpur on NH-8. As showers continued till the evening, traffic police were swamped with 200 distress calls on their helpline, with most commuters seeking help for removing stalled vehicles. Others wanted to know the routes that were safe to take. At least 25 breakdowns were reported, worsening jams on already choked roads. Among them was a bus that had stalled near Jharsa on NH-8. Narsinghpur, along the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (NH-8), was completely submerged, with knee-deep water paralysing traffic and forcing commuters to wade through strong currents. Two-wheelers were nearly swept away along the stretch and shopkeepers desperately tried to keep water out of their stores. Other badly



hit areas included Rajeev Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, and roads near Kherki Daula toll plaza. Jams were also reported near Khushal Chowk, Mahavir Chowk bus stand, Railway Station Road, Sheela Mata Temple Road, Agrasen Chowk, Bhondsi road, Vatika Chowk, Tulip Chowk, near Malibu Towne, Bilaspur, Signature Tower, CRP Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Golf Course Road and near Galleria Market in DLF-4. Delhi to Gurgaon traffic was also badly hit. A banker who works in Vasant Vihar took six hours to reach her house in Gurgaon. "Crossing Delhi took 45 minutes but I could not take any exit in Gurgaon because all of them were flooded. I have never seen so many cars broken down on my commute. My husband was on live location all through, trying to guide, but without much success," she said. "This feels like the heaviest rain of the season in Gurgaon.

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# Delhi varsity athletes scripting India's sporting future, carrying nation's flag on the global stage

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: From Manika Batra smashing records in table tennis, Amoj Jacob sprinting into Olympic finals and Manu Bhaker hitting bullseye at world shooting arenas, to Neha Aggarwal, Rhythm Sangwan, Ramita Jindal, Saina Salonika, Ayush Rao, Harshit Rana and Yash Dabas, Delhi University (DU) has produced a star-studded line of athletes who are carrying the nation's flag on the global stage. Known worldwide for its academic excellence and vibrant campus culture, DU is also scripting India's sporting story. Over the decades, providing not just classrooms but also launch pads for students who dream of wearing the India jersey. "I found the perfect support system for my journey in archery — from providing arrows to practice relief, the college ensured I could focus on my game. This constant encouragement helped me win the All-India Inter University Gold Medal - 2024 and represent India at the Asian University Archery Championship," said Ayush Rao, an archer

from Sri Aurobindo College. The rise of shooters such as Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Ramita Jindal, along with chess star Saina Salonika, highlights DU's push for women athletes. Salonika, who bagged a silver medal at the 2024 World Chess Championship, said, "Delhi University has given me the perfect balance between academics and sports, supporting my training with facilities, guidance and financial aid. This encouragement has helped me grow both as a student and as a chess player." Once seen only as a hobby, sports at DU are now regarded as a serious career option. Through its sports supernumerary quota, athletes of international repute are granted direct admission, ensuring they can pursue both academics and competition. Transparent trials, often conducted in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India and national federations, guarantee that only the best talent makes it through. "When I was at DU in the early 2000s, sport was mostly driven by individual colleges with limited facilities. Today, Delhi University has trans-

formed the landscape with world-class infrastructure and a transparent system that truly nurtures athletes. The culture has shifted from treating sport as an extra activity to embracing it as a mainstream pursuit," recalled Olympian Shagun Chowdhary, who represented India in clay pigeon shooting. For most student-athletes, life at DU is a delicate balance between books and training. Days begin with morning practice, continue with lectures and end back on the ground. The university supports this demanding routine with scholarships, travel allowances and even academic relaxation such as rescheduled exams when students compete nationally or internationally. Sports officials emphasise that the focus is on building an ecosystem where "education doesn't stop because of sports, and sports doesn't stop because of education." The results are visible. Between 2023 and 2025, 24 DU athletes represented India internationally at competitions ranging from Olympics to the World University Games. In cricket, Harshit Rana and

Yash Dabas carried DU's legacy to higher platforms, while in athletics, Amoj Jacob sprinted into global spotlight. On the inter-university front, DU has remained a powerhouse, with nearly 1,000 students participating in events in the past two years and winning close to 200 medals. The men's cricket team even clinched the All-India Inter-University title in 2024-25. Behind these medals, however, lie struggles. Athletes often juggle academic pressure, injuries and financial hurdles. DU's Directorate of Sports and Cultural Activities provides scholarships and structured training, but efforts are now being made to expand physiotherapy support and upgrade infrastructure to international standards. With 14 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy wins and alumni decorated with Arjuna, Khel Ratna and Padma awards, DU is determined to play a big-

ger role in shaping India's sporting journey. "Delhi University has built a sporting culture that nurtures talent, discipline and determination. Achievements of our students at the national and international arenas reflect the strength of this ecosystem where education and sports go hand in

hand," said Dr Anil Kumar Kalkal, Director, Physical Education & Sports, University of Delhi. As DU's playgrounds echo with whistles, cheers and the clash of cricket bats, one thing is certain — the university is no longer just producing graduates, but also building India's future Olympians.

## Street plays held to raise awareness on cybercrime

New Delhi: In a one-of-its-kind initiative, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in partnership with Delhi Police and police forces of Gurugram, Noida, and Ghaziabad on Sunday organised a mega Cybercrime Awareness Campaign across the Delhi-NCR region on Sunday. The campaign used street theatre as a tool to educate citizens on cyber safety, digital hygiene, and reporting mechanisms. A total of 79 simultaneous plays were staged at public locations across the NCR, drawing wide participation from students. Of these, 45 plays were held in Delhi, while Gurugram hosted 17, Ghaziabad 10, and Noida 7. Nearly 40 student teams from schools and colleges took part, coordinated by theatre activist Rahul Khanna, who runs "Education Through Theatre." The campaign concluded with a closing ceremony at the India International Centre, New Delhi, where officials from I4C-MHA and the participating police departments felicitated students and institutions for their efforts.

# 3 drown as car plunges into drain in Faridabad

Gurugram: Three men drowned after their car veered off the road and plunged into the Gauchi drain near the fish market in Faridabad late on Thursday night. The victims were returning from a Ganesh Chaturthi pandal in Sector 11. The police said the accident occurred around 10.40 pm when the car, travelling from the fish market towards Sanjay Colony, lost control and fell into the drain. Local residents, who witnessed the incident, raised an alarm and rushed to the scene. A police team arrived promptly and, with the help of locals, began a rescue operation. After an hour of efforts using ropes and other tools, the three occupants were pulled from the water. Chest compressions and pumping were attempted en route to Badshah Khan Hospital, but doctors pronounced all three dead on arrival. Their bodies were later sent for postmortem. The deceased were identified as Pawan Maurya, 32, a resident of Sanjay Colony; Gaurav Rawat, 33, from Jawahar Colony; and Amit Jha, 31, of Atal Chowk in Sanjay Enclave. According to the car's registration certificate, the vehicle was registered in the name of Amit Jha, who worked for a private company in Sector 58, Faridabad.

## NAME CHANGE

I, JITTENDER S/O SATNAM KATYAL, R/o 16540, Azad Street, Street No. 6, Rohit Nagar, P.O. Shahdara, Dist. North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed the name of my minor son DEV aged 13 years and he shall be hereafter known as DEVANSH KATYAL.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Pradeep Kumar Kunnathethu Gopinathan, S/o Kunnathethu Gopinathan, resident of E-97, Sector-36, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301, hereby state that I have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name Pradeep Kumar for all purposes in future.

## NAME CHANGE

I, MAICHING TAMANG is a real Mother of No. 13769554W TAMANG present residing STEIN THAL TEA ESTATE DARJEELING, PO-DARJEELING BAZAR, TEH-DARJEELING, DIST-DARJEELING (WEST BENGAL)-734101 have changed my name from MAICHING TAMANG to MAICHANG TAMANG for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 02/09/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SUNDER SINGH S/O PREM SINGH, R/O 401, Near Primary School, Nindana Khas, Nindana (107), Rohtak, Haryana-124513, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as SUNDER and ANITA in my minor son namely TAPASVI, aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are SUNDER SINGH and ANITA RANI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, USHA W/o RAVI KUMAR P/O House no-A-778, Jwalpur, Camp No-04, Jwala Puri, West Delhi Sunder Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed the name of my minor son GANESHWAR aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as GANISH.

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SUMIT RAJODR S/O VIRENDER KUMAR R/O House no C-267, Ground floor, J J Colony, Wazirpur, Ashok Vihar, P.O. Ashok Vihar, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110052, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUMIT RAJDAUR in my 10th class marksheet. The actual name of mine is SUMIT RAJODR which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SHABNAM BEGUM W/o MOHAMMAD SHAKIR R/O H no- 219/5, Gali no-2, Near Anar Masjid, Old Gurgaon, District North West Delhi, Delhi - 110094, declare that name of my husband has been wrongly written as SAKIR MALINI in my Voter card No. XCN116912. The actual name of my husband is SHABNAM BEGUM which may be amended accordingly.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Aasif Hussain S/O Jakir Hussain R/O H/1154, Sultan pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Mod Jakir Hussain in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is Jakir Hussain.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SAKAMBERI DEVI W/O LATE UMAD SINGH R/O H NO-22/2, 22/12, E-BLOCK, GALI NO-21B, Vihar Bahadur, QUTAB VIHAR PHASE-1, QUTAB PUR, PO CHHAWLA, DIST SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110071 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SAKUM-BARI DEVI in my P.O. No. C/A/F/16054/2011. The actual name of mine is SAKAMBERI DEVI which may be amended accordingly.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, JYOTI DEVI W/o NAMD KISHORE R/O HNO-69H-3, KUNWAR SINGH, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RETA DEVI in my 10th and 12th educational documents and name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as JYOTI KUMARI and NAND KISHOR SAH in my OBC Caste Certificate No. 9050000233489. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother are JYOTI, NAND KISHORE and RITA DEVI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, NAND KISHORE S/O HIRALAL R/O H-3/69A, KUNWAR SINGH NAGAR, RANHOULLA, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NAND KISHOR SAH in my minor son namely ANIKET aged 10 years in his OBC Caste Certificate No. 9050000233504. The actual name of mine is NAND KISHORE which may be amended accordingly.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, NAND KISHORE S/O HIRALAL R/O H-3/69A, KUNWAR SINGH NAGAR, RANHOULLA, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NAND KISHOR SAH in my minor son namely ANIKET aged 10 years in his OBC Caste Certificate No. 9050000233504. The actual name of mine is NAND KISHORE which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Md Hanef S/O Din Mohd R/o Jhuggi Number-109, Indira Camp, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Hanif.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SAIMA W/O IMRAN KHAN R/O H NO-C-12/391, G/F, YAMUNA VIHAR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SAIMA KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

## NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ GAKHAR W/O SHUBHASHI CHAND GAKHAR R/O H NO-46-B F/F, ANAND NAGAR KISHAN KUNJ COLONY EAST DELHI 110092 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJ RANI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mamta W/O Sonpal Kumar R/O V-22, Near Metro Heart Hospital Sector-12, Noida, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201301, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mamta Pal in my minor daughter Mishika Pal, aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Mamta, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, KRISHNA CHANDRA PRASAD S/O SHAMBU PARSHAD R/O E-265A, Plot No. 65, Back Portion 3rd Floor, Shastri Nagar, West Delhi - 110052 have changed my name to KRISHNA CHANDER for all purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14839363X Rank- NKSP/L DVR, Name- TAPARE PANDURANG BABAN R/O VPO-BHAKARWADI, TEH-KOREGOAN, DIST - SATARA (STATE)-MAHARASHTRA PIN - 415501 have changed my name from SHIVENDRA TO SHIVENDRA PANDURANG TAPARE for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated before Notary Public New Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

I, ANKUSH GUPTA S/O YOGENDRA GUPTA R/O 261, RAMA APARTMENT, PLOT NO. NEAR NEAR, INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SECTOR-11, DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM "NEESTHA" TO "NEESTHA GUPTA" FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

## NAME CHANGE

I, GAURAV BANSAL S/O YODH RAJ BANSAL R/O D-87, DHARAM COLONY, NEAR GEETA PROPERTIES, GURGAON, HARYANA-122011 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM "TVISHA" TO "TVISHA BANSAL" FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

## NAME CHANGE

I, DHARMVATI DEVI W/O AJAY SINGH CHAUDHARY R/O G-5, PLAT NO-7/9, BALAJI APARTMENT, SECTOR-3, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SAKHET, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARMVATI DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for General Information that I Som Parkash S/O Sh. Jai Singh R/O A31/119, F-1, Gali no-2, Mata Mandir Marg, Ghonda, Majpur, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053. Declare that name of my minor Son has been Wrongly written as Sorav in my Minor son namey Sorav Kumar, aged 16 years in his School Records. The actual name of my Minor son is Sorav Kumar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for General Information that I Ahmad Hussain S/O Abdul Rashid, R/O - House no. 434, Kh. no. 20/25, Ground floor, Bilk-G Near Bilal Masjid, Inder Enclave, Ph-2, Kirti Suleman Nagar, P.O. Sultanpuri C Block, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, Declare that name of my minor Son has been Wrongly written as Bhavesh in my Minor son namey Bhavesh Sankarwal aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of my Minor son is Bhavesh Sankarwal

## NAME CHANGE

I, Vikas Shrivastava s/o Arvind Kumar Lal R/O G-184-A, Lajpat Nagar Sahibabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201005 have changed my name from Vikas Shrivastava to Vikas Srivastava for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, TUPE MANISHA NIVRUTTI is Spouse of AMY No. 14839363X Rank- NKSP/L DVR, Name- TAPARE PANDURANG BABAN R/O VPO-BHAKARWADI, TEH-KOREGOAN, DIST - SATARA (STATE)-MAHARASHTRA PIN - 415501 have changed my name from TUPE MANISHA NIVRUTTI to MANISHA PANDURANG TAPARE for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated before Notary Public New Delhi.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Prabhath S/O Shri Anil Kumar Prasad R/O B-4201, Qutub Vihar Phase-2, New Delhi-110071, have changed my name to Prabhath Prasad for all purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I, Shaluu W/O Shri Rohit Sangwan, Residing at A-102, Om Satyam Apartments, Plot No- 13, Sector-04, Dwarka New Delhi- 110078, have changed my name to Shaluu Sangwan for all purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM BARI FATHER OF MOHAMMAD VAQAS, P.O. NEAR METRO HEART HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI-110071, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM TO MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM BARI IN PASSPORT

## NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM BARI FATHER OF SOBIYA SHEIKH WANTS TO CHANGE MY NAME FROM MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM TO MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM BARI IN PASSPORT

## PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client, **M/s. Saur International & Mr. Rakesh Singh** is the owner of the Property bearing No. NW-147 B, with roof rights, area measuring 38 Sq. Yds. out of Khassa No. 21/22, situated in the area of Village Khyasala, Village Vasthri, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, New Delhi-110018 vide Sale Deed dated 26.09.2023 which are registered Doc no. 12670, in Book No. 1, Vol No. 27413, on Page No. 104-111, dated 27.09.2023. SR-I Basal Darapur and Intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Capital Finance**. That the **Death Certificate & SMC of Late S Gurubux Singh & Late S Indrajit Singh is not available.** If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

## NAME CHANGE

Khatlan & Khatlan A-38 Kalash Colony, New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

## NAME CHANGE

I, PAVAN GUPTA S/O HARI KISHAN GUPTA resident of 146 NEW LAYAL PUR COLONY KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110051, have changed my name to PAVAN KUMAR GUPTA for all future purposes

## NAME CHANGE

I, KM SARIKA RANI W/O MANISH GUPTA resident of 146 NEW LAYAL PUR COLONY KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI-110051, have changed my name to SARIKA GUPTA for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

GIRISH CHANDRA S/O BHAUVATI PRASAD GHANSIYALA R/O RZ-L-94 GALI NO-7/9, ENCLAVE DABRI DELHI- 110045 I have changed my name to GIRISH CHANDER GHANSIYALA Permanently

## NAME CHANGE

LOJUSVEER S/O AMRISH ATTRI R/O QUARTER NO-13 PROFESSOR STAFF QUARTER BPSMV KHANPUR KALAN SONIPAT HARYANA - 131301, I have changed my name to LOJUS VEER Permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, Asma Parveen Khatun W/O Ashpak Ali Khatun R/O Flat No-401, Aman Castle, Bhavesh in my Minor son namey Bhavesh Sankarwal aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of my Minor son is Bhavesh Sankarwal

## NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD ATIQ S/O MOHAMMAD IQBAL ALIAS MOHD IQBAL R/O H-303 TAJ ENCLAVE, GEETA COLONY, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD ATIQ PERMANENTLY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Batool W/O Sh. Nazar Mohammad R/O 299, Nai Basti, Okhla, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 has disowned and debarred his son namely Mukesh Shadan from his all movable, immovable properties and has no relation with him in future. My client and other family members will not be responsible for any Civil and Criminal Act and Deeds.

Kamal Kumar Advocate  
171, Lawyers Chambers, Block-II,  
High Court of Delhi, New Delhi

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, CHANDRESH KUMAR S/O Gangra Ram Gupta, R/O C-41/147A, Janta Camp T-Husti Mathura Road New Delhi-110051 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as KHUSHBOO in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my minor daughter is KHUSHBOO KUMARI which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, RAJIV KUMAR S/O RAM CHAND, residing at 328-R, Model Town, Panipat, P.O. Panipat, Dist.- Panipat, Haryana - 132103 have changed the name of my minor daughter VANI alias VAANI DHINGRA.

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, DEEPA NSHU GOYAL S/O PARMOD KUMAR R/O NEAR Railway Line, Back Side Anaji Mandi, Parki Dadi City, P.O. Charkhi Dadi, HSG-II, DIST: Charkhi Dadi, Haryana - 127306, declare that name of my Father and my Mother has been wrongly written as PARMOD GOYAL and BABITA GOYAL in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father and my Mother are PARMOD KUMAR and BABITA, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MUKESH BANSAL S/O RAMVATAR, R/O Gali No-13, Vidya Vihar Colony, Charkhi Dadi City, P.O. Charkhi Dadi Hsg - II, Charkhi Dadi, Haryana - 127306 declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as MUKESH and RISHI in my minor son namely RISHI BANSAL aged 16 years in his school record. The actual name of mine and my minor son are MUKESH BANSAL and RISHI BANSAL respectively which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, SHABIR AHMAD H/O MAQSUDAN R/O HOUSE NO 5052 NETAJI SUBHASH MARG MASSID BERI WALI DARYA GANJ NEW DELHI-110002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHABIR AHMAD TO SHABIR AHMED PERMANENTLY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SHOBHA DEVI W/O Chitrangan Kumar, R/O Flat No-6, Plot No-8/346, Front Side, S/F, Nawada Housing Complex, Uppala, P.O. D.K. Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi - 110059, declare that name of mine and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as SHOBHA Kumari and Vandana Priyashi in my minor daughter namey V Vandana Freyasi aged 14 years in her school record. The actual name of mine and my minor daughter are SHOBHA DEVI AND VANDANA PREYASI. Respectively which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, RANI C Mother of No-15713853P Rank-HAV Name-SAKTHIVEL S/O Presently residing at 51/202, ROAD STREET, VILL-VYAMPALAYAM, POST-SIRUVALLUR, DIST-TIRUVANNAMALAI, TAMIL NADU-606906, have changed my name from RANI C TO RANI SANTHIRAN for all future purposes and in my son's service records my name FROM HARMESH SINGH TO RAMESH LAL with immediate effect.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for General Information that I Anil Kumar Bhatti S/O Vishnuvardhan R/O - House no. - C-13, 3rd floor, Gali no-9, Chander Shekhar Marg, Shalimar Village, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088, Declare that name of my minor Son has been Wrongly written as Aarav in my Minor son namey Aarav Bhatti, aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of my Minor son is Aarav Bhatti

## NAME CHANGE

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Dan Singh R/O D-33 D Block, Harjan Bangli, Mayapud Pur, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070 have changed the name of my minor daughter Yashika aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as Yashika Jajoriya.

## NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KOUSHAL KEDIA, S/O RAJESH KUMAR R/O House No-94, Up-Block, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AJAY KEDIA.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, VINOD S/O Nk Ram, R/O 1216 F-Block Mangolpuri, North West Delhi-110083 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as VINOD KUMAR in my minor daughter's namey KHANAK, aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of mine is VINOD, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, RACHNA JHA W/O PRASAN KUMAR JHA R/O E-19, INDER ENCLAVE PHASE -2, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110086 have changed the name of my minor daughter AARCHI JHA aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as AARCHI.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Shaluu W/O Shri Rohit Sangwan, Residing at A-102, Om Satyam Apartments, Plot No- 13, Sector-04, Dwarka New Delhi- 110078, have changed my name to Shaluu Sangwan for all purpose

## NAME CHANGE

I, Prabhath S/O Shri Anil Kumar Prasad R/O B-4201, Qutub Vihar Phase-2, New Delhi-110071, have changed my name to Prabhath Prasad for all purpose

## NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NARENDER KUMAR S/O GOVIND RAM, R/O House No. 3038, Anya Pura, Gali Mandir Wali, Subzi Mandi, Malka Ganj S/O, North Delhi, Delhi-110007, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as GOVIND RAM SAGAR in my S/C Caste Certificate No. 13/13/765/18/2/1103/1003/676/8266. The actual name of my father is GOVIND RAM, which may be amended accordingly.

## NAME CHANGE

I, GUDDU GUPTA S/O RAJBHADUR resident of H.NO-73, NEVADA-4, MURDEEPUR, JALUPUR UTTAR PRADESH-222125 have changed my name to BABOORAM for all future purposes.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Sarbjit Singh Son of Shri Harbhajan Singh Resident of H. No. 57/A, Gali No. 2, Garhwali Mohalla Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, do hereby declare that my correct name is Sarbjit Singh. My correct date of birth is 15.06.1970. That my name is Sarbjit Singh Khara and date of birth is 15.06.1971 mentioned wrong in My Passport record. That I hereby change my name Sarbjit Singh Khara are one and the same person name.

## NAME CHANGE

I, HARMESH SINGH S/O MOHINDER RAM holder of Indian Passport No M9977230 issued at ABU DHABI on 01/11/2015, permanent resident of V P O GOHRI TEH NAKODAR P. S. NAKODAR DIST JALANDHAR and presently residing at ROOM NO. F1 AL RAKHA LABOUR CAMP AL FAYTA TRUCK ROAD AL GADEER ABUDHABI, UAE, do hereby change my name FROM HARMESH SINGH TO RAMESH LAL with immediate effect.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for General Information that I Anil Kumar Bhatti S/O Vishnuvardhan R/O - House no. - C-13, 3rd floor, Gali no-9, Chander Shekhar Marg, Shalimar Village, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088, Declare that name of my minor Son has been Wrongly written as Aarav in my Minor son namey Aarav Bhatti, aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of my Minor son is Aarav Bhatti

## NAME CHANGE

I, AKASH KANOUJA S/O VED PAL R/O HOUSE NO-622 A-T/F, GALI NO-5A, GOVIND PURI, KALKAJI, DELHI-110019 have changed my name to AAKASH for all future purpose.

## NAME CHANGE



# Israel kills 31 Palestinians in intensified attacks as world's leading experts declare genocide in Gaza

**BELJING .(Agency)**  
Israel on Monday killed at least 31 Palestinians as the military ramped up its attacks on Gaza City, with plans for the complete occupation of Gaza.

“Another merciless night in Gaza City,” said Saeed Abu Elaish, a Jabaliya-born medic sheltering in the northwestern side of the city.Airstrikes and artillery shelling have echoed through Gaza City since Israel intensified its genocidal operations in the densely populated area of the enclave last week. On the city’s outskirts and in the Jabaliya refugee camp, residents have observed explosive-laden robots demolishing buildings.

Israel's recent attacks have concentrated on the northern, southern, and south-eastern outskirts of the city, levelling almost every standing building in their path.Palestinians have described the impact from the relentless attacks as “similar to that of an earthquake.”

"We feel that the type of missiles used this time are more powerful and fierce," Rehman Abu al-Beidh, a resident of Abu Iskandar neighbourhood in the north of the city, was quoted as saying by the Middle East Eye.

“The sound of the explosions is more terrifying, and their destructive power is greater,” he said.Meanwhile, the world's leading association of genocide scholars has



declared that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.A resolution passed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) stated that Israel's operations in Gaza --that has so far killed at least 63,459 Palestinians, more than half being women and children-- meet the legal definition laid out in the UN convention on genocide.Out of the IAGS, which has around 500 members worldwide, including several

Holocaust experts, 28% participated in the vote, and 86% of those who voted supported the resolution.

"People who are experts in the study of genocide can see this situation for what it is," Melanie O'Brien, the organization's president and a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia, told The Associated Press.The UN convention cited by the association defines genocide as crimes committed "with intent to destroy, in whole

or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group."In a summary of Israeli policies and actions, the IAGS resolution noted the widespread attacks on

Gaza's healthcare facilities and educational institutions. Over a thousand healthcare workers and aid workers have been killed by Israel in Gaza, mostly in targeted attacks. It has also targeted and killed over 270 journalists.The resolution also highlighted the 50,000 children killed or injured by Israel, stressing that it impacts the ability of Palestinians in Gaza to survive as a group and regenerate.

The resolution also pointed out the support among Israeli leaders for the forced expulsion

of all Palestinians from Gaza, in addition to Israel's complete destruction of housing facilities in the territory.

The IAGS noted the statements by Israeli leaders dehumanising Palestinians in Gaza, calling them enemies and vowing to "flatten Gaza" and turn it into "hell."It called on Israel to halt “deliberate attacks on civilians, including children; starvation; deprivation of humanitarian aid, water, fuel, and other essentials; sexual and reproductive violence; and forced displacement.

## Australia to tackle deepfake nudes, online stalking

**SYDNEY .(Agency)**  
Australia said Tuesday it will oblige tech giants to prevent online tools being used to create AI-generated nude images or stalk people without detection.The government will work with industry on developing new legislation against the "abhorrent technologies", it said in a statement, without providing a timeline.

"There is no place for apps and technologies that are used solely to abuse, humiliate and harm people, especially our children," Communications Minister Anika Wells said.

"Nudify" apps -- artificial intelligence tools that digitally strip off clothing --

have exploded online, sparking warnings that so-called sextortion scams targeting children are surging.The government will use "every lever" to restrict access to "nudify" and stalking apps, placing the onus on tech companies to block them, Wells said."While this move won't eliminate the problem of abusive technology in one fell swoop, alongside existing laws and our world-leading online safety reforms, it will make a real difference in protecting Australians," she added.

The proliferation of AI tools has led to new forms of abuse impacting children, including pornography

scandals at universities and schools worldwide, where teenagers create sexualized images of their classmates.

A recent Save the Children survey found that one in five young people in Spain have been victims of deepfake nudes, with those images shared online without their consent.

Any new legislation will aim to ensure that legitimate and consent-based artificial intelligence and online tracking services are not inadvertently impacted, the government said.Rushed'Australia has been at the forefront of global efforts to curb internet harm, especially that targeted at children.

# India, US will get this 'solved', says Treasury Secretary Bessent; calls SCO 'performative'

**WASHINGTON (Agency)**  
Amid tensions between India and the US, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said at the end of the day, the "two great countries will get this solved", adding that Delhi's values are much closer to "ours and to China's than to Russia's."Bessent, in an interview with Fox News, also termed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as being "largely performative."His remarks came after the annual summit of the SCO took place in the Chinese port city of Tianjin on Sunday and Monday."This is a longstanding meeting, it's called the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and I think it's largely performative," Bessent said Monday."I think at the end of the day, India is the most populous democracy in the world. Their values are much closer to ours and to China's than to Russia's.""I think at the end of the day, two great



countries (India and the US) will get this solved. But the Indians have not been great actors in terms of buying Russian oil and then reselling it, financing the Russian war effort in Ukraine," he claimed.

India has defended its purchase of Russian crude oil, maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

The Treasury Secretary also noted the slow progress in US-India trade talks as an additional factor for the White House's

move to raise tariffs, according to Fox News.Bessent's comments came in response to questions about the status of the India-US relationship amid the Trump administration's 50 per cent tariffs on India over its purchases of Russian oil.India has termed the tariffs imposed on it as "unjustified and unreasonable".Bessent was also responding to questions about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the

sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin.

His remarks came against the backdrop of possibly the worst phase in India-US relations in over two decades, with the strain exacerbated by Trump's tariff policy and constant criticism of New Delhi by his administration.He also said that "all options are on the table" as the Trump administration weighs sanctions on Russia after the continued bombardments against Ukraine.I think everything's on the table," Bessent said.

"President Putin, since the historic meeting in Anchorage, since the phone call, when the European leaders and President Zelenskyy were at the White House the following Monday, has done the opposite of following through on what he indicated he wanted to do. As a matter of fact, he has, in a despicable, despicable manner, increased the bombing campaign."

## A landslide in Sudan's Darfur wipes out a village, killing more than 1,000 people

**CAIRO. (Agency)**  
A landslide wiped out a village in Sudan’s western region of Darfur, killing an estimated 1,000 people in one of the deadliest natural disasters in the African country’s recent history, a rebel group controlling the area said late Monday.The tragedy happened Sunday in the village of Tarasin in Central Darfur’s Marrah Mountains after days of heavy rainfall in late August, the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army said in a statement.“Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated to be more than one thousand people. Only one person survived,” the statement read.The village was “completely leveled to the ground,” the group said, appealing to the U.N. and international aid groups for help to recover the bodies.Footage shared by the Marrah Mountains news outlet showed a flattened area between mountain ranges with a group of people searching the area.

The tragedy came as a devastating civil war has engulfed Sudan after tensions between the country’s military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in April 2023 in the capital, Khartoum and

elsewhere in the country.Most of the Darfur region, including the Marrah Mountains, has become mostly inaccessible for the U.N. and aid groups given crippling restrictions and fighting between Sudan’s military and the RSF.The Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, centered in the Marrah Mountains area, is one of multiple rebel groups active in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. It hasn’t taken sides in the war.The Marrah Mountains are a rugged volcanic chain extending for 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of el-Fasher, an epicenter of fighting between the military and the RSF. The area has turned into a hub for displaced families fleeing fighting in and around el-Fasher.The conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, forced more than 14 millions to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine swept parts of the country.It has been marked by gross atrocities including ethnically motivated killing and rape, according to the United Nations and rights groups. The International Criminal Court said it was investigating alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.administration was silent about its plans.



**JALALABAD. (Agency)**  
Rescuers desperately searched Tuesday for survivors in the rubble of homes flattened by an earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan, killing more than 800 people.The 6.0-magnitude earthquake, followed by at least five aftershocks, hit remote areas in mountainous provinces near the border with Pakistan around midnight Sunday.The head of the Kunar Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Ehsanullah Ehsan, told AFP that "operations continued throughout the night".He said there were "still injured people left in the distant villages" in need of evacuation to hospitals.

Villagers joined the rescue efforts, using their bare hands to clear debris of simple mud and stone homes built into steep valleys.Obaidullah Stoman, 26,

who travelled to the village of Wadir to search for a friend, was overwhelmed by the level of destruction."I'm searching here, but I didn't see him. It was very difficult for me to see the conditions here," he told AFP.

"There is only rubble left." The dead, including children, were wrapped in white shrouds by villagers who prayed over their bodies before burying them.Some of the hardest-hit villages remain inaccessible due to blocked roads, the UN migration agency told AFP.The earthquake epicentre was about 27 kilometres (17 miles) from Jalalabad, according to the USGS, which said it struck at a shallow eight kilometres below the Earth's surface.

After decades of conflict, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world,

facing a protracted humanitarian crisis and the influx of millions of Afghans forced back to the country by neighbours Pakistan and Iran in recent years.Since the Taliban seized power in 2021, foreign aid to the country has been slashed, undermining the impoverished nation's already hamstrung ability to respond to disasters.The United States was the largest aid donor until early 2025, when all but a sliver of funds were cancelled after President Donald Trump took office.

In June, the United Nations said it was drastically scaling back its global humanitarian aid plans due to the "deepest funding cuts ever".

On Monday, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement it was working with authorities to "swiftly assess needs, provide emergency assistance and stand ready to mobilise additional support", and announced an initial \$5 million.Shallow quakes cause more damage

Taliban authorities in a provisional toll reported 800 dead and 2,500 injured in Kunar province, as well as 12 dead and 255 injured in Nangarhar.

Laghman province also has dozens of injured, according to government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

# The Sikh Times4

## From Trump to social programs: Mexico’s first female president takes stock after a year in office

**MEXICO CITY .(Agency)**

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum celebrated her government’s handling of its tumultuous relations with the Trump administration, progressive gains and controversial judicial reforms in her first state of the nation address Monday.Sheinbaum, who is nearing the end of her first year in office, notably left out some of the major problems still simmering in Mexico, including ongoing cartel violence plaguing much of the country and democratic concerns over wider concentration of executive power.Mexico’s first female president took office in October and has led the Latin American nation of 131 million at a time of radical global shifts. Despite that, the 63-year-old progressive leader has enjoyed soaring approval rates between 70% and 80% in Mexican polls. “Things are going well, and they’re only going to get better,” she promised.

Here are some of the top takeaways from Sheinbaum’s State of the Nation address.

Navigating the Trump era  
Chief among Sheinbaum’s challenges has been navigating Mexico’s inextricable political and economic relationship with the United States as President Donald Trump has doled out tariffs globally and pressured allies into making concessions. Sheinbaum has been able to

dodge the brunt of Trump’s tariffs by going after Mexican cartels and their fantanyl production more aggressively than her predecessor. In recent months, the government has delivered dozens of cartel figures long wanted by U.S.



authorities to the Trump administration.

At the sae time, her administration has insisted that the Trump administration respect Mexican sovereignty, and has rejected talk of potential American military action against cartels in Mexican territory.“Under no circumstance will we accept interventions, interference, or any other act from abroad that is detrimental to the integrity, independence, and sovereignty of the country,” she said.On Monday, a day before Secretary of State Marco Rubio was set to visit to discuss security issues, Sheinbaum said the governments share a relationship of “mutual trust, respect for sovereignty and territoriality.

## President Donald Trump's policies spark protests in multiple US cities on

Manhattan skyscraper for years. Demonstrators waved signs and banners calling for an end to what they said is a fascist regime.In Washington, a large crowd gathered with signs saying “Stop the ICE invasion” and an umbrella painted with



“Free D.C. No masked thugs.” Hundreds more gathered at protests along the West Coast to fight for the rights of immigrants and workers.Multiple groups joined together at the protests in Chicago to listen to speeches and lend their voices to the chants.“We’re here because

we’re under attack. We’re here because our core values and our democracy is under attack. We are here because they are threatening to send the military into our streets,” Daniel Biss, the mayor of Evanston, Illinois, told the crowd in Chicago as he urged them to stand up for workers.At one point, a woman got out of a vehicle with Iowa plates in Chicago to shout “Long live Donald Trump” over and over again, resulting in a brief confrontation as the protesters responded with shouts of their own until the woman left a few minutes later.

In the crowd, Ziri Marquez said she came out because she’s concerned about overlapping issues in the U.S. and around the world, decrying anti-migrant attitudes in the U.S. and the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza.“I think especially, you know, when we’re dealing with low wages and we’re dealing with a stagnant economy.

## Flotilla headed to Gaza leaves Barcelona for a second time after storm delay

**KABUL . (Agency)**  
BARCELONA, Spain: A flotilla carrying activists and humanitarian aid for Gaza left Barcelona’s port on Monday for a second time after the vessels were forced to return a day earlier because of bad weather conditions.The Global Sumud Flotilla had departed Sunday under much fanfare only to return a few hours later after a storm hit parts of Spain overnight. Facing winds of more than 56 kph (35 mph), some of the smaller boats taking part in the mission would have been at risk, organizers said.

It wasn’t immediately clear how many boats departed on Monday. Organizers had previously said that there were around 20 vessels with participants from 44 countries. Dozens more boats were expected to join the flotilla from across the Mediterranean later this week, making it the largest attempt yet to break the Israeli blockade of the Palestinian territory by sea.

This comes as Israel has stepped up its offensive in Gaza City, limiting the deliveries of food and basic supplies in northern Gaza. Food experts warned earlier this month that Gaza City

was gripped by famine and that 500,000 people across the Gaza Strip were facing catastrophic levels of hunger.Thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters had gathered under a scorching sun on the docks of Barcelona’s old port Sunday to cheer the mission as it took off. The departure on Monday after sunset was much quieterSwedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and Barcelona ex-Mayor Ada Colau were among those on board. The flotilla also received support from Academy Award-winning actress Susan Sarandon and Liam Cunningham, known for his role in HBO series “Game of Thrones.”The Israeli military is likely to try and stop the boats from getting near Gaza, as they have done in the past.The nearly two-year war has killed more than 63,000 people, with nearly 340 Palestinians dying of malnutrition, including 124 children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.Hamas-led militants started the war with an assault on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which attackers killed around 1,200 people and abducted 251 others.



# Weather Office Issues Red Alert For Uttarakhand, Schools Shut In 10 Districts

All schools will remain closed in 10 districts including Pauri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, and others

**Uttarakhand . (Agency)**  
Uttarakhand continues to reel under the impact of incessant rainfall as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued red and orange alerts across the state for Tuesday.  
The extreme weather conditions have prompted authorities to order the closure of schools in several districts as a precautionary measure.  
"Very heavy rain/very intense to extremely intense spells of rain/heavy rain/thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/intense to very intense spell of rain likely to occur at isolated places," the IMD said in its forecast.  
In view of the threat of cloudbursts, flash floods, and other hazards triggered by continuous downpours, all schools up to Class 12 will remain closed in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Almora, Champawat, Pithoragarh, and Bageshwar on Tuesday.  
The risk of landslides and a sudden surge in water levels of rivers and streams remains high in the hilly regions.



The heavy rains have thrown life out of gear, disrupting both the mountains and the plains.  
In Dehradun, the Tons River, flowing near the Minas motor road, has swollen dangerously. Once it descends into the plains after merging with the Yamuna, the water level rises sharply, creating a further threat of flooding.  
Meanwhile, traffic has been badly hit as several stretches of the National Highway remain blocked due to landslides.  
The Chamoli Police said that routes have been closed at multiple points, including Kanchan Ganga, Bhanerpani, Kameda, and between Kotdeep, Lolti, and Nasir Market Tharali to Lolti under the Thana Tharali area.  
Moreover, considering the red and orange alerts issued by the Meteorological Department, the Char Dham Yatra and Hemkund Sahib Yatra have been delayed until September 5.  
The situation continues to remain precarious, and the authorities have urged people in vulnerable areas to stay cautious.

**Srinagar Streets Submerged As Heavy Rain Causes Waterlogging, Traffic Jams**  
**Kashmir.** Rain lashed many parts of Kashmir on Monday evening, causing waterlogging and traffic jams in some areas of Srinagar, officials said. The waterlogging in Residency Road, TRC Chowk, and Dal Gate, among other areas, caused inconvenience to commuters and shopkeepers. In some areas, vehicles had to wade through the flooded streets in the city. Intermittent rain was still going on in some parts of the Valley. The meteorological department said heavy and intense showers accompanied with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds were likely over many parts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam.  
It urged people to stay away from electric poles, old trees and loose structures, and advised against riding 'shikaras' and boating activities in all water bodies, including the Dal Lake.

## Mumbai Cops Arrest 60-Year-Old Banana Vendor For Smuggling Drugs Worth Rs 35 Lakh

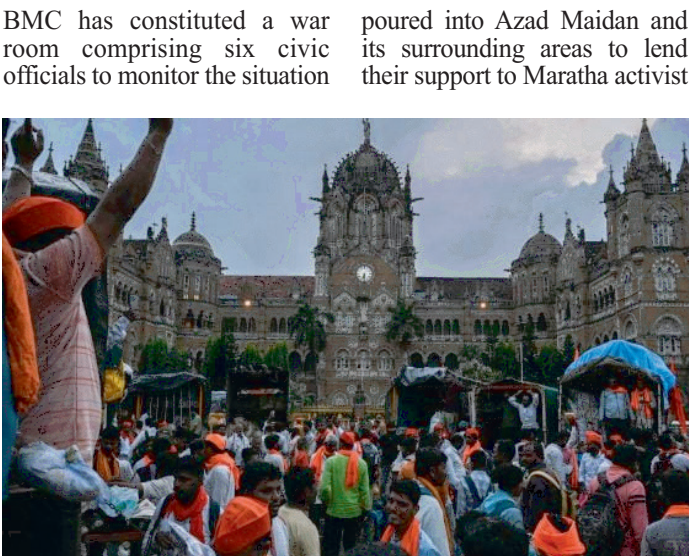
Mohammad Ali had been selling bananas near Bandra railway station but was simultaneously engaged in the drug trade, the officials said.

**Mumbai . (Agency)**  
Mumbai Police have arrested a 60-year-old man for peddling MD drugs while posing as a banana seller in Bandra.  
The accused, identified as Mohammad Ali Abdul Gaffar Sheikh, was caught with 153 grams of MD drugs valued at Rs 35.30 lakh, according to the officials.  
Mohammad Ali had been selling bananas near Bandra railway station but was simultaneously engaged in the drug trade, the officials said.  
Based on a tip-off, the Crime Branch Unit 9 launched an operation after learning that he was secretly selling MD drugs under the guise of being a fruit vendor.  
Late on Friday night, Mohammad Ali was intercepted by officers in civil dress while moving along Maharashtra Road near Bandra Bus Depot.  
He was taken into custody for questioning, and when the police examined his handcart, they found a metal box that held a bag containing 153 grams of MD drugs. The police stated that the confiscated drugs are estimated to be worth Rs 35.30 lakh in the global market.  
A case has been registered under the NDPS Act, and the accused was produced before a court, which remanded him to police custody until September 3, officials said.  
During interrogation, Mohammad Ali revealed that he turned to the drug trade due to financial difficulties. He admitted that despite selling bananas in Bandra to make ends meet, the low income from fruit sales pushed him towards smuggling MD drugs as an alternative source of livelihood, according to the police.  
Police officials are now probing the source of the drugs, the duration of his involvement in the trade, whether he had accomplices, and if he has a prior criminal record. The investigation is underway. Further details are awaited.



## Amid Maratha protest, BMC deploys more workers, forms war room

**Mumbai .(Agency)**  
As the agitation over Maratha quota entered the fourth day and thousands continued to throng the city's streets, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday deployed additional sanitation workers and civic amenities to prevent inconvenience for the protesters.  
Civic officials said that until Monday, over 1,000 sanitation workers, who have been roped in from across different wards, have been pressed on the protest site and nearby areas to maintain cleanliness while arrangements of at least 400 toilets have also been made.  
On Monday, delegation of Maratha protesters also convened a meeting with Municipal Commissioner Bhusan Gagrani.  
Following the meeting, the



BMC has constituted a war room comprising six civic officials to monitor the situation poured into Azad Maidan and its surrounding areas to lend their support to Maratha activist

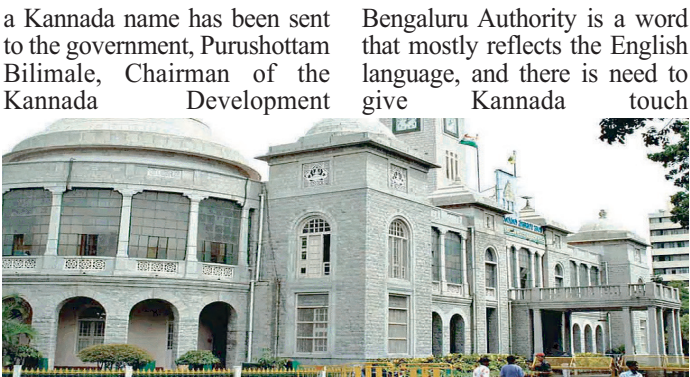
The gang targeted children under the age of five and was operational across Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Sangareddy districts.  
**Hyderabad .(Agency)**  
A child kidnapping gang operating for five years in Hyderabad was busted on Monday, with the police rescuing six children and arresting five people involved in the racket.  
The gang targeted children under the age of five and was operational across Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Sangareddy districts. The gang was targeting labour class parents having multiple children, senior police officer G Vineeth told NDTV.  
"They have sold anywhere from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 7 lakh to childless parents," he said.  
As of now indication is that Raju, an Ayurvedic practitioner, was the mastermind behind the



operation, which involved kidnapping children and selling them through a network of associates. Following Raju's arrest, the police caught four more individuals involved in the racket, including Mohd Asif, a vegetable vendor, Rizwana, an Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery practitioner from Siddipet, Narsimha Reddy, a mason and another person identified as Balraj.

## Kannada outfits oppose BBMP's English name

**Bengaluru. (Agency)**  
With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) becoming a thing of the past, paving way for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) administration from today (Tuesday), Kannada organisations have taken objection to the name and demanded a Kannada name for the administration of Bengaluru city.  
The demand comes from Kannada outfits in the backdrop of municipal bodies like Mumbai and Chennai giving preference to their state's official and regional language. While Mumbai Civic body is named Brihanmumbai Mahanagar Palika, Chennai's civic body is named 'Perunagara Chennai Maanag-araatchi'. While BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said so far, no proposal for



a Kannada name has been sent to the government, Purushottam Bilimale, Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority (KDA), dashed off a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the Kannada name for the administrative body of Bengaluru, on Monday.  
Earlier, the KDA had written to the government requesting the reservation of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor posts in five corporations for Kannadigas, as some areas have a majority of non-Kannadigas.  
"The name Greater

Bengaluru Authority is a word that mostly reflects the English language, and there is need to give Kannada touch (Kannadathana) to the name.  
If a Kannada name is used, the language will not only get the respect it deserves, but the proposed authority will also have opportunities to become closer to Kannadigas, emotionally. In this regard, the government should seriously consider using an alternative Kannada word for the Greater Bengaluru Authority," Bilimale stated in the letter to the CM.

## Gang clash inside Bengaluru South district jail: 23 undertrials booked

**Bengaluru. (Agency)**  
As many as 23 undertrial prisoners lodged in Ramanagara in Bengaluru South district have been booked for creating a ruckus inside the prison. The prisoners were from two separate gangs. The leaders of these gangs went to check if they had any visitors and had a verbal altercation, which led to the clash during the visiting hour on Thursday, around 5.30 pm near the D gate.  
The prisoners allegedly argued with and obstructed the prison officials who tried to control them. Rakesha Kambale, Superintendent of the Prison, filed a complaint on Friday at the Ramanagara



Town police station. Around nine jail staff

managed to stop the prisoners and sent them to their cells. Among the accused, T Devaraju and Harsha alias Kaima, were the first to start the argument. "Five of them have been shifted to Mandya jail, and we are waiting for instructions from higher-ups in case we need to shift any others to different prisons.  
The prisoners created a ruckus when they came out of their cells to meet visitors. None of the prisoners were injured, and it was just verbal arguments. The prison officials have sustained minor injuries after they were pushed by the accused," said an officer.  
A case of assault or criminal force to deter public servants

## 1,000-Crore Gold Export Fraud At Chennai Airport, 5 Customs Officials Named

**Chennai .(Agency)**  
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with a massive gold export fraud at Chennai Airport Cargo, where a nexus of Customs officials and jewellery traders allegedly defrauded the Union government of over Rs 1,000 crore annually between 2020

and 2022. The FIR names 13 accused, including five Customs officials, a jewellery assessor, a customs agent, and four gold jewellery manufacturers.  
Those booked include Customs Superintendents J. Sureshkumar, Alok Shukla, and P. Tulasiram, jewellery assessor N. Samuel, customs agent Mariyappan, and manufacturers Deepak Siroya, Santosh Kothari,

Sunil Parmar, and Sunil Sharma. According to investigators, the accused imported 24-carat gold bars under the Duty-Free Import Authorisation (DFIA) scheme, which mandated that the bars be converted into 22-carat ornaments for re-export. Instead, they allegedly exported gold-plated brass and copper ornaments or substandard jewellery, pocketing



the margins and causing massive losses to the exchequer.

Intelligence (CRI) detected anomalies in bills of lading for consignments headed to Gulf countries. Physical inspections revealed fake or inferior ornaments instead of genuine gold jewellery.  
CRI then recommended a CBI investigation, though sanctions to prosecute Customs officials delayed the case. The Union government recently

granted permission, enabling the agency to move forward. Since registering the case, CBI teams have carried out searches at the Chennai Airport Customs Cargo Office, residences of Customs officials in Pallavaram, Alandur, Nanganallur, and Anna Nagar, as well as jewellery shops and manufacturers' offices in Flower Bazaar, Sowcarpet, and Kondithope.



EDITORIAL

India-Japan alliance fashions future on trust and technology

Built to trust and building to last, the India-Japan partnership is entering its most defining decade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Japan for the annual summit was more than just another diplomatic event. It was a strategic signal. The two countries are deepening a relationship that has remained steady, incident-free, and mutually reinforcing over the decades. This is happening in a world of growing geopolitical fragmentation, technological divides and supply chain uncertainty. A ‘Joint Vision for the Next Decade’ sits at the heart of this summit. It is a forward-facing blueprint based on eight pillars: economic security, advanced technology, clean energy, resilient mobility, innovation ecosystems and grassroots partnerships between states and prefectures.

Japan’s decision to double its private investment target in India to ten trillion yen (\$67 billion) is more than just capital. It’s a commitment reflecting Japan’s strategic wager on India’s scale, capability, and its future role in shaping a global order that suits Japan. Economic security now defines the partnership. The launch of a structured dialogue between Japanese and Indian industry federations marks a turning



point, aligning the public and private sectors to accelerate action in strategic domains, including critical infrastructure and emerging technologies. Semiconductors are a flagship area. Joint initiatives have moved from concept to production. These include a new chip packaging plant in Gujarat, collaborations with Indian technology institutions, and research partnerships aimed at creating a semiconductor ecosystem rooted in Indian soil yet globally integrated. The strategic alliance between Tokyo Electron and Tata Electronics adds depth. It signals Japan’s confidence in India’s manufacturing future. In parallel, Japan’s funding for a startup-focused fund in Tamil Nadu will boost innovation in areas from microchips to clean technology. The two countries are also cooperating more on rare earths and mineral security. This provides a crucial hedge against geopolitical risks in energy transition supply chains.

In digital infrastructure, the partnership is evolving from a buyer-seller relationship to a co-developer one. Whether in fifth-generation mobile networks, Open Radio Access Networks, or advanced communication systems, Japanese technology and Indian scale are converging to co-create the digital infrastructure of tomorrow. This summit was not about sentiment and economic strategy. India and Japan are crafting a forward-looking alliance that aligns economic ambition with strategic foresight; it must remain engineered for the future.

Buddhist influence on Vedic Brahmins has been profound, though always denied

About 800 years ago, near the Mahanadi river delta, a poet called Jayadeva composed a Sanskrit poem called Gita Govinda that introduced the Brahmin world to Radha, the beloved of Krishna. It begins by describing how Krishna’s father Nanda tells Radha to take his little son back home. On the way, in the forest of dark ‘tamala’ trees, under a sky overcast with dark monsoon clouds, the child Krishna transforms into a grown up Krishna. Radha and Krishna engage in an intimate dalliance, described in rich evocative language by the poet. The relationship is clandestine, secretive, beyond the understanding of social norms, law and customs. This poetry stands at the interface of Tantrik and Bhakti belief. Tantra celebrates sensuality. Bhakti celebrates sentimentality. Tantra is physical. Bhakti is emotional.

In this work, Krishna is identified both as the immortal infinite Vishnu as well as one of his mortal and finite avatars. His elder brother is also identified as an avatar. Also included in the list of avatars is Buddha. Vishnu takes the form of Buddha to save animals from being slaughtered in Vedic rituals. Today, many Hindus get upset when told that Vedic rituals involved animal sacrifice. Clearly, Buddhist influence on Vedic Brahmins has been profound, though always denied. Buddhism rose around 500 BC. It was one of many ascetic movements that frowned upon Vedic ritualism. Vedic rituals were grand



ceremonies meant to invoke the gods and to bring fortune to patrons. It was about all things material: success, victory, children, wives, fortune. It was about feasting. The grand ceremonies were mysterious and evoked awe in all those who saw it from afar. Its secretive nature gave it immense power. But only the rich could bear the expenses: the cost of sacrificing many animals and feeding a large community of priests who did nothing else but chant hymns. The merchants turned to the holy ascetics who wandered around speaking about withdrawing from the world. If you fed them that one meal they needed during the day, a merchant could earn merit that would grant him success in the market. What more did he need? So soon Buddhism was so popular that Brahmins lost patronage. They had to reinvent themselves. The old Vedic ways with fire rituals had to go away, replaced by

temples of Hara (Shiva) and Hari (Vishnu) with rituals that offered occult power (Tantra) and sentimental gratification (Bhakti). In Puranic lore (500 AD to 1500 AD), Buddha is seen as an avatar of Vishnu, but for totally different reasons. He becomes a teacher to get Asuras to give up the Vedic rituals. His influence is particularly strong amongst women, who become nuns and encourage their husbands and sons to become monks. This weakens Asuras and they are defeated by Devas. In one story, three flying cities of Asuras are brought down by Shiva, who earns the title of Tripurantaka. Thus Vishnu and Shiva, Hari and Hara, work together to bring down the enemy of Devas. Buddha is an instrument here. During this time, Tantra rose in fame. Tantra was a set of rituals that could get you what you want—attract the positive, repulse the negative. Kings sought Tantrik experts who

could help them keep enemies at bay. So high was the demand that Tantric rituals could be seen in Buddhist, Jain and Vedic rites. Tantrik experts were gurus. These Tantrik gurus who became royal advisors, Raja-guru, had mythological counterparts: Brihaspati of Devas and Shukra of Asuras, who are mentioned in Mahabharata also. Kings were successful if their gurus were supportive and powerful. So there was intense rivalry between the many schools of Tantra.

Shiva was the primary deity of Tantra, either with or without Shakti, the goddess. The goddess was sometimes seen as many, not one. A circle of dakinis, yoginis, matrikas, shaktis. So in Jain Tantra, one observes the Tirthankara in the middle of a circle surrounded by wisdom goddesses, the Vidyas. In Buddhist Tantra, Buddha becomes fierce Heruka surrounded by yoginis. In Shiva Tantra, Shiva is

Bhairava surrounded by dancing yoginis. In Vishnu Tantra, Shiva becomes Krishna surrounded by milkmaids (gopis) and in Gita Govinda, we have the one special gopi, Radha.

If Hindu stories showed Buddha being turned into an instrument of Hara-Hari to defeat Asuras, then Buddhist Tantra told tales of how Mahakala (a form of Buddha) defeats Rudra (a form of Shiva).

As more and more kings preferred the way of Hara-Hari over Buddha, many Buddhists returned to the Hindu fold. But they continued to practice vegetarianism. And so, Buddha who is used against Asuras, also stops Vedic Brahmins from sacrificing animals in Vedic rituals, and makes them adopt a vegetarian lifestyle. Brahmins who appropriated the Buddha ended up following Buddhist practices and calling it “pure” Hindu.

Discovering grace in the Indian heartland

I recently had the opportunity to revisit Madhya Pradesh, the Indian heartland, and came away with many musings. In Bhopal, I noticed several things. The distances were short, the roads were good, and they did not flood instantly in a downpour, unlike in Delhi NCR. The cost of living was much better, and the people were amiable, again unlike in Delhi NCR. I went around comfortably in an Uber, and the quality of Hindi spoken around me was softer and sweeter than in—where else—Delhi NCR. Plus, Bhopal was lush and green (Madhya Pradesh has the country’s maximum tree cover), with lakes and hills. The cultural differences began stacking up, big and small. For instance, those outside the Hindi belt who are rightly angered by offensive and highly regrettable Hindi chauvinism scoff that the Hindi belt is ‘uneducated’. However, I noticed that residences in Bhopal had names that you were likely to find in Chennai and other South Indian cities. Whereas Delhi-NCR buildings have overly wannabe names like Richmond, Malibu Towne and Beverley Park; even wedding venues called ‘Notting Hill’, for heaven’s sake, Bhopal’s buildings had more restrained, dignified names like Athenaeum, Coral Cottage and Rainbow Apartments, and, of course, solid Indian names like Suyash and Herambh. This doesn’t make up for the sad fact that Madhya Pradesh is one of India’s most mirakshar or illiterate states. With a literacy rate of 75.2 percent, Madhya Pradesh is embarrassingly ranked among the lowest. It belongs in a sorry cluster with Andhra Pradesh (72.6 percent), Bihar (74.3 percent), Rajasthan (75.8 percent) and Jharkhand (76.7 percent), which means Madhya Pradesh has one of the bottom-ten lowest literacy rates in India. Uttar Pradesh veers wildly between 67.68 percent and 78.2 percent. Shockingly, there is no authoritative source for 2025, but only what appear to be guesstimates tied to the 2011 Census and state government data. I made several trips around Bhopal over the Independence Day weekend with my hosts, a young Hindi couple from Lucknow, who had



recently moved to Bhopal and urged me to visit. We had initially met in Delhi, and though they were half my age, we discovered a shared love of history, culture and road trips. Like me, they fully appreciated the marvelous fact that we belonged to India, which had so much to discover wherever we went. I went on a weekend road trip with them to Alwar in Rajasthan, and, during the last October Navratra, to Baroda for the garba, which was utterly delightful. And this time, we were bowling along good roads—a vast improvement from what I remembered of the road twenty years ago between musically historic Maihar and Khajuraho. Maihar still preserves the home of Baba Allauddin Khan, where three Hindustani music legends had learnt from him—Pandit Ravi Shankar

(sitar), Baba’s daughter Vidushi Annapurna Devi (surbahar), and son Ustad Ali Akbar Khan (sarod). I had gone like an eager pilgrim to a temple of music and communal harmony. I was happy to have seen this historic house. But the roads had been so full of holes and bumps, outrageously deep and big, that I had called it ‘road rafting’ in despair, rubbing ointment afterwards on my battered limbs, and popping paracetamol.

The drive to Sanchi was smooth, and everything was as amazing as I had anticipated. Ashoka had constructed the basic stupa in the 3rd century BCE, but the Hindu dynasties that followed him, such as the Shungas and Satavahanas, commissioned the site’s development and all the Buddhist carvings there, including important

Jatakas. Proof in stone of the facts, unlike Lefty fiction, that Hindus had chased Buddhists out. As we drew nearer, the GPS script changed from English to Sinhala. We saw Sinhalese groups in their pilgrim whites, for Sanchi is one of the holy places of Buddhism. Our own behaviour was respectful as we took in the sculptural marvels explained by our excellent Hindu guide, an MA in History. I was excited to see ancient carvings of Jatakas I knew, as well as the two holy epics, such as the Mahakapi Jataka and Vessantara Jataka, which are especially revered in Thailand, and elephant Jatakas, some of which I had retold in this column.

I also saw 23,000-year-old prehistoric cave drawings—yes, twenty-three thousand years old—at the Bhimbetka Caves, and the massive Bhojeshwar Mahadev temple, begun by Raja Bhoj Parmar in the 11th century, which is both incredible and humbling, even in its unfinished state.

Returning to Delhi NCR, I realised anew the actual impact of the invasions on the Hindi heartland. These were the people who composed the scriptures and exalted philosophy, invented the concept of zero, mathematics, chess, astronomy, yoga and Ayurveda, and built architectural wonders. The entire world uses Aryabhata’s numbers, which replaced cumbersome Roman numerals in the West, and Brahmagupta’s computing, which paved the way for modern banking. Their mathematics triggered so much of contemporary science. The invasions led the Hindi people to a catastrophic decline.

From being thought leaders, they were reduced to rustics, something they are still recovering from. Yet, how steadfastly they clung to their ancestral faith through the most discouraging circumstances. It was all they had. Lauding their incredible heroism, and not becoming chauvinistic like some of them, perhaps we non-Hindi people could politely, affectionately, help the Hindi bullies realise that ‘conquering’ the rest of us today won’t rewrite the past, that we must advance positively together, with mutual respect.

Comedy, free speech, and the law

It is the prerogative of the legislature to make laws or not. Law is not a solution for every unethical act in human conduct, which would need a social or cultural diagnosis and appropriate remedies. For example, one is not punished for ingratitude, for it is only a moral wrong and not a penal offence. If a person tells a lie to their spouse, unless it contains penal ingredients, they are not punished. Bad Samaritans cannot be prosecuted for being bad. Such instances of moral wrongs are numerous in human life.

When it comes to freedom of speech and expression, legislation is a more serious business. Free speech is a constitutional guarantee under Article 19(1) (a). This can only be subjected to reasonable restrictions as indicated in Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Whether a law restrictive of free speech is reasonable or not is for the constitutional court to decide. Given the scheme of things, the court asking other branches of the state to enact restrictive legislation is bound to be inherently problematic. It negates Montesquieu’s age-old idea of the separation of powers.

The Supreme Court called for a law on digital content when YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia challenged the multiple cases against him in different parts of the country. The court’s demand for restrictive laws renders the constitutional scheme under Article 19 nugatory, as this writer has previously noted in an earlier piece (TNIE, March 12, 2025).

Recently, the Supreme Court took up the matter again. This time, five other comedians were present in court as per the court’s direction. Comedians who allegedly mocked the disabled were directed to post apologies on social media. The court reiterated the need to frame guidelines to regulate social media posts and to draw a line between “free speech and hurtful speech”. The Attorney General offered to develop a proposal. The court also said that suggestions are to be called from all stakeholders, including the Bar. Thus, almost a legislation by the executive, at the instance of the judiciary, is on the cards. The peculiarity of the last day’s hearing is its focus on “commercial speech”. Commercial speech is seen as being afforded lesser free speech protection compared to non-commercial speech, at least in the American context.

This is the picture emerging from the First Amendment to the US Constitution. In India, Article 19(1)(a), on the face of it, does not distinguish between commercial speech and non-commercial speech. The distinction between the two is neither simple nor clear. It is contingent and dependent. In Hamdard Dawakhana v. Union of India (1959), the Supreme Court rejected the challenge to the law regarding objectionable advertisements of drugs and magic remedies. The drug producer, among other things, contended that the advertisement is entitled to get free speech protection. Repelling the contention, the Supreme Court upheld the statute which was intended to control or prohibit the advertisement of drugs in certain scenarios. It was laid down that the commercial advertisement cannot, as of right, claim protection under Article 19(1)(a).



# Punjab Cong leader Sukhjinder Randhawa writes to PM, seeks probe into ‘act of irrigation secy’ for not releasing funds

**Randhawa further said that the flood crisis is still unfolding and the “scale of human suffering and economic devastation” in his constituency — Gurdaspur and Pathankot, two strategically sensitive border districts — demands urgent national attention.**

**Chandigarh. (Agency)**  
Urgent measures need to be taken to strengthen the banks of Ravi river and its feeder rivulets as Pakistan has already done so leading to flood waters getting pushed into Punjab, Congress leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Gurdaspur MP also sought an independent inquiry into the “act and conduct of the Principal Secretary, Irrigation, Punjab cadre IAS officer Krishan Kumar”. The MP alleged that release of essential funds were deliberately withheld. “This failure directly undermined our ability to maintain embankments and flood defenses, including on the Ravi, and has now become a matter of national security, as breaches in the river make it impossible for Infantry or Armoured Vehicles to mobilise in case of an eventuality. This inquiry must be conducted on priority, independent of all else requested, so that responsibility is fixed and

corrective action taken,” he said. Randhawa further said that the flood crisis is still unfolding and the “scale of human suffering and economic devastation” in his

the Madhopur Barrage gave way, the discharge surged to over 4 lakh cusecs, overwhelming the fragile defenses. “The barrage itself is still dependent on colonial-era,

operation even during high flood surges,” he said.

The MP highlighted that downstream, tributaries such as the Jalali, Ujh, and Basantar Nala join the Ravi, unleashing fresh surge and widespread havoc. “It is imperative that the pending projects on these tributaries are completed expeditiously to prevent recurring devastation. Since the right bank of the Ravi is fortified by the Pakistan Army with concrete boulders, floodwaters are pushed onto our left bank, where the natural slope compounds the damage. The old Dhusi Bandh, already in a dilapidated condition, failed under this onslaught. It must be rebuilt afresh to modern standards, incorporating defensive works that are also essential for the security of our armed forces deployed in this border belt,” said Randhawa. The MP wrote that the UBDC, a British-era canal originally conceived as a combined irrigation and flood-protection system, must be remodelled and strengthened

to serve its purpose effectively. “It is vital for lean-season irrigation across the border districts of Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Amritsar, and Tarn Taran”.

Pointing out that a large number of villages situated beyond the Ravi are routinely cut off during the flood season, Randhawa said these habitations, many in eyeball-to-eyeball contact with Pakistan, urgently require all-season connectivity through modern bridges and approach roads. “The losses to crops, livestock, homes, and rural infrastructure are unprecedented. Given that this is a border region with a primarily rural population, the damage must not be measured by the narrow norms of the NDMA. Full and unconditional compensation is essential. The already fragile network of rural roads and bridges has been further damaged and must be rebuilt urgently—preferably through the Border Roads Organisation,” he said.

**Hyderabad .(Agency)**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Hyderabad Zonal Unit has provisionally attached immovable properties worth around Rs 4.80 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The properties, belonging to Mohd Munawar Khan and his wife Faika Taha Khan, are located in

According to the ED, government/Bhoodan land in Survey No. 181 of Nagaram village, Maheshwaram mandal, was falsely claimed by Khader Unissa and her son Mohd Munawar Khan as ancestral property. Revenue records were allegedly manipulated, and the land was sold to several parties with the help of middlemen.



Banjara Hills, Tolichowki and Shamshabad. The attachment, made on August 28, is linked to a money laundering case against Khader Unissa and others. The probe was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered on January 13, 2023, at the Maheshwaram police station against private individuals and government officials.

The agency said the middlemen, in connivance with government officials, forged documents and altered land records to remove the land from the prohibited list, enabling its illegal sale.

Through these transactions, Khader Unissa and Khan allegedly generated proceeds of crime worth Rs 6.45 crore. The ED found that Khan later used part of these funds to acquire properties in the name of his wife.

## In Punjab floods 2025, a 1988 redux: How man-made activities worsened natural calamities over the years

**Ludhiana.(Agency)**

The floods in Punjab have brought back the horrific memories of the 1988 — when the raging Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers turned into ‘water of sorrows’ and claimed over 500 lives — triggering the fear of a replay.

The trail of devastation in at least twelve districts covered by these rivers — Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Jalandhar and Rupnagar (Ropar) are the worst-hit districts — remained massive, with people struggling to rebuild their lives.

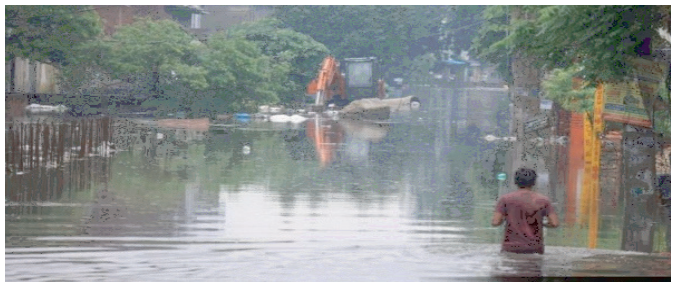
Multiple studies on the flood management in Punjab over years point out that floods are a natural disaster caused by overflowing rivers during monsoons.

But what been equally emphasised are human factors — poor management and lack of cleanliness of drains, canals and choe, choked natural

waterways, weak and poorly maintained dhussi bandhs, lack of green cover, illegal mining, and deforestation, illegal and

desilt its rivers which has reduced their water carrying capacity over the years.

Why does 1988 continue to



mindless constructions in floodplains and riverbanks— have maximised the destruction brought in by floods.

Experts view the climate change phenomenon resulting in erratic and uneven rainfall as another human factor that has worsened the flood situation in both India and Pakistan in recent years.

What has also added to Punjab’s woes is the failure of successive governments to

haunt?

According to a report published by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune, the 1988 floods in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, and in states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, etc., were among the “four most disastrous weather events” that year, with three others being cyclonic storm in West Bengal, severe heatwave over Madhya Pradesh and

Rajasthan and heavy snowfall over Jammu & Kashmir.

The 1988 floods claimed more than 1,400 lives in the north, including at least 600 in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal. But according to the Punjab government, 383 died and 62 were missing.

According to the IMD report, while the incessant rains in Punjab that year had started in March, the worst came in September when the three overflowing rivers, Sutlej, Ravi and Beas, wreaked havoc. From Gurdaspur to Ludhiana, Jalandhar to Sangrur, almost the entire Punjab was flooded.

On March 11, 1988, flash floods in the Ravi hit Gurdaspur district, killing one person and inundating 40 villages, which remained cut off for three days. From July 3 to 7, heavy rains in Patiala claimed three lives and submerged one-third of the city, 12 buildings collapsed, and over 20,000 people were rendered homeless.

**Chennai .(Agency)**

Just two weeks after a 21-foot-deep cave-in on Karukku Main Road near Ambattur, a new sinkhole of around five feet depth has emerged close to the previous site. The new sinkhole, which is close to a leaning electric pole, is believed to have been caused by another damage to the same underground sewage pipeline which caused the first sinkhole. It has, once again, disrupted traffic in the area while sparking safety concerns.

Speaking to TNIE, a Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board official said the collapse was likely due to damage in the sewage pumping line running beneath the road.

These lines, which are 30-40 years old, carry sewage from Karuppampulam to Karukku and onward to the Korattur and Kodungaiyur treatment plants. Over time, the buildup of gases inside the pipelines creates enough pressure to damage the



pipes and this might have allowed surrounding sand to infiltrate the system, weakening the structure. The recent rains would have further loosened the soil, creating a hollow beneath, resulting in the sinkhole, the official said.

On why no permanent options have been looked into despite the same sewage pipeline suffering damage a second time, officials said completely replacing the aging pipelines is not practically feasible immediately. The official said repairs are usually carried out only in the isolated

areas of damage, as part of operation and maintenance.

Repair work is set to begin on Tuesday morning. Traffic has currently been diverted to alternative routes including through Chennai-Tiruvallur High Road and East Avenue Road.

In the wake of the cave-in, barricades have been placed around the area, and metro water officials conducted an inspection. A motorcyclist had narrowly escaped injury on August 17 after he, along with his bike, fell into a 21-foot-deep hole at the same location.

## Heavy rain hits traffic in 30 places, uproots 5 trees in Bengaluru

**Bengaluru .(Agency)**

Bengaluru reported 30.6 mm of rainfall on Monday evening, resulting in slow-moving traffic due to water logging on roads in 30 places. The heavy rainfall after 6 pm also uprooted five trees.

The traffic police posted on X that due to waterlogging, traffic was moving slow on Binny Mill Main Road, KR Circle Underpass, Bannerghatta Main Road, Darga Road towards Silk Board, Bilekalli towards JD Mara, Panathur, Veerasandra Junction towards Hosur Road, Jayadeva, Vartur Kodi bus stop towards Whitefield and Varthur Kodi to Thubarahalli.

Traffic was hit in areas like Doddanekundi Outer Ring Road, Varthur police station towards Varthur College, Uttarahalli Circle, Majestic bus stand, SJP Road, Rupena Agrahara to



Bommanahalli, Ecospace, Bellandur and Bommanahalli to Rupena Agrahara.

Traffic was also hit in Central Business District, especially near the Chickpet Metro Station, Old Tharagupet, Sampangirama Nagar and Jayamahal Road, MMT bus stop, Sagar Junction towards Gurappanapalya, Sarakki

Junction, HSBC Junction and Madiwala police station.

The BBMP forest wing reported uprooting of trees in Yelahanka, near Jayadeva Hospital, Jayanagar, Whitefield and Jnanabharathi.

Teams were deployed to clear the uprooted trees.

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The Haryana Police has neutralised 13 dangerous criminals in 110 encounters conducted since January 2024, while 156 criminals suffered injuries — Director General of Police Shatrueet Kapur was apprised at a two-day high-level meeting of senior police officers from across the state being held at Madhuban to review and strategise law and order, crime control and police welfare measures. With women’s safety and victim counselling among top priorities, the state police chief focused on a comprehensive action plan aimed at improving public safety, combating violent crime and leveraging modern technology in policing. “DGP

Kapur directed senior officers to personally oversee investigations into crimes



against women and ensure victims receive proper counselling. He warned that repeated harassment of women by accused persons, even after their release from jail, would be dealt with severely. The meeting highlighted a 16 to 25

per cent decline in major crimes against women, such as rape, attempted rape, kidnapping,

molestation, and dowry deaths in 2025 compared to the previous year (from January 1 to August 31). DGP Kapur lauded the police for this progress and the dedicated efforts of officers,” a state police department’s

spokesperson said. “To enhance women’s security, 46 DSRF vehicles have been integrated with Dial 112 services, and a dedicated women’s ‘Durga Battalion’ with 540 personnel has been established at Sunaria, Rohtak.

Sensitive hotspots prone to harassment have been identified, with CCTV cameras installed and increased patrolling to ensure safety,” the spokesperson said. DGP Kapur emphasised strengthening district sealing plans to prevent violent crimes and called for strict enforcement of duties by officers on Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) and Police Control Room vehicles (PCRs) to promptly stop and arrest criminals.

## AAP MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra says security withdrawn, day after he slammed irrigation secy, govt

**Chandigarh.** AAP legislator from Sanour Harmit Singh Pathanmajra Monday claimed that his security cover of 12 personnel has been withdrawn and the station house officers in his constituency replaced, a day after he accused a senior IAS officer of not taking action such as desilting and cleaning rivers, particularly the Tangri river, despite his requests and said the state government

should listen to people or they “will trash us”.

“I knew it beforehand. I told these personnel yesterday that they should prepare. (AAP) Delhi leaders think they can scare me...I want to tell the CM that all MLAs are with you. If you do not listen to me today, then it will be too late. I have been a soldier of the party. They are dictators. Instead of replacing the officers, they are

taking action against the MLAs. They want to send a message to all the MLAs by doing this to me,” he said.

Pathanmajra further said that on the directions of the party’s Delhi leadership, Punjab Vigilance Bureau may book him for speaking against his own government.

Th MLA, whose constituency borders Tangri, Sunday visited the Tangri river



to assess the situation after floodwaters entered a 1-kilometre area in Sanour. The

AAP leader slammed CM Bhagwant Mann and Krishan Kumar, Principal Secretary,

Water Resources, accusing them of neglecting his constituency. “How is it that Krishan Kumar is heard, but MLAs are not? CM Mann will have to think. If we continue to listen to officers in cities, the state will be submerged. If the CM listens to MLAs more than officers, then this situation will not arise,” he said, pointing towards the flood waters in his constituency. “I will stand by my people.

If I do not amplify their voice, then I am at fault. If I say this is not the government’s fault, then these people will throw me in the river... I will also raise this in Vidhan Sabha,” he added. The AAP MLA said he was elected twice by the people of Sanour in 2017 and 2022.

“I have not been able to do anything. If they do something, then I will praise the government.



# Rats bite 2 babies at Indore hospital, probe ordered after video goes viral

**Congress MLA Umang Singhar shared a video of Indore's Maharaja Yeshwantrao (MY) Hospital alleging that newborns were being gnawed by rats inside the NICU. He slammed the BJP-led government for negligence.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Two newborn babies were bitten by rats at a government hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city within the last 48 hours, news agency PTI reported. The incident took place at Maharaja Yashwantrao Chikitsalaya (MYH), one of the largest government hospitals in the state, prompting the administration to order an enquiry.

Dr Ashok Yadav, the hospital superintendent,



confirmed the incident while speaking to

"In the last 48 hours, rats have bitten the fingers of a baby in the intensive care unit (ICU), while another infant suffered bites to the head and shoulder," he said. He added that both infants had congenital deformities. One of the babies had been abandoned in Khargone district and was sent to MYH for medical care. A committee has been formed to investigate the incidents.

To prevent such occurrences in the future, MYH employees have been instructed to maintain a 24-hour vigil. The hospital has also begun installing strong iron nets on the windows, and attendants have been advised not to bring outside food into the wards, as food waste is believed to be attracting rodents.

**OPPOSITION SLAMS**

## BJP FOR NEGLIGENCE

Congress MLA and Madhya Pradesh Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar on Tuesday took to social media, sharing a video of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of

the hospital, and slammed the BJP-led government for negligence. The video shows a rat roaming around in the NICU, crawling from one bed to another while crawling through wires and other equipment.

Calling the incident a "genocide", he said, "Government, have mercy on the newborns...! Look at the condition of Indore's MY Hospital — rats are gnawing on innocent newborns in the NICU and the BJP government has not been able to do pest control for five years! This is not just negligence, it is genocide. Hospitals are made to save lives, but the BJP has turned them into a den of death.

Doctors and the system kept lying, rats kept sucking the blood of children," Singhar posted. Singhar further accused the government of criminal failure and asked whether this reflects the BJP's vision of a "healthy Madhya Pradesh."

Echoing similar concerns, state Congress spokesperson Neelabh Shukla also demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter. "The case of rats gnawing on two newborn babies in MYH is not just administrative negligence, but a horrific incident that shakes human sensibilities," Shukla said. "There should be a judicial inquiry into this incident, and strict action should be taken against the culprits."

## Nine arrested for killing Kalkaji temple sewadar as probe picks pace

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Nine people have been arrested so far in connection with the brutal killing of a 35-year-old sewadar at Kalkaji temple, police said on Monday.

Five were arrested earlier, and four more have now been held. The accused have been identified as Kuldeep Bidhuri (20), Sandeep Bidhuri (33), Monu Kangar (31), Rohit Bidhuri (24), and Mohan Bidhuri alias Bhura

(19), all residents of Tughlakabad; Atul Pandey (30) of Dakshinipuri; and Nitin Pandey (27) of Govindpuri. Anil Kumar (55), father of accused Nitin Pandey, and Babu (40) of Tughlakabad have also been arrested for harbouring the criminals and criminal conspiracy, police said. A few more suspects are still at large and likely to be arrested soon.

The victim, Yogendra Singh, was beaten to death on Friday night after an argument with the accused over distribution of prasad.

"Teams are scanning CCTV footage, analysing technical evidence, and questioning several people to trace and arrest the remaining suspects. No one will be spared," a police officer said.

# Broken promise: Delhi's Aya Nagar still reels under drainage woes

**Committed to fix problems, declared PWD Minister Parvesh Verma; However, little has changed, with unregulated construction being rampant.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Two months after the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department declared that it had resolved the decades-old drainage problem in South Delhi's Aya Nagar, the situation on the ground remains unchanged. Despite the completion of a major drainage project in July, the locality's main artery, the Sunday Market

Road, continues to be waterlogged after even a moderate spell of rain.

Aya Nagar, located along the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road on Delhi's southern edge, has long been prone to flooding during the monsoon. Perched on the uneven Aravali terrain, the village was once drained naturally by ravines that carried rainwater away. But with unregulated construction and encroachments over the past two decades, these natural outlets have been blocked, worsening the problem. As a result, during every monsoon, the arterial Sunday Market Road is submerged, disrupting daily life and commerce.

On July 2, the I&FC Department announced the completion of a major drainage intervention, which included a reinforced concrete (RCC) box drain and 1000 mm pipelines to carry stormwater into nearby forest ravines. Engineers were



also placed on standby to monitor performance. At the inauguration, Delhi's Flood and Irrigation Minister Parvesh Verma declared the project a turning point.

kit, and to shift dry grains and cattle fodder to safer places. "Resolving the drainage crisis in Aya Nagar was not just an engineering mission—it was a commitment to give relief and dignity to a population that had been ignored for years.

This is a symbol of the change we are bringing across Delhi: where the toughest problems are tackled head-on, not postponed," Verma had said.

But two months later, residents say the promised relief has not materialised. On Monday, after downpour, the Sunday Market Road was again under several inches of water. "Two months ago, engineers carried out extensive repair work on this road, and we thought we would finally be free from waterlogging.

But the situation is exactly the same," said Suresh Singh, who runs a grocery shop.

Other shopkeepers reported that during heavier spells, water rises above the footpaths and enters establishments, damaging goods and forcing temporary closures.

# River water enters homes as Yamuna rises above danger mark in Delhi

### New Delhi. (Agency)

The Yamuna rose above the danger mark on Tuesday, sending floodwater into homes across parts of Delhi's Trans-Yamuna belt after overnight rain. Families in low-lying pockets such as Yamuna Bazaar reported inundated ground floors and damaged belongings as the river swelled.

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), at 9 am, the river was flowing at 205.81 metres at the Old Yamuna Bridge (OYB), surpassing the danger level of 205.33 metres. This level is expected to rise further, reaching 206.41 metres by 8 pm. According to an 8 am update, heavy releases upstream and within the city added to the surge: 1.76 lakh cusecs from the Hathni Kund Barrage, 69,210 cusecs from the Wazirabad Barrage and 73,619 cusecs from

the Okhla Barrage. All gates at Okhla were opened in the morning with the Yamuna in

on higher ground.

Authorities intensified public announcements from



full spate, officials said. Residential clusters in Mayur Vihar and nearby areas and adjacent localities on the eastern bank were among the worst affected, with lanes turning into channels and water seeping into houses. In the Yamuna Bazaar area, the river reportedly breached its banks, pushing water into nearby colonies and forcing residents to move to relief camps set up

boats, asking people settled along the floodplains to evacuate.

"We are constantly urging residents to vacate areas at the risk of flooding. All district magistrates have been directed to remain prepared for any flood-like situation," an official said, adding that teams were patrolling vulnerable stretches and coordinating with agencies for rapid response.

## HC tells DU colleges to reserve 5% sports quota

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
The Delhi High Court, while disposing of a writ petition filed by a CBSE national-level gold medalist in lawn tennis, directed that all colleges affiliated with the

strength of 956—well below the required 47. Hindu College contended that the quota mentioned in DU's Information Bulletin was not mandatory.

However, Delhi University, in an affidavit, confirmed that

**Hindu College contended that the quota mentioned in DU's Information Bulletin was not mandatory.**

University of Delhi (DU) must adhere to the mandatory 5% reservation for Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) and Sports quota in future admissions.

The case was filed by Aditi Rawat, a minor, represented through her mother, Anita Rawat, seeking a seat under the Sports Quota at Hindu College for the academic year 2025-26.

Rawat's counsel, Advocate Jeetender Gupta, along with Advocates Bharat Rawat and Ashish Mishra, argued that while DU's admission policy mandates 5% of total seats in each college be reserved for ECA/Sports, Hindu College had allotted only 10 seats each for ECA and Sports against a sanctioned

colleges are bound to reserve 5% of their sanctioned intake for ECA and Sports. Justice Vikas Mahajan observed that the affidavit left no ambiguity.



Since the centralised process had concluded and the petitioner already secured admission at Lady Shri Ram College under the Sports quota, no immediate relief was granted.

## CM says no worries as Yamuna rises; Congress blames govt for 'poor planning'

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday assured residents that the national capital is not in danger despite the steadily rising water level of the Yamuna, which is expected to touch the evacuation mark of 206 metres by Tuesday evening. Authorities, however, have been placed on high alert and people living in the river's floodplains have been advised to move to safer locations.

According to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the Hathnikund barrage discharged 3,29,313 cusec of water at 9 am on Monday, while the Wazirabad barrage released around 38,900 cusec.

"This time, despite a high discharge of over 3 lakh cusecs, the level is expected to go up to 207 metres or above. But I can assure the people that they need not worry, as flooding will not occur beyond the floodplains. Delhi is not in danger," Gupta said, adding that the administration was receiving hourly updates and monitoring the situation closely.

The chief minister said that while residents of the floodplains would face difficulties, inundation would be limited to that area. She pointed out that in 2023, the water level had peaked at 208.66 metres, higher than current projections.

"We are fully prepared. In the past six months, drains have been desilted to prevent blockages and arrangements are in place to drain out excess water," she added. Meanwhile, the Delhi Congress accused the city government of failing to

going under water has risen..."

Heavy rain leads to severe waterlogging

Several parts of the national capital witnessed heavy downpour on Monday, bringing relief from the heat but triggering severe waterlogging



take timely steps to protect residents.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav alleged that due to the government's inaction, people living in low-lying areas now face the spectre of their homes being submerged. Yadav said the Yamuna had already crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres on August 31, following continuous heavy rainfall. "After the arrival of lakhs of cusecs of water released by Haryana in Delhi for the past 24 hours, the spectre of Delhi

and traffic jams across the city. Najafgarh and Aya Nagar were among the wettest spots, recording nearly 50 mm of rainfall during the day, while Palam and Safdarjung received around 30 mm and 19 mm respectively, the India Meteorological Department said. Massive jams were reported on Mathura Road, Old Rohtak Road, parts of ITO, the corridor from Mahatma Gandhi Road to GT Karnal Road, leaving thousands of vehicles stranded due to the ongoing downpour.

## Nitish Katara case: SC extends Yadav's interim bail

### New Delhi. (Agency)

As the Supreme Court began hearing the Nitish Katara murder case on Monday, Justice N Kotiswar Singh recused himself from the proceedings.

On the same day, the apex court extended by one week the interim bail of convict Vikas Yadav, who is serving a 25-year sentence in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case. The extension was granted on medical grounds.

The bench, comprising Justices M M Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh, was hearing Yadav's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's August 22 order that had refused to prolong his interim bail. Earlier, the Supreme Court had granted him interim bail on July 29.

The court has repeatedly extended Yadav's interim bail, primarily due to his mother's health condition. On April 24, the Supreme Court allowed him interim bail till May 8, under strict conditions. The court directed that his ailing mother be admitted to AIIMS, New Delhi, for medical examination by a board of doctors. It also instructed that Yadav himself undergo a medical check-up.

While granting bail, the

court ordered that Yadav could only meet his mother and must stay at his residence in Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad. He was required to furnish a bail bond of Rs 1 lakh with one surety of the same amount. The court also asked Uttarakhand and



Delhi Police to provide security to witnesses and to Neelam Katara, Nitish Katara's mother, during Yadav's bail period.

Vikas Yadav was convicted by a trial court in May 2008 for murdering Nitish Katara, who was in a relationship with his sister Bharti. On October 3, 2016, the Supreme Court upheld his 25-year jail term without remission. Yadav's cousin Vishal Yadav was also awarded the same sentence. Both are sons of controversial Uttar Pradesh politician D P Yadav.



# Pat Cummins to miss Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma comeback series due to back injury

Australia's ODI captain Pat Cummins will miss India's much-anticipated white-ball series, which marks the return of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Delhi . (Agency)

Australia's ODI captain Pat Cummins has been ruled out of the upcoming limited-overs series against New Zealand and India after suffering a lower-back injury, Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed on Tuesday. The development means Cummins will miss the much-anticipated comeback series of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in India's white-ball side.

Australia's preparation for the Ashes defense against England has taken a significant hit after Cummins' lower-back flare-up. The side is scheduled to tour New Zealand for three T20Is in early October, before India travel Down Under for three ODIs and five T20Is. England will then arrive at the end of the year for the marquee Ashes series.Cummins won't be considered for the upcoming limited-overs series against India (or New Zealand) and will



continue his rehabilitation plan with a return to bowling to be determined as part of his Ashes preparation," read CA's statement.After bowling 95.1 overs in four Tests in the UK and the Caribbean - three against West Indies and one against South Africa during the World Test Championship final—the 32-year-old experienced back pain. Medical scans revealed "a level of lumbar bone stress" that CA says "will require further management" in the lead-up to the Ashes. Importantly, the injury has not been labelled a "stress fracture", but medical staff must determine whether his back can withstand an Ashes campaign that features five Tests in seven weeks.

Cummins had already missed the Champions Trophy 2025, recent white-ball series in the Caribbean and northern

Australia with the aim of replicating the mini-pre-season that had served him well ahead of last summer's home Tests against India.

AUSTRALIA'S MR. RELIABLE

The setback is a major concern for Australia, given Cummins' track record of durability in recent years. Since taking over as captain almost four years ago, he has missed only two Tests through injury, while only Nathan Lyon (70) has played more matches than him since his comeback in 2017. He has also been one of Australia's most reliable Ashes performers, missing just one of the past 20 Tests against England and playing every match of the 2017-18, 2019, and 2023 series.

The emergence of Scott Boland means Cummins, on paper, can be replaced in the XI

if all fast bowlers are fit. Steve Smith is also a capable deputy, having captained the side in Sri Lanka earlier this year. But the absence of Australia's premier fast bowler would be a huge blow.An attack of Josh

Hazlewood (34), Mitchell Starc (35), Boland (36) and Nathan Lyon (who turns 38 in November) at the first Test in Perth would also be among the oldest combinations ever fielded by Australia.

## India ace pool stage test, but bigger battles await in Asia Cup Super 4s

New Delhi . (Agency)

The Indian men's hockey team made it three wins out of three as they completed the pool stages of the Hockey Asia Cup 2025 with a comprehensive 15-0 win over Kazakhstan on Monday, September 1.

The forwards were finally able to click, with Abhishek scoring four, Sukhjeet Singh netting three, and Jugraj Singh also bagging a hat-trick.A lot was said about the Indian team coming into the competition, as 2025 wasn't off to the best of starts. India had a memorable 2024, where they secured an Olympic bronze medal, won the Asian Champions Trophy, and then the players also took part in the rebranded Hockey India League. Expectations were high this year, and fans went into the Pro League European leg hoping that the team could finish among the top three, or even in first position.What

followed, however, had everyone questioning the team and whether they could make it to the World Cup next year. Seven losses out of eight games put the pressure firmly on coach Craig Fulton and his players, with the Asia Cup being their last chance of qualifying for the tournament in Belgium and the Netherlands in 2026.

The Asia Cup so far has been brilliant for the hosts, as their performance has improved steadily from the first game. While the win against China wasn't convincing enough, India put in a more controlled display against Japan, even though the scoreline read 3-2.Against Kazakhstan, who were already out of the Super 4s race, India flexed their muscles with the forwards finally finding their groove.But now the slate has been wiped clean, with India set to face Malaysia, defending champions Korea.

# Craig McMillan takes up full-time coaching role with New Zealand Women

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Zealand have bolstered their coaching ranks ahead of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup by appointing former Black Caps all-rounder Craig McMillan as assistant coach on a full-time basis. The 48-year-old returns after spending the past year with the White Ferns in a part-time capacity, a spell that included their victorious Women's T20 World Cup campaign in the UAE. He will continue to oversee batting and fielding duties under head coach Ben Sawyer, with his new role commencing this week.The move means McMillan will step away from media work and other coaching commitments around the world, but he insisted the opportunity was too good to turn down. "I'm over the moon to be in this role with the White Ferns," said McMillan. "The

women's game is going from strength to strength, and I'm excited to continue to work with our talented players and help them reach their goals. The last year has gone so quickly and I've loved every minute of being part of a team that continues to improve, challenge one another, and does special things on the world stage."McMillan also emphasised that preparations are well underway as New Zealand chases its first 50-over

World Cup title since 2000. The White Ferns staged a training camp in Chennai last month to familiarise themselves with spin-friendly Indian conditions ahead of the October-November tournament.It's been a busy period leading into the 50-over World Cup," McMillan added. "We've had a number of camps, including one in Chennai which exposed the players to Indian conditions like what they'll face in October-November. The team



is pumped to get back to India and take on another World Cup."New Zealand begin their campaign against defending champions Australia on 1 October in Indore. The eight-team competition carries a record prize fund of US\$13.88 million - a 297 per cent increase from the US\$3.5 million offered at the previous edition hosted in New Zealand in 2022.With McMillan on board full-time, the White Ferns will hope his experience and

# Shubman Gill heartbroken by devastation in Punjab due to floods: We will rise up

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shubman Gill took to social media to express his grief over the devastation caused by what has been described as the "worst floods in recent history" in Punjab, the North Indian state from which the India Test captain hails. Gill shared an emotional note, offering strength to the people of his state as they battle the natural disaster."Heartbroken to see my Punjab devastated by floods. Punjab will always be stronger than any adversity, and we'll rise up from this. My prayers are with all affected families. Standing strong with my people," Gill wrote in his post on X, formerly Twitter.The floods in Punjab has already claimed at least 29 lives, while thousands have been displaced as torrential rain and the release of water from dams have inundated more than 10 districts in Punjab. The Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers, along with several



seasonal rivulets, have overflowed following heavy rainfall in their catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. In certain places, the Ravi has swelled to over ten times its normal width, submerging homes, sweeping across vast stretches of cropland, and forcing thousands of families from their homes.As of Monday, September 1, more than 1,300 villages across Punjab remained submerged,

with 6,582 people relocated to 122 relief camps, according to official figures. Districts including Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Fazilka, Kapurthala, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, and Amritsar are among the worst affected.Gill's message of solidarity came as Punjabi film stars such as Diljit Dosanjh, Ammy Virk, and Sonam Bajwa stepped forward to support flood victims through donations and relief efforts.

Dosanjh, in particular, has joined forces with NGOs and local authorities to adopt ten villages in Gurdaspur and Amritsar, with his team providing essentials such as food, water, and medical aid. The actor-singer shared details of the initiative on his Instagram story.

Meanwhile, Gill has been physically removed from the destruction, training at the Indian cricket board's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The opener recently cleared the mandatory fitness test for the senior men's side in the lead-up to the Asia Cup 2025, which begins on September 9 in the UAE.Gill has also marked his return to the T20I set-up for the first time in a year, having been named vice-captain of the Suryakumar Yadav-led squad. The 25-year-old is expected to open the batting alongside his close friend and fellow Punjabi, Abhishek Sharma.

New Delhi . (Agency)

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has said that Indian star Shubman Gill and England's Joe Root prefer not to bat at No. 3 in Test cricket, highlighting how the position has lost its charm in modern cricket. His remarks came shortly after Indian stalwart Cheteshwar Pujara announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on Sunday, August 24. Hussain believes that with Pujara's departure, another old-school batter has bid adieu to the game, and he praised the Indian veteran for his resilient presence in the middle order.Hussain lauded Pujara for mastering the challenging No. 3 role, especially when he stepped in to replace a legend like Rahul Dravid. He emphasized that very few modern players are willing to take on the responsibility at that spot.A real old-school No. 3. And he had to take over from one of the all-time great No. 3s



in Rahul Dravid. It's something that's a little bit lacking in international cricket-No. 3s. Even on the England side, Joe Root doesn't want to do it. Shubman Gill doesn't want to do it for India since he has the captaincy. He wants to bat at 4," Hussain said on the Sky Sports YouTube channel.Talking about the importance of the No. 3 position, Hussain compared Pujara's approach to some of the greatest names in cricket. "In our era, your No. 3 was your best player, whether it be Viv Richards, Ricky Ponting, or Rahul Dravid. Not an easy position to do, but Pujara did it as well as anyone," he added.Hussain also highlighted

# Kuldeep's absence was felt in England, may get benched again in Asia Cup: Maninder Singh

New Delhi . (Agency)

The art of left-arm wrist spin was a rarity in India until Kuldeep Yadav's rise at the 2014 Under-19 World Cup, where he finished as joint second-highest wicket-taker with 14 scalps in six innings. Strong domestic and IPL performances soon earned him a spot in the Indian side, where his variations left batters baffled.Eight years on, Kuldeep has become a proven match-winner, central to India's 4-1 Test series win over England in 2024, the T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, and the Champions Trophy 2025 success. His 3/19 in the T20 World Cup semi-

final against England, including Harry Brook's wicket, and his double strike against Rachin



Ravindra and Kane Williamson in the Champions Trophy final, were tournament-defining spells.

The left-arm spinner registered figures of 3/19 in the T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final

against England, which included the big wicket of Harry Brook. Later in the Champions Trophy 2025 final, he destroyed New Zealand's momentum, dismissing Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson in quick succession.Yet recently, Kuldeep has spent more time on the bench, with team management favouring bowlers who can contribute with the bat.Former India spinner Maninder Singh said Kuldeep would have made the difference in the recent series in England, claiming that India could have won the series 3-1 instead of settling for a 2-2 draw.

# I watched Coco 2 months after giving birth: Naomi Osaka relishes full circle moment

New Delhi . (Agency)

27-year-old Naomi Osaka stormed into the quarterfinals of the US Open with a straight-sets victory over Coco Gauff. In an emotional on-court interview after the match, Osaka recalled watching Gauff from the stands at the 2023 US Open — just two months after giving birth to her daughter, Shai.On Tuesday, September 2, Osaka eliminated 3rd seed Gauff 6-3, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium. The win secured her place in a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time in more than four and a half years.Speaking after the match,

a teary-eyed Osaka — now ranked No. 24 in the world — said Arthur Ashe is her favorite court in the world, and it meant a great deal to play against Gauff, who she had watched win the US Open title in 2023.

"I'm a little sensitive and I don't want to cry but I had so much fun out here. I was in the stands 2 months after I gave birth to my daughter watching Coco I really wanted an opportunity to come out here and play. This is my favorite court in the world. It means so much to me to be back here.

I wanna say a big thank you to my team. We've kinda been



through a lot. It hasn't always been easy. They've been by my side. Thank you guys. Love you," Osaka said.The Japanese star won her last Grand Slam title in 2021. She took a full season off in 2023 to give birth to her daughter in July, and

made her Slam return at the Australian Open in January 2024.Her run to the quarterfinals in New York marks her best Grand Slam result since returning as a mother."This is kind of uncharted territory at this point of my career," said Osaka, who was born in Japan and moved to the U.S. with her family at age 3. "I'm just enjoying it. I'm having fun. I'm being able to play against the best players in the world."Osaka was the stronger player throughout the match, capitalising on Gauff's unforced errors and visibly shaky performance.

# Out-of-favour Pakistan batter Asif Ali retires from international cricket at 33

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan middle-order batter Asif Ali has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 33, confirming the news in a social media post on 1 September. He will, however, continue featuring in domestic and franchise cricket worldwide. Asif's last major appearance for Pakistan came in the 2022 T20 World Cup clash against India at the MCG, before making a few appearances for a second-string side in the 2023 Asian

Pakistan middle-order batsman Asif Ali has confirmed that he will continue playing domestic cricket but has decided to retire from international cricket.

Games."Today, I announce my retirement from international cricket," Ali wrote. "Wearing

the Pakistan jersey has been the greatest honour of my life and serving my country on the cricket field has been my proudest chapter. I retire with immense gratitude and will continue to share my passion for the game by playing domestic and league cricket worldwide."

Since making his debut in 2018, Ali has featured in 21 ODIs and 58 T20Is, scoring a total of 959 runs across both formats. Known primarily as a finisher and power hitter, he maintained strike rates of



121.65 in ODIs and 133.87 in T20Is.Ali's career is highlighted by a number of memorable

cameos. At the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 against Afghanistan, with Pakistan

needing 24 off 12 balls, he smashed four sixes off Karim Janat's penultimate over, racing to 25 from just seven deliveries and sealing the win with an over to spare. The innings proved pivotal in Pakistan's march to the semi-finals.

He delivered another crucial cameo a year later in the Asia Cup, scoring 16 off 8 balls in the final over to help Pakistan chase down 182 against India.

Ali made his T20I debut against the West Indies in April 2018 following a stellar performance for Islamabad

United in the PSL, where he hit three successive sixes at a crucial stage of the final. His ODI debut came just two months later.Despite flashes of brilliance, Ali often struggled with inconsistent selection. Primarily a finisher, he was sometimes promoted higher up the order in ODIs, while in T20Is he averaged just over seven balls per innings across his 58-match career. Over a quarter of his T20I innings ended with him unbeaten, reflecting that he was often underused.



# Industry urges fix for inverted duty structure ahead of GST Council meet

**NEW DELHI .(Agency)**  
As the GST Council convenes for a crucial meeting on September 3rd and 4th, where a major rate rationalization is on the agenda, a chorus of industry voices is calling for a resolution to the persistent problem of the inverted duty structure (IDS).  
An inverted duty structure occurs when the taxes paid on inputs (raw materials and services) are higher than the tax levied on the finished product. This leads to an accumulation of unutilized Input Tax Credit (ITC), blocking crucial working capital for companies.Edible oil industry sounds alarm  
The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) has issued an urgent memorandum to the government, highlighting a severe strain on the sector since July 2022, when the GST Council restricted refunds of accumulated ITC under IDS.  
"While edible oil is taxed at 5% GST, most input materials such as packaging, chemicals, and processing materials attract GST at 12–18%, leading to substantial accumulation of unutilized ITC," the IVPA stated. The association warned that this is causing a working capital crisis, especially for MSMEs, disincentivising investment, and potentially driving up consumer prices.



"Higher costs due to unrecovered ITC are passed on to consumers, potentially pushing prices upward and may drive lower-income consumers toward unsafe, adulterated, or reused edible oils," the IVPA cautioned. They have urged the Council to rescind the 2022 restriction and ensure parity with other essential items like butter and ghee, which continue to receive refund benefits.  
EV sector seeks tax parity  
The electric vehicle (EV) industry is facing a similar hurdle. Chetan Maini, Co-founder of SUN Mobility, pointed out a critical mismatch: "While EVs attract just 5% GST, standalone batteries are taxed at 18%, a mismatch that creates an inverted duty structure and adds to the cost of OEMs and infrastructure

players."Maini also noted that battery swapping and charging services are taxed at 18%, making adoption expensive for key user groups like gig workers. He called for rationalizing GST on batteries and related services to 5% to improve affordability and accelerate adoption.  
Insurance sector highlights structural issueThe insurance sector welcomed the proposed reduction of GST on premiums from 18% to 5%, calling it a "progressive and customer-centric step" that will improve affordability and penetration.  
However, Rakesh Jain, CEO of Reliance General Insurance, flagged an underlying structural issue. "A key concern is the inverted duty structure, which leads to accumulation of unutilised

input tax credits, as insurers are unable to offset taxes paid on many input services that attract higher GST rates," he said. He urged policymakers to address this inefficiency to unlock the full benefits of the rate reduction for the industry.

As the GST Council deliberates on simplifying rates, the pressing demand from diverse industries is clear: any reform must address the crippling inverted duty structure to ensure the tax system fuels growth rather than stifling it.

## Govt permits sugar mills, distilleries to make ethanol without any restrictions in 2025-26 mkt yr

**NEW DELHI . (Agency)**  
The government on Monday permitted sugar mills and distilleries to produce ethanol without any quantitative restrictions in the 2025-26 marketing year starting November.Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) runs from November to October. "Sugar mills and distilleries are allowed to produce ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar syrup, B-heavy molasses as well as C-heavy molasses during ESY 2025-26 without any restrictions," the food ministry said in a notification.  
It said the department in consultation with the petroleum ministry would periodically review the diversion of sugar to ethanol production in order to ensure a

smooth supply of sweetener in the domestic market.  
During the current ESY 2024-25, the government has permitted the diversion of 40 lakh tonnes of sugar for ethanol production. The entre has been promoting blending of ethanol in petrol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell ethanol blended with petrol. During the ongoing ESY 2024-25, OMCs have achieved an average ethanol blending of 19.05 per cent as on July 31, 2025. The National Policy on Biofuels 2018, as amended in 2022, inter alia advanced the target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol from 2030 to ESY 2025-26.



September 15 income tax return (ITR) deadline.  
**HOW ONLINE GAMING INCOME IS CLASSIFIED**  
Winnings from online games are not treated like salary, capital gains, rent or business profits.The Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT) has made it clear that they fall under the head 'Income from Other Sources', which also covers things such as lottery prizes and gifts.  
**TDS AND COMPLIANCE RULES**  
Gaming platforms have also been brought under strict compliance. Under Section 194BA, tax is deducted at source (TDS) not only on

withdrawals but also on closing balances. These transactions are linked to the player's PAN and directly reported to the tax department.This means that even if someone's overall income is below the taxable limit, they may still need to file an ITR if tax has been deducted. In addition, Rule 12BA of the Income-tax Rules says that filing a return is compulsory if the total TDS or TCS in a financial year is more than Rs 25,000.  
**WHAT EXPERTS SAY**  
Tax expert Sandeep Sehgal, Partner, Tax at AKM Global, while speaking to CNBCTV18, explained that those who earn money from online platforms like fantasy sports, poker or e-sports must disclose it under 'Income from Other Sources'.He pointed out that winnings are taxed at 30% without any reliefs, and losses are not allowed to be set off. He also advised that taxpayers should use the correct form—either ITR-2 or ITR-3, depending on their overall income profile.

# How to take a loan against mutual fund Follow these steps

Need quick cash but don't want to sell your mutual funds? You can now take a loan against your investments and get instant funds while keeping your portfolio intact. Here's how.

**CHENNAI (Agency)**  
PhonePe has launched a new way for investors to access instant funds without selling their mutual fund investments. Through a partnership with DSP Finance, users can now avail loans against their mutual fund portfolios directly within the PhonePe app.This innovative offering allows investors to unlock liquidity while keeping their investments intact.  
**WHAT IS A LOAN AGAINST MUTUAL FUNDS?**  
A loan against mutual funds



lets you borrow money by pledging your mutual fund units as collateral. Unlike traditional loans, there are no monthly EMIs for the principal; you only pay interest on the amount you withdraw.  
This means your investments can continue to grow while providing you with immediate cash for personal or business needs. Loan amounts can go up to Rs 2 crore and can

be approved in less than 10 minutes.This facility is ideal for investors who want quick access to cash but do not want to redeem their mutual fund units. SIPs and other investment plans continue uninterrupted, and the loan can be repaid anytime, giving you flexibility.  
**HOW TO TAKE A LOAN AGAINST MUTUAL FUNDS**  
The process is designed to be completed in just a few

minutes:Initiate the loan: Open the PhonePe app and navigate to the 'Loans' section. Select the 'Loan Against Mutual Fund' option.Get a loan ffer: Enter your PAN and OTP. PhonePe will securely fetch your eligible mutual funds and instantly compute a loan offer. You can then choose the loan amount you need.Complete KYC and set up autopay: Complete your KYC verification and set up monthly AutoPay for interest payments.  
Pledge your funds: Confirm your loan by pledging the mutual fund units as collateral.  
Receive instant cash: Sign the loan agreement digitally, and the funds will be credited to your bank account immediately.  
In other words, by turning mutual fund investments into a source of cash without disrupting your portfolio, users can meet their short-term financial needs while continuing to grow their wealth.

**MUMBAI (Agency)**  
State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has entered the international debt market to raise up to \$1 billion through a dollar bond issue. The move follows India's recent sovereign rating upgrade by S&P to BBB with a stable outlook—the first such upgrade in 18 years from its earlier BBB—which was accompanied by an upgrade to SBI's own rating.The bank is issuing dollar-denominated bonds maturing in five years, and is looking at mopping up at least \$500 million and if the response and pricing is good, the issue, which is part of the bank's \$10 billion medium term note programme, may touch \$1 billion, a merchant banker working on the issue told The New Indian Express Tuesday.  
The debt fund raising comes even as the bank is sitting on lendable liquidity worth Rs 12 trillion, a good portion of which is the excess holding in

government securities, the chairman CS Setty had told this paper recently. He had also said the bank has a board mandate to raise Rs 20,000 crore in domestic debt this fiscal.  
This fund raising also assumes importance as the bank with a Rs 67 trillion balance-sheet, had already raised Rs 25,000 crore in a QIP issue in late July, making it the single largest fund raising through this mode, even as its corporate loan book has been seeing muted growth as corporates, which are sitting on a cash balance of Rs 13.5 trillion as they are not investing to add capacity instead deleveraging and even paying back loans earlier than maturity. In the June quarter, the bank's gross advances rose 11.61% to Rs 42.55 trillion driven by personal loans which grew 12.56%, SME loans grew 19.10%, agricultural loans up 12.67%, and corporate loans which was muted at 5.70%.  
Chairman Setty had

expressed confidence in retaining the credit growth target set in April at 12% for the fiscal as he expected more corporates to take disbursement of loan actions which stood at Rs 3.89 trillion and while disbursement in the quarter stood at Rs 3.41 trillion. The bank was the most profitable company in the quarter with a whopping Rs 19160 crore in net income.The second quarter will be much better given the nearly Rs 10,000 crore the bank will ne netting from the 13.5% stake sale in Yes Bank which is around 110% of its investment made in March 2020 when it the RBI asked the bank to pick up 50% in the private lender as part of its rescue.Similarly deposits increased 11.66% to Rs 54.73 trillion, with current account deposits jumping 30.69% and savings deposits rising 4.71% helping the bank improve the low-cost Casa ratio to 39.36 sequentially but marginally lower than 40.70 a year ago.

# Can salaried employees change tax regimes while filing ITR

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
As the September 15 income tax return (ITR) filing deadline approaches, many salaried employees are wondering if they can change their tax regime while submitting their returns.While employees choose a tax regime during the year for TDS (tax deducted at source) purposes, the final choice can be different when filing the ITR.OLD VS NEW TAX REGIME  
The old tax regime allows taxpayers to claim a variety of deductions and exemptions. These include contributions to provident funds, life insurance premiums, home loan principal repayments, House Rent Allowance (HRA), and Leave Travel Allowance (LTA). Although tax rates rise with higher income, these deductions can significantly reduce the taxable amount.The new tax regime, introduced in FY 2020-21, offers lower tax rates but removes most exemptions and deductions. From FY 2023-24, this has become the default choice for salaried employees, but it may not always be the most beneficial depending on individual circumstances.  
**CAN YOU SWITCH TAX REGIMES WHILE FILING ITR?**  
Yes. Even if you declared a different regime to your



**As tax season nears, a common question among employees is whether they can switch from the old tax regime to the new one, or vice versa, while filing their ITR. Understanding the rules can help maximise tax savings.**

employer during the year, you can choose another when filing your ITR. The employer calculates TDS based on the selected regime, but the final decision rests with the taxpayer.It is important to account for all deductions and exemptions correctly if switching to the old regime.  
**HOW TO SWITCH**  
To change your tax regime while filing, log in to the income tax e-filing portal. Now select the appropriate ITR form, usually ITR-1 or ITR-2 for salaried employees, and ITR-2

if your annual income exceeds Rs 50 lakh.In the relevant section of the form, choose either the old or new tax regime and fill in the necessary details.  
**SHOULD YOU SWITCH?**  
Choosing the right regime depends on your income and available deductions. The old regime may benefit those with higher taxable income who can claim multiple deductions under sections like 80C, 80D, or HRA.On the other hand, the new regime could be better for individuals with simpler income and fewer deductions, as the lower tax rates may result in lower liability.  
**COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID**  
Many taxpayers make the mistake of switching without calculating the total tax liability under both regimes. Others forget to claim deductions correctly under the old regime, such as HRA, education loan repayments, or investment-related exemptions.Errors can lead to unnecessary notices or scrutiny from the Income Tax Department.  
With only a few days left for the ITR deadline, salaried employees should carefully review their income, deductions, and exemptions to choose the most beneficial tax regime and file their returns accurately.

# Top real estate developers eye Rs 1.5 lakh crore sales as debt hits historic low

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
India's top listed real estate developers are powering ahead with robust sales targets and their strongest balance sheets in years, even as housing demand remained subdued in the first half of 2025.Fresh data from ANAROCK Research shows that the top 10 listed players have already achieved nearly 30% (Rs 44,317 crore) of their combined Rs 1.49 lakh crore pre-sales target for FY26 in just the first quarter.Leading the pack are DLF and Prestige Estates. DLF has already met 52% of its annual pre-sales guidance of Rs 20,000–22,000 crore, while Prestige is close behind at 45% of its Rs 27,000 crore target.For perspective,

these developers collectively clocked Rs 1.21 lakh crore in pre-sales in FY25. They are now aiming for a 23% growth in FY26. Godrej Properties topped the FY25 charts with Rs 29,444 crore, followed by DLF at Rs 21,233 crore. Big players are not slowing down on expansion. Over 2,898 acres of land changed hands across 76 deals in H1 2025—already 1.15 times the land deals of all 2024. If sales are strong, the financial turnaround is even more striking. After the NBFC crisis of 2018 and the pandemic-led disruptions, developers went into deleveraging mode. Today, their average net debt-to-equity ratio has fallen to a historic low



of 0.05 in FY25, down from 0.55 in FY17—a 90% reduction.Some big names are now in a net cash position, signaling a sector-wide shift from debt-fueled growth to balance-sheet-driven growth. "This deleveraging phase will positively impact real estate development in India over the long term. With D/E ratios at multi-year lows and equity

capital flowing in, developers can expand strategically, consolidate market share, and build consumer trust," says Anuj Puri, Chairman – ANAROCK Group  
The sector's financial discipline, combined with favourable monetary conditions and rising investor interest, is creating a trust-driven, performance-led growth cycle. Strong balance sheets and near-zero debt make the real estate a safer bet for institutional and foreign investors, setting the stage for long-term capital inflows.In short, top developers are entering FY26 in their best shape in decades—leaner, stronger, and ready for aggressive growth.

# Sensex, Nifty open higher ahead of GST Council meet as investors eye major tax cuts

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Benchmark equity indices opened on a positive note on Tuesday as investors stayed optimistic ahead of the two-day GST Council meeting, where a major rate overhaul is expected. The S&P BSE Sensex gained around 200 points in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 hovered above 24,600. Broader markets

mirrored the upbeat sentiment, extending gains from the previous session.Market optimism comes on the back of better-than-expected GDP growth and expectations of GST rate cuts on nearly 175 products, including shampoos, hybrid cars, and consumer electronics. The GST Council, which meets on September 3–4,

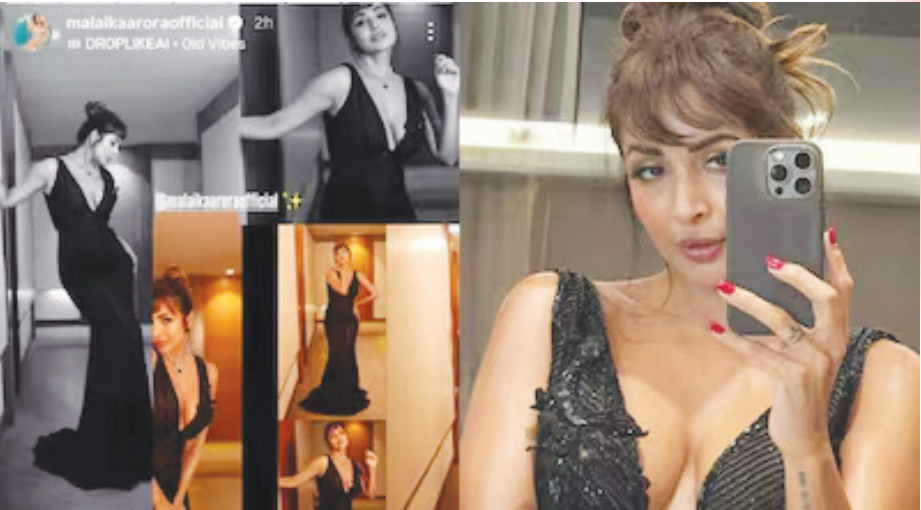
is likely to announce a 10 percentage point reduction in consumption tax for several goods. The upbeat mood also follows Monday's strong rally, where Nifty climbed nearly 200 points, buoyed by automobile stocks posting robust monthly sales, and IT stocks benefiting from the rupee's slide to fresh lows against the dollar."After a

strong start to the week, momentum looks set to continue. Gift Nifty is indicating a positive opening," said Hariprasad K, SEBI-registered Research Analyst and Founder of Livelong Wealth. He added that volatility eased yesterday, with India VIX slipping over 3%, signaling improved sentiment.



# Malaika Arora

## Turns Up The Heat In Sexy Black Bodycon For Latest Photoshoot



Malaika Arora is no doubt Bollywood’s style icon, and there is no denying that. Her recent photoshoot is proof. In her latest photoshoot, the actress looked stunning in a black bodycon dress oomping hotness. Malaika’s dress featured a plunging deep V-neckline and a sleeveless slim strap.

**Malaika Arora’s stunning body-con dress**

The bodycon bold black outfit featured sequin detailing and a sheer material at the bottom. The top of her gown featured beautiful motifs embroidered on it. With hair tied up in a messy bun and bangs covering her forehead, Malaika opted for subtle yet smoky makeup. In the look, the actress opted for tinted cheeks, grey smoky yet shiny eyeshadow, and dark-coloured lipstick with shiny gloss. Malaika’s appearance was further enhanced with her contrasting red nail paints. The outfit featured a deep backless detailing with minimal accessories, including black-stoned small earrings and an intricate neckpiece.

**Malaika’s sultry bralette-style**

Earlier, Malaika stunned as she stepped out for a weekend at her newly opened restaurant Scarlett House in Bandra, and she looked nothing short of sexy and sensational.

For the outing, Malaika opted for a sultry bralette-style floral top paired with high-waisted blue denims. With her sleek, straight hair left open and minimal accessories, Malaika let her natural glow and sexy style do all the talking as she walked out of her restaurant, instantly setting social media on fire. Malaika Arora recently co-founded Scarlett House, an all-day restaurant in Bandra’s Pali Village, along with her son Arhaan Khan and close partners. Arhaan, who is Malaika’s son with actor-producer Arbaaz Khan, has already stepped into the world of entrepreneurship alongside his mother.

**Malaika Arora on the work front**

Malaika Arora is a well-known Bollywood star who has worn many hats – she’s a dancer, model, actress, and also a popular judge on TV shows. She became famous with hit songs like Chaiyya Chaiyya and Munni Badnaam Hui, and is often seen in glamorous dance numbers in movies. Over the years, Malaika has judged several big reality shows such as India’s Got Talent, Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, and India’s Best Dancer.

Most recently, she was seen as a judge on Hip Hop India Season 2 with Remo D’Souza. The show was hosted by Manisha Rani and streamed on Amazon MX Player.



## Esha Deol Opens Up On Divorce From Bharat Takhtani: 'It's Very Difficult But...'



Esha Deol, daughter of veteran actors Hema Malini and Dharmendra, went through a major life change in 2024 when she announced her divorce from Bharat Takhtani. The actor, who shares two daughters with her ex-husband, reflected on the challenges of navigating single parenthood and how she has embraced the responsibility of co-parenting. In a throwback interview with The Quint, Esha revealed that while the transition hasn’t been easy, her children remain the centre of her world. She admitted that single parenting can often feel “overwhelming,” but emphasized that ensuring her daughters’ happiness and stability has always been her top priority.

**On Co-Parenting And Putting Kids First**

Esha explained that even though the relationship between two individuals can change, parents must continue to stand united for their children. “When kids are involved, it is important to let your ego aside and have the threshold. At the end of the day, we are parents to these beautiful kids. Let’s give them the best,” she said.

She further added that when parents decide to put their children above personal differences, it naturally softens the bond between ex-partners. “The other person has to melt, if it’s possible. And you change the roles. And you co-parent,” Esha said. The actor stressed the importance of acting as a unit, even after separation. “For your kids, you have to be a unit. That unit can’t break. Maybe the other unit has broken but for your kids, be that one unit,” she explained. For Esha, the key is to never give up on trying to make co-parenting work.

**Taking A Break From Acting For Motherhood**

When asked about stepping back from her acting career, Esha shared that it was a conscious decision to focus on her family. “My break was purely to start a family and I embraced motherhood twice over. Automatically as a woman, it’s my choice, I want to give my children that time,” she said. Esha added that she always dreamt of a simple yet fulfilling life—marriage, family, and children alongside her professional journey. She also noted how her daughters enjoy seeing their mother on screen, which continues to inspire her as an actor and as a parent.

## Avneet Kaur’s Love In Vietnam Is First Indian Film To Bag 10,000 Screens In China



Avneet Kaur and Shantanu Mishra’s Love In Vietnam is making history. It has now become the first Indian film to secure a release across 10,000 screens in China. Earlier films like Secret Superstar and 12th Fail were released in China after their Indian release, with business analysis conducted at the Indian box office. The mega Chinese production giant Shanghai YC Media and Film has acquired the rights for the theatrical release of the film in China.

Talking about this massive deal, the Director of the film, Rahhat Shah Kazmi, shares, “Love in Vietnam has been a dream project. We have put our heart and soul into this film, and it is truly a matter of pride as we have created history by acquiring 10,000 screens in China even before our India release.” Shot across picturesque locations in Vietnam and India’s heartland, Punjab, Love in Vietnam is a tale of unflinching love and friendship, with music that touches your inner soul. The China release is scheduled to take place during the joyous festival of Christmas.

**About The Film**

Love in Vietnam is a heart-wrenching musical love story directed by Rahhat Shah Kazmi, presented by Zee Studios, and produced by Captain Rahul Bali, Blue Lotus Pictures, Innovations India, Rahat Kazmi Film Studios, And Productions, Zebaish Entertainment, Tariq Khan Productions, Mango Tree Entertainment, and Samten Hills, Dalat. It is all set to release theatrically on 12th September 2025. Backed by Omung Kumar, the film is based on the 1943 Turkish novel Madonna in a Fur Coat by Sabahattin Ali. It also features a Vietnamese actress, Kha Ngan, Farida Jalal, and Raj Babbar in significant roles.

Starring Shantanu Maheshwari and Avneet Kaur in the leads, the film follows their childhood love story that takes a turn when Maheshwari’s character travels to Vietnam, meets a new woman, played by Kha Ngan, and faces the pain of betrayal and separation.

The film explores a passionate, cross-cultural romance unfolding between Punjab and Vietnam, highlighting themes of love, heartbreak, and the journey of two souls across distances.

# Shilpa Shetty

## Pays Tribute To Zeenat Aman; Recreates Veteran Actor's Dum Maaro Dum Look



Shilpa Shetty decided to pay homage to veteran actress Zeenat Aman by recreating her iconic look from her film “Haré Rama Haré Krishna”, also starring Dev Anand and Mumtaz.

She was seen posing in a yellow printed co-ord set with open hair, funky sunglasses, and a rudraksh mala around her neck, and another one in her hand. We could also see a small garland made from marigolds on her wrist. This iconic retro look was made popular by Aman after she donned it in her 1971 release, “Haré Rama Haré Krishna”.

Sharing a string of photos of herself in the iconic look, Shilpa wrote on her official Insta handle: “Paying homage to the epitome of grace, glam and timeless fashion, Zeenat Aman ji @thezeenataman thank you for inspiring us with your style and words even today.” Made under the direction of Dev Anand, the movie dealt with the decadence of the Hippie culture. Aman was seen playing a westernized hippie in the movie, the idea of which is believed to have come to Dev Anand during his visit to Kathmandu.

Earlier today, Shilpa shelled out fitness motivation by dropping a video of herself indulging in some high-intensity exercises at the gym. The clip showed Shilpa doing bench steps and jumps. She

captioned the video: “Hop, drop, but never stop. Benefits: • Boosts heart health & endurance • Burns more calories with short choreographies • Engages mind with focus & coordination • Tones and conditions legs & hips • Fun, effective & doable anywhere, even at home. #MondayMotivation #SwasthRahoMastRaho #FitIndia.”

Work-wise: Shilpa will soon grace the screen as Satyavati in the forthcoming Kannada action entertainer “KD: The Devil”. Directed by Prem,



the much-anticipated project will also see Sanjay Dutt, V. Ravichandran, Ramesh Aravind, Reeshma Nanaiah, and Nora Fatehi in pivotal roles, along with others. Backed by Venkat K. Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, “KD: The Devil” will be getting a theatrical release on September 4.





# Buy the right deodourant

Don't just go by the fragrance, it's equally important to know what went into the making of your scented spray.

If we go by TV commercials, deodourants are potential matchmakers — spray some and you will have the opposite sex going weak in their knees. With such irresistible 'possibilities' and promises, it's no surprise that you want to give almost every new deodourant a try. But before randomly buying any product, it's important to know about its contents. Read on to know more about how to buy the right deodourant:

**Know the contents**  
Deodourants that contain harmful chemicals can be hazardous. For example, there are safer deodourants — available over-the-counter — that don't contain harmful chemicals like aluminium chloride. Many ingredients in deodourants can cause skin irritation, which ranges from mild redness and burning sensation to a full allergic reaction, warns dermatologist Dr Smriti Shetty.

**Avoid alcohol-based sprays**  
Deodourants and antiperspirants prevent body odour caused by bacterial growth.

Cosmetic dermatologist Dr Sadhana Deshmukh says aluminium compounds — present in most deodourants — and other active antiperspirant ingredients are often dissolved in alcohol because it dries quickly and feels cool on the skin.

"A small percentage of people are allergic to aluminium and may experience dermatitis or allergic, axillary granuloma response. When applied to the axillae (underarms), it could be irritating and may promote sensitisation to other ingredients in the product. If this happens, consult a dermatologist. To avoid the problem, I would suggest an alcohol-free deodourant," she advises.

**Sensitive Skin?**  
Most deodourants are alcohol-based and contain antibacterial properties — the reason why they remove the odour. Perfumes can't remove body odour, but their fragrance lasts longer. The sweet smell of a deodourant, on the other hand, is short-lived. Whether expensive or cheap, almost all deodourants contain 6-15% solution of fragrance oil mixed with 80% of alcohol. Perfumes usually contain 15-25 % of fragrance oil in pure alcohol.

"If you have sensitive skin, pick one without much fragrance. Also, cheaper deodourants and fragrances can lead to cosmetic allergy, contact sensitisation, lichenoid reactions, macular or patchy pigmentation — the last may spread from axillae to face, neck, chest and even abdomen and needs to be treated. So, be careful while choosing a deo. Apply it only on the underarms; do not spray it on the entire upper body. Perfumes should be applied on clothes and not on body," cautions Steer clear of these chemicals

Dermatologist gives a list of chemicals that you should avoid in deodourants: Aluminum-based compounds are active ingredients in antiperspirants. They block the sweat glands, thus preventing sweat from reaching the skin's surface. Some studies have suggested that aluminum compounds may be absorbed by the skin and can cause changes in the estrogen receptors of breast cells.

Parabens in their many forms — Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Ethylparaben, or



Butylparaben — are a class of artificial preservatives widely used in cosmetics and personal care products. They are being investigated for their possible role in breast cancer.

Most conventional deodourants contain a slew of toxic chemicals, such as Aluminum Chlorohydrate, Parabens, Propylene Glycol, Triclosan, TEA (triethanolamine), DEA (diethanolamine), FD&C colours (artificial/synthetic colours approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for food, drug and cosmetics), and Talc (hydrous magnesium silicate), among others.

This summer, discover natural ingredients that can help protect your skin from the harsh summer heat



**Aloe vera:** A popular and effective ingredient to remove that horrid sun tan during summer is aloe vera. There are many Aloevera benefits from health to nutrition, from acne treatment to skin care. It is widely grown as an ornamental plant; however it is equally popular as medicinal plant due to several Aloevera uses. The healing properties of ayurveda make it beneficial for skin care and helps in restoring skin's natural beauty. It is also an outstanding skin moisturizer and provides oxygen to the cells which strengthen the skin tissues and helps to keep the skin healthy.

**Sandalwood:** A mixture of sandalwood powder (1tsb), turmeric powder (1 tsb), and a pinch of camphor mixed with few drops of sandalwood oil works in a great way on acne and pimples. Frequent use of this mixture helps pimple and acne to vanish and it is useful against blackheads also. For best results one should leave the mixture on the face overnight. Sandalwood oil is said to be a softening agent. Frequently massage face with sandalwood oil to exfoliate the skin and make it soft and supple.

**Pearl:** Pearl is very helpful to brighten the skin, improve the skin texture, balancing the skin moisture, giving radiant glowing skin. Pearl has the ability to tone and regenerate the skin, revitalizing it, making it look more youthful. It helps reduce blemishes, dark marks, pimples and acnes, and it can be used both in form of paste and powder. Pearl helps in minimising the large pores on the skin and therefore reduces redness. Large pores make the skin look unhealthy and uneven redness causes skin loose its' pH balance. Pearl helps to reduce both of these and makes skin look toned and even. Pearl is also largely available as an ingredient in soaps, facewashes and facepacks.

**Khus:** Popularly known as Khus, Vetiveria zizanioides is an ideal coolant to beat the summer heat. Owing to its effective cooling properties and fragrance, khus is often included in high quality soaps, powders, aroma therapy products and perfumes. With anti-inflammatory and antiseptic effects providing relief from inflammation, the oil obtained from khus also has sedative effect and aids in the treatment of emotional outbursts, such as anger, anxiety, epileptic and hysteric attacks, restlessness, nervousness, etc. Known for increasing the energy levels and fortified with various minerals like manganese, zinc, copper, magnesium and iodine, khus seeds (poppy seeds) are widely used to make Khus sharbat/syrups which are largely consumed by people in summers.

## Beat the heat, naturally

**Ginger:** Ginger, just like khus is also a cooling agent for the body. It is surprising to know that ginger being a spice infact cools the body because of its property at the time of ultimate assimilation in the body. Also, it also helps to resolve skin related issues. Hypopigmentation is also easily solved by ginger. One just needs to do is to cut a part of the ginger and dab it in the pigmented areas of the skin.

**Rose water:** Rose water face wash is perhaps one of the oldest and most sought after techniques of skin care. It effectively removes skin clogs and blackheads and reduces blotchiness and stickiness from the face. It helps clear all the impurities your face has collected through the day. Rose oil is said to have anti-inflammatory properties. Frequent use of the same will help clear off problems related to redness due to skin burns (over heat), and irritation. Proper face massage with rosewater will remove excess oil in the skin, keeping it evenly moisturised and exfoliated, thus restoring the lost pH balance and skin texture, preventing acnes and pimples, removing the dirt that gets accumulated in the skin pores.

**Neem:** One of the wonders of Ayurveda that has been ignored by urban folks in favour of more synthetic ingredients is the humble neem. An ideal solution to all your summer related skin problems, neem is the best medicine available to you. The benefits of neem can be utilized to the maximum extent in this hot sultry condition. The usage of different parts of the neem plant differs from one season to another. The juice of the neem leaves is specially useful for purification and maintenance of our skin and blood. Neem is also available as an ingredient in ayurvedic facewash and soaps that can be an ideal companion for you this summer.



## Home remedies for dry hair



We can do a lot to prevent hair from becoming dry and brittle during winter season. Read on It is a fact that hair becomes dry during the winter season. While we cannot escape the seasonal vagaries, we can do a lot to prevent our hair from becoming dry and brittle during the season. Here are a few tips to keep you in good stead.

-It is best to avoid hair colouring and ironing during the season. However, if that is next to impossible, at least avoid shampooing during the season.

-Massage the scalp using hot oil. You can either use coconut oil or olive oil for best results

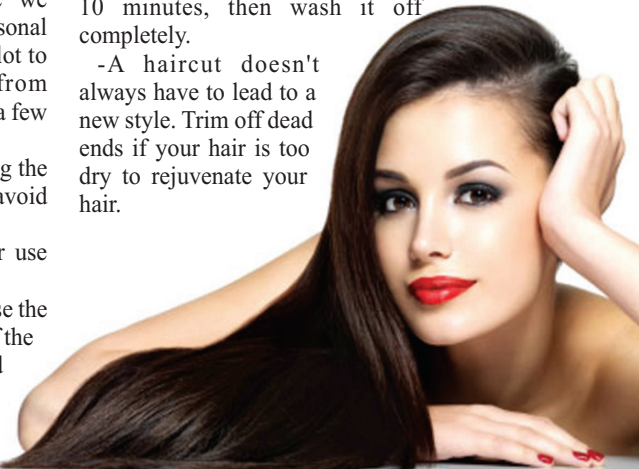
-Do not wash your hair in hot water as it can increase the dryness of the scalp, resulting in flaking and scaling of the skin of the scalp. Use lukewarm water instead and shampoo hair only once or twice a week.

-Use a shampoo and a separate hair conditioner. And leave the conditioner on the tip of the hair

avoiding the roots for at least 10 to 15 minutes to moisturise the hair and prevent hair fall.

-The stench apart, beer is a great hair conditioner and so is coconut milk. For a protein packed conditioner, mix eggs and yogurt and rub it into your scalp. Leave on for five or 10 minutes, then wash it off completely.

-A haircut doesn't always have to lead to a new style. Trim off dead ends if your hair is too dry to rejuvenate your hair.



There are times when we are in a rush or just too exhausted to go through elaborate beauty rituals. While taking the easy way out is okay at times, certain shortcuts are better avoided.

**Styling wet hair with heat:**  
You have just shampooed hair and exactly ten minutes if you want to make it to work on time. You grab your blow-dryer, straightening iron or curling tongs and try to style your hair to look presentable. Problem solved? Wrong. You might think you are speeding up the drying process what you are instead doing is sapping your hair off moisture and turning it into a frizzy mess.

**Makeup on makeup**  
You have

## No shortcuts to beauty



a date right after work but have had absolutely no time to prettify yourself so you merely add some more makeup on the makeup that you did earlier in the day? Terrible idea. Adding foundation on your exiting foundation will make your face look loaded with makeup. It

will clog pores and invite a pimple or two.

**Not washing brushes**  
When was the last time you gave your beauty tools a thorough clean up? Make up brushes and other tools are breeding grounds for bacteria. Product build up can worsen the situation if you don't clean them regularly. Cleaning your tools is as important as disposing off old