

## AAP to send flood relief to Punjab daily, says Arvind Kejriwal as dispatch begins

**Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal said that the party leaders will take relief materials from Delhi to flood-hit Punjab every day until needed. Party's Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj led the first consignment dispatched today.**



**New Delhi.(Agency)** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday dispatched the first consignment of relief materials from Delhi to flood-ravaged Punjab, with the party's Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj personally leading the effort.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, in a post on X, said, "AAP's Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj is reaching Punjab with flood relief materials. From Delhi, every day, our leaders, MLAs, MPs, and common

people will also go to Punjab with trucks carrying flood relief materials and provide their services there."

Kejriwal further highlighted the growing support from across the country, stating, "Many RWAs and businessmen are also contributing at their levels. People from across the country are extending their support to Punjab. The entire country stands with Punjab."

AAP's Punjab chief Manish Sisodia echoed the sentiment, acknowledging

the active participation of party workers. "Today, Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj is reaching Punjab with relief materials," he posted on X, emphasising that party leaders and volunteers are coming forward "with open hearts" to aid those affected.

In another post, the party underlined the importance of national solidarity. "The Punjab that has always helped everyone, now it's time to stand with that Punjab. On the orders of national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, AAP

Delhi's state Saurabh Bharadwaj has set off for Punjab with relief materials. AAP workers from Delhi and across the country will go to serve the people in Punjab struggling with floods."

Before departing with the consignment, Bharadwaj addressed reporters, describing the grim situation on the ground. "Punjab is reeling under devastating floods and there has been great loss of property, cattle and farmland. Punjab government, ministers and people of all parties are involved

in relief work. Yesterday, Arvind Kejriwal had asked everyone to serve people in need."

He also praised the resilience and spirit of the Punjabi community. "Our Punjabi, Sikh brothers are the first to open langar anywhere in the world in times of distress, be it a natural calamity or war," he said.

Bharadwaj confirmed that this was just the beginning of a continued relief effort from Delhi. "We are sending the first lot of relief materials to Punjab from Delhi, and I am going along with the supplies as directed by Arvind Kejriwal," he added.

Punjab is currently facing its worst floods in decades. According to a state government bulletin, the deluge has claimed 30 lives and affected over 3.5 lakh people.

While initially 12 districts bore the brunt of the disaster, all 23 districts in the state have now been declared flood-affected.

## Decision will be a milestone in making the capital a 'Viksit Delhi': CM Rekha Gupta

**The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, 3 September 2025

The Delhi Government has decided to establish a separate engineering cadre for the Public Works Department (PWD) to accelerate development-related construction works and fix accountability. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta.

Calling it a historic step, the Chief Minister said this would prove to be a milestone in transforming the national capital into a 'Viksit Delhi'. She further noted that this move represents a long-awaited structural reform, giving impetus to Delhi's sustainable development and infrastructure projects, directly benefitting citizens. The Chief Minister added that her government's decision is inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guiding principle of "Reform, Perform and Transform."

All Cabinet ministers were present at the meeting held at the Delhi Secretariat. Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta explained that, until now, the Delhi PWD did not have its own independent engineering cadre. The department's engineering services were entirely dependent on the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) cadre. At present, the PWD's engineering wing in Delhi comprises 3,214 sanctioned posts



across 36 categories, all belonging to the CPWD cadre, with appointments made by the Central Government. Citizens of Delhi will directly benefit from faster and higher-quality services in infrastructure including roads, bridges, buildings, and other construction projects. The Chief Minister further stressed that the most important outcome will be accountability: "Until now, accountability was not clearly fixed, and in cases of irregularities, engineers often managed to escape responsibility through transfers. That will no longer be the case." She clarified that this decision is inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guiding motto of "Reform, Perform and Transform."

**Continued news page 2**

## India set for 5th military exercise of 2025 with US amid tariff tension

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Amid high tariffs being levied on India and statements from US President Donald Trump, both countries are preparing for the fifth joint military drill of this year. The road to India-US trade and diplomacy has not been smooth so far this year. However, the tariff commotions seem to have no impact on the ongoing defence partnership between India and the US.

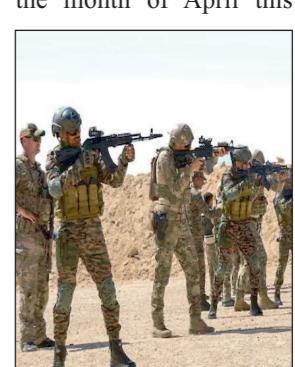
India and the US are successfully carrying out the joint military drills as per schedule.

Indo-US cooperation within the Quad framework, projecting deterrence in the Indian Ocean and Pacific.

The previous 2024 exercise was hosted by India in Visakhapatnam and due to the rotating nature of the exercise, it is being hosted by the US in 2025.

**EXERCISE TIGER TRIUMPH 2025**

The fourth edition of bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) amphibious Exercise Tiger Triumph 2025 between India and the United States was held in the month of April this



year.

The operations reflect the enhanced degree of combined combat drills, jointmanship and interoperability achieved between the Armed Forces of India and the United States of America.

Conducted from 01 to 11 Apr 25, the exercise provided invaluable training in HADR operations and familiarised participants with each other's capabilities, techniques, and procedures.

## Pharma Research To Get Boost As Government Eases Licence Norms

**New Delhi.(Agency)** In a move to fast-track drug research, the Union Health Ministry is set to amend the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019, that will halve licence applications and reduce approval timelines.

This is aimed at reducing regulatory compliance and promoting ease of doing business in India's pharmaceutical and clinical research sectors. The pro-



posed changes, published in the Gazette of India on August 28 and now open for public comments, focus on simplifying the process for obtaining test licences and for submitting applications related to liability/Bioequivalence (BA/BE) studies.

Under the new system, test licence applications will shift from a licensing model to a notification or intimation-based system.

### What is the Hyderabad Gazette giving 'Kunbi status' and reservation to Marathas?

**Hyderabad.(Agency)**

The Maharashtra government has agreed to consider the Hyderabad Gazette as a basis for determining the eligibility of the Maratha community for Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation. The decision, taken on Tuesday, followed a long-pending demand by Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil.

According to the Hyderabad Gazette, the Maratha community can now assert their Kunbi status – traditionally associated with peasants and agriculturists – thus qualifying for OBC reservations.

This decision marks a significant step forward in addressing the ongoing dispute regarding Maratha reservation. It resolves a stalemate between the government and protesters demanding the extension of OBC quota benefits to the Maratha community.

**WHAT IS HYDERABAD GAZETTE?**

The Hyderabad Gazette was issued by the Nizam's government in 1918, documenting the social, occupation, and demographic details of the Hyderabad region, particularly Marathwada, which comprised eight drought-prone districts of present-day Maharashtra. This document classifies Marathas in the region as Kunbi.

Similar gazettes exist for other regions, such as the Satara Gazette for western Maharashtra, the Aundh Gazette, and the Bombay Gazette. These documents serve as official records of demographic and social classifications.

**SIGNIFICANCE FOR MARATHA RESERVATION**

Since Marathwada was part of Hyderabad's domain before independence, the Hyderabad Gazette's records are now being leveraged to justify reservation claims. The Gazette suggests that Marathas engaged in agriculture were considered socially and economically backward and were classified as Kunbi, a status that historically entitled them to reservation benefits.

**DISTRICTS COVERED**

The Hyderabad Gazette mainly covers regions historically under the Nizam's rule, including 17 districts such as Aurangabad, Beed, Nanded, Parbhani, and Osmanabad – all of which are now part of Maharashtra.

**MARATHA-KUNBI LINK**

Maratha communities from these regions can now obtain Kunbi certificates based on the Gazette, which does not distinguish between Marathas and Kunbis but groups them together.

## At IIT Kanpur event, Yogi Adityanath calls for stronger industry-academia tie-ups



ships are essential not only for innovation but also for addressing global challenges and building a "Viksit" (developed) and "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliant) Bharat.

Tracing India's economic journey, he noted that the country once accounted for 25 per cent of the global

GDP until the 17th century, which declined to just 2 per cent at the time of independence in 1947. He cited recent reforms for elevating India to the world's fourth-largest economy, with the potential to become the third-largest within two years.

Highlighting IIT Kanpur's

six decades of technological contributions, Adityanath urged the institute to spearhead India's first Deep-Tech India 2025 initiative, for which land has already been allocated. He also called for IIT Kanpur's support in bolstering cyber security efforts, noting that Uttar Pradesh now has cyber police stations in all 75 districts and a State Cyber and Forensic Institute.

The Chief Minister pointed out Uttar Pradesh's remarkable transformation from its "BIMARU" image to becoming the country's second-largest economy, citing improvements in law and order, increased investment, and enhanced infrastructure.

## Singh Sirsa Announces First-Ever Jan Sunwai Initiative for Delhi's Industrial Sector

**The Sikh Times  
Sourabh Sharma**

New Delhi, September 3, 2025: Under the visionary leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the effective guidance of CM Rekha Gupta, and the dedicated efforts of Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the Delhi Government today announced groundbreaking initiatives to support the industrial sector, including the first-ever 'Jan Sunwai' program for direct grievance redressal.

We have no doubt about the fact that working for the welfare of Delhi will keep us in power for many years. In a major step, Sirsa announced the launch of 'Jan Sunwai' sessions to hear industry concerns

directly, alongside on-site camps starting October



facilitate freehold processes for factories—a first in Delhi's history.

Addressing legacy issues, Sirsa detailed reforms like abolishing the 75-year-old MCD licensing requirement, saying, "For

decades, industrialists struggled with outdated MCD licenses dating back to the 1950s. We ended this 75-year legacy in just hours through a historic decision—now, no industrialist in Delhi needs an prior MCD license to operate." He also discussed circle rate adjustments, noting, "We have reduced industrial circle rates from double the residential rates to just 1.5 times, minimizing the gap and making it fairer for industries." The Minister assured faster rollout of the single window system to simplify approvals.

**Continued news page 2**

# No proper mkts, parks: What ails 'new sectors' even after a decade

**Noida. (Agency)**

Most residents of the 7x and 100x sectors in Noida were granted possession of their apartments almost a decade ago. They moved to the satellite town to avoid paying a lump sum EMI on home loans, and expected that the sector would develop over time. But some basic infrastructure developments never happened. Ten years down the line, sectors such as 74 to 79 and 115 to 121 still lack adequate local transport, roads, petrol pumps, designated commercial spaces, and parks for children. Limited ATMs and a lack of sufficient banks add to the woes of the 3 lakh people residing in the area. "Though the situation has improved over the years with e-rickshaws now plying from nearest metro stations at Sector 50, 52, 63 and 76, which are about 4 and 6 km away respectively, the area still lacks basic amenities like a dedicated market, commercial space, govt hospital or clinic. There are only two dairy booths for over half a dozen high-rises in the area," said Nikhil Singhal, president of Noida Highrise Federation 100x Sectors. The 7x sector includes over 30 societies and high-rise apartment buildings, such as Ajnara Grand Heritage in Sector 74, Prateek Wisteria in



Sector 77, Assotech Windsor Court, Sunshine Helios, and Mahagun Moderne in Sector 78, Ashiana Homes, and Antriksh Golf City in Sector 79. On the other hand, the 100x sector comprises almost a dozen complexes, including Amrapali Zodiac, Prateek Laurel, RG Residency in Sector 120, Homes 121 in Sector 121, Amrapali Platinum, Aranya, and Eldeco in Sector 119, as well as neighbouring Sectors 115, 116, and 117. Dust pollution and bad roads make the list of the unaddressed issues longer. "There are about 46 societies in and around 7x sectors together comprising around 1.5 to 2 lakh population. Although most of the families have their own cars, the nearest petrol pump is about 7km away," said Amit Gupta, a former AOA president.

Gupta adds that a commercial plot lying vacant in Sector 76 was to be utilised for a dedicated market, community centre, etc., but no work has been done by the Noida Authority on it so far. "Whatever development has happened, they have been done by the builders within high-rises," he added. Moreover, the crucial road that connects Sector 78 to the Noida-Greater Noida expressway faces daily traffic snarls that tailback during peak hours. "Roads are broken and in need of repair. This adds to the traffic woes, which have become a daily ordeal. With all-around construction, dust pollution has been a major health hazard, especially for senior citizens and children," said Dhananjay Kumar Singh, a resident of

Ajnara Heritage, Sector 74. Similar issues are faced by nearly one lakh residents of 100x sectors. The area has a burgeoning population and

comprises over half a dozen high-rises and plotted houses along with neighbouring villages like Sorkha, Parthala, Sarfabad, etc.

## Yamuna 1m over danger mark, 10,000 displaced

**OIDA/GHAZIABAD. (Agency)**

More than 600 people were evacuated on Tuesday as the Yamuna swelled dangerously close to the danger mark in Noida. By morning, the Yamuna's level at the Okhla Barrage had climbed to 199.15 metres, flowing just 1.5 metres below the 200.6-metre danger mark, and was on a steady upward trajectory. At 7pm, the water level was recorded at 199.5 metres while 1,02,444 cusecs were discharge at Okhla Barrage. Officials have warned the river could breach the threshold overnight due to heavy rainfall in its catchment and a consistent discharge of over one lakh cusecs from Haryana's Hathnikund barrage since Tuesday morning, which had slowly begun to inch closer to 2 lakh cusecs by 10pm, is set

to increase city's woes. It could mean that the river was likely to remain in spate for at least a few days. Yamuna received over three lakh cusecs of water from Haryana's Hathnikund barrage between 8am to 5pm on Monday, after heavy rainfall in the Himalayas. The usual discharge from Hathnikund barrage is less than 50,000 cusecs. The discharge touched a high of 3.23 lakh cusecs by noon, and stood at 2.23 lakh by 11pm on Monday. On Tuesday morning, the discharge had dropped below 2 lakh cusecs. It further dipped to 1.13 lakh cusecs by 8pm before inching up again to 1.8 lakh cusecs by 10pm. The water released from Hathnikund often impacts the city in 36 to 48 hours. District authorities said they began shifting families late on Monday night.

## India's first ventilator maker to set up Rs 60-crore project at med park

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has issued a letter of intent on Monday to premier medical systems and devices for land in its 12,000 sqm Medical Device Park set to come up in Sector 28. The company has proposed an investment of Rs 60 crore in the project.

The company's proposal for the same has been forwarded to Invest UP, and the land allotment process will be completed once it is approved. Premier Medical Systems, also known as Medisys, is one of India's oldest medical equipment companies. It developed the country's first indigenously made ventilator in the mid-1970s and since then, it has been manufacturing critical care equipment such as ICU ventilators, anaesthesia workstations, syringe pumps,



and infusion pumps. The company currently operates from Sector 63, Noida, and supplies equipment across India, as well as to other countries including Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. According to YEIDA OSD Shailendra Bhatia, the company plans to expand into new

product areas, including radiology and oncology. It aims to manufacture X-ray machines, CT scanners, MRI machines, biopsy products, and oncology infusion devices, in addition to its existing products. For this expansion, the company will set up a new manufacturing unit in the Medical Device Park.

The Medical Device Park in Sector 28 is being developed on 350 acres at a cost of Rs 440 crore. Of the 254 planned plots, 89 have already been allotted to companies. Lease deeds have been signed for 23, building plans approved for 10, and construction has begun at seven sites. TI Medical, the largest allottee with 11 acres, is among the companies where work is underway. A common facility centre at the park is expected to be ready by Jan 2026. YEIDA officials said the central govt has directed that the park be completed by Jan next year. Development work such as roads, drainage, and sewerage is currently in progress, while the administrative building has already been finished. Once complete, the park is expected to become a major hub for medical equipment manufacturing and research, officials said.

**No witness in 20 years, stone crusher owner accused of damaging Yamuna flood wall acquitted**

**NOIDA. (Agency)**

A stone crusher and washery unit owner accused of damaging flood prevention wall was acquitted by a local court as the prosecution failed to produce a single witness in a trial that dragged on for two decades. Additional chief judicial magistrate Mayank Tripathy (II) on Saturday observed that damage to the stone lining constructed by the irrigation department to prevent damage to the floodplain was visible to all, but the prosecution had failed to present any witness and acquitted Haryana resident Rajendra Vikal. "Prosecution has not examined any witness to prove their case. The court gave them sufficient time and opportunity to present witnesses and also issued notices to them repeatedly. The opportunity for evidence was closed on Aug 27, and in the absence of any evidence on record, the accused is liable to obtain the benefit of doubt," the court ruled. It directed the accused to deposit a personal bond of Rs 25,000 and a surety of an equal amount under section 437A of CrPC. A case against 18 people, including Vikal, was filed under section 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property.

said. The 843m-long underpass was opened to traffic in 2018 and underwent joint repair work in the past. "These joints are designed to release pressure buildup. They will be sealed post-monsoon. There is no issue about the structural safety of the facility," the official added. Elsewhere, the Mahavir Chowk underpass near Sector 12 was inundated following torrential rainfall, forcing authorities to shut it down temporarily. While PWD staff cleared the water using pumps, officials maintained that water entering from adjoining residential areas of police lines continues to flood the road and whenever vehicles pass through, it enters the underpass. "As a precaution, additional resources have been deployed and relief work is being expedited."

However, we are coordinating with them to allow traffic movement," a PWD official said. Check dams breached. Meanwhile, villages have been flooded after check dams in the Aravali gave way. In Kadarpur, continuous rainfall triggered a breach in the check dam, leading to flooding in several adjoining villages, including Ullawas, and even flowed into Sector 63. Check dams — small barriers built in the Aravali to conserve rainwater — could not withstand the pressure of excessive runoff. As they overflowed and gave way, water gushed into villages, creating flood-like conditions. Balraj Dahima, a resident of Kadarpur, said, "Because of the heavy rainfall, the check dam breached and low-lying areas were flooded with nearly five feet of water. Kadarpur road was under water and even people had to cross the stretch on a truck." The district administration said relief operations were underway and water levels were gradually receding. SDM Sanjeev Singla said after inspecting the affected areas, "The administration's top priority is people's safety. Additional resources have been deployed and relief work is being expedited."



**Gurgaon. (Agency)** Incessant rainfall, which has been lashing the city for the past two days, left the city struggling to cope, with underpasses leaking or inundated. Commuters using Signature Tower underpass on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway noticed water gushing from its ceiling slab. NHAI officials attributed the leakage to waterlogging at the service road junction. "The issue of leakage in the Signature Tower underpass is due to excessive water accumulation on the service road, which drips through a construction joint. Pumps have been deployed to remove water and the sealing of the joint will be taken up once the weather permits. There is no structural issue," an NHAI official

**Ghaziabad. (Agency)** Parts of the city were flooded on Tuesday as 100 mm of rain in just four hours submerged entire neighbourhoods, leaving ground-floor homes and even the district's administrative headquarters under ankle-deep water. Heavy rain was recorded between noon and 4 pm that flooded the Collectorate campus, which houses the district magistrate's office, and neighbourhoods like Shastri Nagar, Kavi Nagar and Govindpuri. In trans-Hindon, Indirapuram and Vaishali were among the worst hit. "The city is literally under siege as its roads are flooded. At the Collectorate, staff were forced to walk barefoot with shoes in hand. Even the road leading to the court campus turned into a rivulet, bringing traffic to a standstill," said DN Singh, a govt employee caught in the downpour. At Shastri Nagar, residents said wastewater entered houses for the fourth time this year. "The park next door is overflowing, and the road has merged with the drain. I had to cancel my grandmother's doctor's appointment because we couldn't even reach our car parked just metres away," Shivangi Mishra, a resident, told TOL. In Indirapuram, a stretch of the CISF road from

Kanawani culvert to DPS Indirapuram turned into a water channel, forcing commuters to wade through knee-deep water. The road is a key connector to NH-9 and normally sees heavy peak-hour traffic. The situation was aggravated by choked drains and damage to the road parallel to the sewage treatment



rainfall. Commuters reported severe waterlogging at the Surajpur Site-C underpass on the 130-metre road, the service lane near Gaur City Mall, and outside Gaur City-2. On the Dadri main road near Kulesra, a one-kilometre stretch was submerged in knee-deep water. "This road turns into a river whenever it rains heavily. Today, it took me over 40 minutes to cross this area that should take no longer than 10 minutes," said Rajeev Chaudhary, a two-wheeler rider.

Outside Supertech.

Front continued news

## Singh Sirsa Announces First-Ever Jan Sunwai Initiative for Delhi's Industrial Sector

On assured that CM Rekha Gupta has already taken note and prepared a detailed list of points for discussion at the GST Council meeting.

He added, "Rest assured, your elected representatives are not like previous regimes—they are actively pursuing your best interests with utmost dedication and round-the-clock effort."

"He promised, "These reforms especially the single window system will eliminate the need for repeated representations—you'll soon need fresh ideas because the old problems will be fully resolved." Industry leaders praised these measures, noting they have strengthened Delhi's industrial security and competitiveness under the current administration.

## Decision will be a milestone in making the capital a 'Viksit Delhi': CM Rekha Gupta

Ultimately, this initiative will transform Delhi's infrastructure and public services. The Chief Minister announced the formation of a high-level committee to design the structure and functioning of the new cadre. In the initial phase, CPWD officers willing to join will be accommodated. If the required strength is not met, alternative recruitment mechanisms will be adopted based on the committee's recommendations, subject to approval by the competent authority.

According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, this Cabinet decision will make the Delhi Government more efficient, accountable, and visionary in executing development projects. It is a milestone in strengthening the capital's infrastructure and advancing Delhi's aspiration to become a world-class city.

## Spent night in car': Deluge knocks out power in housing societies off Dwarka Expressway

**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Monday's deluge, the heaviest spell of monsoon this season, left over a dozen societies along the Dwarka Expressway without electricity for up to 29 hours, forcing residents to sit in the dark overnight or shell out thousands on power backup. Residents said power went out in societies from Sector 88 to 112 at 4pm, Monday. Till 8.30pm on Tuesday, supply wasn't restored at some societies. ROF Aalayas, M3M Woodshire, ATS Tourmaline, Brisk Lumbini, BPTP Amstoria, Imperial Gardens, NBCC Heights, Grand Iva, Experion, Godrej Meridien, Adani Oyster Grande, Puri Emerald Bay, Chintels Serenity, Signature Global Solera, Emaar Gurgaon Greens, Satya Hermitage, ATS Triumph, Windchants and Paras Dews were among those hit by outage. Families living in affordable housing complexes were the hardest hit. Some resorted to sitting in their cars with air-conditioning switched on for brief respite. "We spent hours walking around the compound at night because there was no electricity since Monday afternoon. Many families sat in their cars in the night, hoping that supply would be back soon. We reached out to DHBVN, but there was zero communication. Adults can somehow manage, but it is extremely difficult for children and elderly members, who have medical conditions and need constant care," said Deepak Mongia, president of ROF Aalayas RWA. Mongia said the night was "unbearable" and outages have become more frequent this year. "In the last 15 days alone, at least three major breakdowns left us without electricity for 10 to 16 hours in a stretch," he said, adding that electricity supply to ROF Aalayas was restored around 1pm on Tuesday. For residents of other condominiums, there was generator backup, but it came at an exorbitant cost. They said using the genset for an hour consumes almost 100 litres of diesel and costs around Rs 8,000-Rs 9,000. "In 18 hours, our society spent over Rs 1.6 lakh on diesel. This is not sustainable every time it rains. We are paying heavy maintenance and electricity bills, yet we are left at the mercy of breakdowns," said Sunil Sareen, vice-president of Imperial Gardens RWA. For others, the outage continued till late on Tuesday. "Supply went off on Monday afternoon and hasn't been restored. Our DG set has been running for over 28 hours and we don't know how long this will continue," said Swaraj Verma, president of M3M Woodshire RWA. DHBVN executive engineer Manoj Kumar said a fault in the feeder line tripped a transformer at the Sector 107 substation during rain. "We restored supply by night, but due to rain, electricity

## 100mm rain in 4 hours: DM's office, homes flooded in Ghaziabad

**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

Kanawani culvert to DPS Indirapuram turned into a water channel, forcing commuters to wade through knee-deep water. The road is a key connector to NH-9 and normally sees heavy peak-hour traffic. The situation was aggravated by choked drains and damage to the road parallel to the sewage treatment plant. Commuters complained that wastewater was mixing with storm drains, making it a health hazard. "The road connecting CISF Road to Kala Pathar via Aditya Mall is awash. Even with a vehicle, getting out is impossible," said Sushmit Anand, a resident of Gaur City. Traffic also crawled across major junctions, including Meerut Road trisection, Mohan Nagar stretch leading to Loni, and NH9 near Rahul Vihar and Sidharth Vihar. Meanwhile, several stretches in Greater Noida and Greater Noida West were left inundated following bouts of

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009  
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing  
Press, A4/A144, Tronica City  
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)  
Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi  
Editor-in-Chief  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517  
Website : [www.thesikhtimes.in](http://www.thesikhtimes.in)  
Email : [sikhtimesindia@gmail.com](mailto:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com)

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

# Painted stork found dead, another sick at Delhi zoo

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The National Zoological Park here has stepped up surveillance and biosecurity measures after a fresh carcass of a migratory painted stork was found near a pond and another stork was detected sick in the water bird aviary, officials said on Monday. "During

the surveillance, a carcass of migratory painted stork was found near the pond, while another painted stork was found sick in a water bird aviary. The bird has been shifted to isolation ward for treatment. The carcass of the migratory painted stork and sets of swab samples of sick animals have been sent to

the lab," said zoo director Sanjeev Kumar. Meanwhile, the zoo also reported a fresh case of H5N1 avian influenza. "Samples collected from a migratory painted stork in the pond area on August 30 have tested positive for H5N1 virus. The samples were sent to the National Institute of High Security

Animal Diseases (NIH-SAD), Bhopal," he said. The authorities said intensive surveillance and biosecurity measures, as per official guidelines, were being maintained to prevent the spread of infection among birds, animals in enclosures and zoo workers. Cleaning and disinfection are being carried out twice daily in animal houses and bird areas. An emergency virtual meeting of the zoo's health advisory committee, which includes experts from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, and veterinary colleges in Hisar and Mathura, has been convened to decide

further containment measures. Earlier on August 30, two painted storks at the zoo had tested positive for bird flu. Following the detection, the zoo authorities restricted the movement of birds, intensified monitoring of enclosures and issued directions for enhanced protective measures for frontline staff. The National Zoological Park, which houses several species of migratory and resident birds along with endangered wild animals, has been under

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ASHISH TANWER S/O SURENDRA TANWER R/O 55, MANAV SEWA SAMITI, TAHIRPUR, NEW SEMAPURI, EAST DELHI, JHILMIL-110095, declare that name of mine and shall hereafter be known as BAJDYNATH SHA, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as BEJNATH S/O VIJAY SHANKAR SHA R/O F-422, Shakur Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BAJDYNATH SHA, for all future purposes.

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# Bangladesh eyes 'end' to treasure trove bank vault mystery

Dhaka. (Agency)

For more than a century, the fate of the dazzling Darya-e-Noor diamond has been sealed inside a bank vault -- a mystery that haunts Khawaja Naim Murad, great-grandson of the last prince, or Nawab, of Dhaka. Locked away in 1908, were the family's heirlooms lost during the violence at the end of British rule in 1947? Did they survive Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971 and the string of coups that followed, or are they still safe, dusty but untouched? Many suspect the jewels are long gone, and officials at the state-run bank hesitate to simply open the vault, fearing they'd carry the cost if it is empty. But the cash-strapped South Asian government have now ordered a committee unseal the vault -- and Murad clings to hope.

"This is not a fairytale," said Murad, 55, recounting a story passed down from his father about the giant diamond dubbed the "River of Light", the centrepiece rock of glittering armband. "The diamond was rectangular in shape and surrounded by more than half a dozen smaller diamonds," Murad told AFP. It was part of a trove of 108 treasures. According to original court documents, they include a gold-and-silver sword encrusted with



diamonds, a bejewelled fez with cascading pearls, and a fabulous star brooch once owned by a French empress. The nawab's riverside pink palace of Ahsan Manzil is now a government museum. Murad, a former popular film star, lives in a sprawling villa in a wealthy Dhaka suburb. He flourished a sheaf of documents, including a family book with detailed paintings of the treasures.

"It is one of the most famous diamonds in the world, and its history is closely associated with that of the Koh-i-Noor," the book reports, referring to the shining centrepiece of Britain's crown jewels -- a gem also claimed by Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan. "It is absolutely perfect in lustre." Another diamond of the same name, the pink-hued Daria-i-Noor, is in

Tehran as part of Iran's former royal jewels. Murad maintains that the family's diamond, too, was once owned by Persia's shahs, then worn by Sikh warrior-leader Ranjit Singh in 19th-century Punjab. It was later seized by the British and eventually acquired by his ancestors.

But fortunes shifted. In 1908, the then-nawab faced financial trouble. Sir Salimullah Bahadur borrowed from British colonial powers -- mortgaging

his vast Dhaka estates and placing the treasures in a vault as collateral. That was their last confirmed sighting. Since then, myth and history merge. Murad believes his uncle saw the jewels in the bank in the 1980s, but bank officials say they do not know if the vault has ever been opened. Chairman of the Bangladesh's Land Reforms Board, AJM Salahuddin Nagri, says the government body inherited custody of the trove, held in a state-owned bank.

## Mother Hurries Toddler To US Hospital, Then Injects Him With Insulin

world. (Agency)

An Iowa mother was handed down a ten-year prison sentence on Friday after she was found guilty of deliberately administering her two-year-old son insulin injections. In March 2023, Alexandra Marie Frost, 27, took her son to the University of Iowa Health Care Stead Family Children's Hospital. According to a criminal complaint obtained by PEOPLE, the child had "low blood sugar levels that required medical intervention, including the administration of glucose, and lab test results showed

his insulin levels were very high." The complaint stated that the boy's blood sugar levels would decrease and subsequently return to normal. As the boy's condition worsened, there "seemed to be anomalies," which led doctors to conclude that it was Munchausen syndrome by proxy, in which a carer fabricates or causes a person's illness or disability.

According to the affidavit, the hospital staff activated a video camera in the child's room on March 13 to determine the cause of his illness. The video showed Frost injecting something

into her son's foot before casually throwing away the syringe in a "sharps" container. The child was quiet until his mother gave him an injection; he then screamed in pain. During the child's hospital stay, Frost was the only person who was consistently there with him, according to The Gazette.

Medical professionals highlighted that

administering insulin to someone who does not require it can have fatal results, such as seizures, coma, or even death. After being taken from his mother's custody.

## Who is Anutin Charnvirakul who plots path to Thai premiership

Bangkok. (Agency)

Saxophonist, occasional pilot and heir to a construction fortune, Anutin Charnvirakul was once banned from politics but is now the leading candidate to become Thailand's next prime minister.

The 58-year-old former minister -- who championed Thailand's 2022 decriminalisation of cannabis -- secured the backing Wednesday of the People's Party, in opposition despite being the largest group in parliament.

That could give him enough votes to succeed Paetongtarn Shinawatra, ousted by a court order last week, but her party has moved to dissolve the legislature and call fresh elections, leaving his path to the premiership uncertain. Paetongtarn is the daughter of former prime minister and telecom billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra, whose

family have dominated Thai politics for two decades but are now faltering. Anutin himself is the scion of another political and business dynasty. His father was acting prime minister during a 2008 political crisis and went on to spend three years as interior minister. The family fortune centres on Sino-Thai Engineering, a construction firm that has secured lucrative government contracts over decades, including for the capital's main airport and the parliament building.

A New York-trained industrial engineer, Anutin entered politics in his early 30s as an advisor to the foreign affairs ministry, later becoming health minister, interior minister and deputy prime minister.

Nicknamed "Noo", which



from politics for five years when it was dissolved in 2006.

Grounded from politics, he used his spare time to learn to fly -- collecting a small fleet of private planes he used to ferry sick people to hospital and deliver donated organs.

He returned as leader of the centre-right Bhumjaithai, whose third place finish in 2023 was their best showing in a general election. It has proved to be something of a political chameleon, becoming part of several government coalitions, with Anutin serving as a deputy to Thailand's three most recent PMs. Anutin gained international prominence in managing Thailand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as health minister under the military-led government.

## At least 14 killed, 35 injured in suicide bombing shortly after BNP rally conclusion in Balochistan



Karachi. (Agency)

At least 14 people have been killed and 35 others injured in a suicide bombing shortly after the conclusion of a public rally organised by the Balochistan National Party (BNP) in Quetta, according to media reports. The explosion occurred close to Shahwani Stadium in the Sariab area on Tuesday night after the rally held to mark the fourth death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal ended, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar confirmed the casualties, the newspaper said. Officials confirmed it was a suicide attack, the Dawn reported.

According to police, the explosion occurred about 15 minutes after the meeting

ended. The bomber allegedly detonated his explosives-laden jacket in the parking area as participants were leaving the meeting.

BNP chief Akhtar Mengal, who presided over the gathering, remained unhurt as the blast occurred when he was leaving for home, according to The Dawn. Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Asghar Khan Achakzai of the Awami National Party, and former senator Mir Kabir Muhammad Shai of the National Party were also present at the rally, but escaped unhurt, it added.

However, former BNP member of provincial assembly (MPA) Mir Ahmed Nawaz Baloch and the party's central labour secretary Musa Jan were among those injured along with several party

workers and supporters.

The bomber allegedly detonated his explosives-laden jacket in the parking area as participants were leaving the meeting.

BNP chief Mengal

confirmed in a social media post that he was safe but deeply heartbroken at the loss of our workers. He claimed 15 BNP workers lost their lives in the explosion. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the attack, calling it a cowardly act by the enemies of humanity.

Such acts of terrorism are meant to destabilise the province and spread fear among innocent citizens, he said. A special investigation committee has been formed and security has been beefed up in and around Quetta in the aftermath of the explosion. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing so far.

join his guests in a seating area above the iconic portrait of Mao Zedong on Tiananmen, the entrance gate of the historic Forbidden City. China's huge collection of military vehicles and heavy weapons rolled past the dignitaries, while images of thousands of servicemen and women in immaculate uniforms marching in tight ranks and soldiers jumping in and out of vehicles were shown in a slick state media broadcast.

Beijing residents went out into the streets to catch a glimpse of a spectacular flypast involving scores of warplanes and helicopters, some making an "80" formation.

Millions of Chinese people were killed during a prolonged war with imperial Japan in the 1930s and 40s, which became part of a global conflict following Tokyo's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Whirlwind week

All eyes were on how the trio of Xi, Putin and Kim -- who rarely leaves secretive North Korea -- interacted with each other, but the state media broadcast only offered rare snatches of the three together and foreign journalists were kept at a distance and told not to film or photograph the leaders.

The event was the climax of a whirlwind week for Xi, who on Sunday and Monday hosted a slew of Eurasian leaders for a summit in the northern port city of Tianjin aimed at putting China front and centre of regional relations.

than 250 of the deported migrants returned to Venezuela.

The Alien Enemies Act was only used three times before in U.S. history, all during declared wars -- in the War of 1812 and the two World Wars. The Trump administration unsuccessfully argued that courts cannot second-guess the president's determination that Tren de Aragua was connected to Venezuela's government and represented a danger to the United States, meriting use of the act. In a 2-1 ruling, the judges said they granted the preliminary injunction sought by the plaintiffs because they "found no invasion or predatory incursion" in this case. The decision bars deportations from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In the majority were U.S. Circuit Judges Leslie Southwick, a George W. Bush appointee, and Irma Carrillo Ramirez, a Joe Biden appointee. Andrew Oldham, a Trump appointee, dissented.

## China 'unstoppable', says Xi with Kim, Putin at his side

Beijing. (Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russia's Vladimir Putin flanked Xi Jinping at a massive parade in Beijing on Wednesday, capping a week of diplomatic grandstanding by the Chinese president and his allies against the West. In unprecedented scenes, Xi shook both their hands and chatted with the pair as they walked down a red carpet by Tiananmen Square, with Putin to Xi's right and Kim to his left.

The 90-minute event, ostensibly to mark 80 years since the end of World War II, was a chance for Xi to put on an extravaganza to showcase China's military prowess and bring together friendly leaders to send a message to the rest of the world. Kicking off the parade, President Xi warned the world was still "faced with a choice of peace or war", but said China was "unstoppable".

The heavily choreographed event drew an acidic response from President Donald Trump who accused the three leaders of plotting against the United States. "Give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America," he wrote on Truth Social. Military hardware on show

In a show of military strength, Xi inspected the massed troops and weaponry from an open-topped limousine down Beijing's vast Chang'an Avenue before turning back to

## Trump cannot use Alien Enemies Act to deport members of Venezuelan gang, appeals court rules

Washington. (Agency)

A federal appeals court panel ruled Tuesday that President Donald Trump cannot use an 18th-century wartime law to speed the deportations of people his administration accuses of membership in a Venezuelan gang, blocking a signature administration push that is destined for a final showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, one of the most conservative federal appeals courts in the country, agreed with immigrant rights lawyers and lower court judges who argued the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 was not intended to be used against gangs like Tren de Aragua, the Venezuelan group Trump targeted in his March invocation. Lee Gelernt, who argued the case for the ACLU, said Tuesday: "The Trump administration's use of a

wartime statute during peacetime to regulate immigration was rightly shut down by the court. This is a critically important decision reining in the administration's view that it can simply declare an emergency without any

oversight by the courts." The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The administration deported people designated as Tren de Aragua members to a notorious prison in El Salvador where, it argued, U.S. courts could not order them freed. In a deal announced in July, more

Millions of children around the globe can end up out of school by 2026 due to international aid cuts: UNICEF

world. (Agency)

UN: Millions more children around the world could end up out of school by the end of 2026 due to a forecasted plunge in international aid for education, UNICEF said. Tuesday's official development aid earmarked for education is expected to drop 24 percent by next year compared to 2023, or \$3.2 billion, the UN agency said.

It said 80 percent of this decline is linked to three donor countries: the United States, Germany and France.

If these cuts become reality, UNICEF estimates that around six million more children could end up out of school by the end of next year, raising the total from 272 million to 278 million.

"This is equivalent to emptying every primary school in Germany and Italy combined," the agency said.

"Every dollar cut from education is not just a budgetary decision, it's a child's future hanging in the balance," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. The agency said it was particularly worried about countries or places



hardest hit: 1.9 million children in danger of being denied schooling. And besides those left completely out of school, 290 million kids could see the quality of their education erode, UNICEF said. are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

# Sheena Bora murder case: Indrani's daughter Vidhie appears as witness, claims her statements were forged

**Sheena was Indrani's daughter from a previous relationship. Vidhie, Indrani's daughter with Khanna, was adopted by Peter after his marriage with Indrani**

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

VIDHIE MUKERJEE, daughter of Indrani Mukerjee, who is facing trial for the murder of elder daughter Sheena Bora, appeared as a witness before the special CBI court Tuesday, claiming that her statements were forged and fabricated to falsely implicate her biological parents Indrani and Sanjeev Khanna. Khanna, Indrani and her then husband Peter Mukerjee, a former Star India CEO, are facing trial for the alleged murder which took place in 2012.

Vidhie, who was a minor in 2015 when the alleged murder came to light, said in her testimony that several bunches of documents including emails, blank sheets and documents were given to her during the probe by a CBI officer and she was asked to sign them. She claimed that the documents referred to by the CBI as evidence during her deposition were forged and fabricated.

"It is correct to say that if



such forged statements have been recorded, there must be an ulterior motive or mala fide intentions. I believe that somebody had forged and fabricated my statements to falsely implicate my biological parents Indrani Mukerjee and Sanjeev Khanna," Vidhie told the court. She further said that at the time when she was asked to visit law enforcement agencies, both Khar police Peter had conspired to murder Sheena over her relationship with Peter's son from his first marriage, Rahul Mukerjee. Vidhie claimed that she did not

family, including Peter, his sister and his son.

She claimed that the information written down by the officers were not based on her own personal information and knowledge but gathered or 'fed to them' by persons accompanying her.

The CBI claims that Indrani along with her ex-husband Khanna and her then husband Peter had conspired to murder Sheena over her relationship with Peter's son from his first marriage, Rahul Mukerjee. Vidhie claimed that she did not

recall any disputes in the family over Rahul's relationship with Sheena.

She alleged that disputes began rising in the family due to Rahul's consumption of 'hard drugs' and Sheena too having started consumption. Rahul in his deposition as a witness claimed that he had last seen Sheena with Indrani and Khanna on April 24, 2012, and said that Indrani was unhappy over their relationship.

Sheena was Indrani's daughter from a previous relationship. Vidhie, Indrani's daughter with Khanna, was adopted by Peter after his marriage with Indrani.

Vidhie also claimed that after Indrani's arrest, none of the Mukerjee family members went to visit her. "I was only feeling safe with my stepfather Peter Mukerjee because he was the closest person I had at that time. The family members started fighting on which furniture will go to whose house, material things like

perfumes and bags were shared among themselves," Vidhie claimed before court. She also said that she was asked to choose between her mother or them or be on her own but Peter had told her that nothing will happen to her.

She also said that a joint decision of Indrani and Peter was to transfer a flat they owned in Worli in her (Vidhie's) name after her 18th birthday. But a letter was written to the housing society to stop this transfer and her name was taken out from Peter's will.

Sheena's belongings including ancestral property were siphoned off after her arrest, without her knowledge. She also claimed that Peter's two sons had a clear motive to falsely implicate Indrani. Vidhie, who had written a book titled, "Devil's Daughter", said that she does not stand by its contents and if she could go back, she would never written the book.

## Two new flyovers to ease traffic on Mehdipatnam-Gachibowli stretch

**Hyderabad .(Agency)**

In a bid to ease chronic traffic congestion on the vital stretch connecting Mehdipatnam, PVNR Expressway, Gachibowli and surrounding areas, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will

and other incidental works.

GHMC will execute the works on an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis. Proposals have been invited from agencies for the construction of the multi-level flyover and grade separators at Rethibowli and



Nanalganagar junctions on EPC/turnkey basis. The construction period is set at two years, followed by two-year defect liability period.

Officials said the project will enable seamless, signal-free travel through two of the city's busiest junctions and reduce travel time, particularly for those commuting towards the IT corridor.

The scope of work covers investigation, surveying, design, detailed engineering and construction. The minimum design speed will be 40 kmph, while structural components in the viaduct are being designed for 80 kmph.

## 45 residents evacuated after fire in parking lot of building in Pune's Guruwar Peth

**Pune .(Agency)**

At least 45 occupants of a residential building in the Guruwar Peth area of central Pune were evacuated by the fire brigade after a blaze was reported in the parking lot in the early hours of Wednesday. No casualties were reported in the incident.

According to Pune Fire Brigade officials, the fire was reported around 3.30 am in the Zeba Shelter residential society near Chhoti Masjid in Guruwar Peth.

"After receiving the call, a fire tender was deployed. After the squad reached the location, the situation was assessed. An electricity meter box had caught fire, and the flames were rapidly spreading to nearby bikes in the parking lot. Intense smoke was spreading throughout the building," said a fire brigade officer. "The residents on the upper floor had started

experiencing discomfort due to the smoke. It was decided to evacuate the residents of the four-floor building. The power

fire was brought under control within 15 minutes, and 45 occupants of the building were safely evacuated. "The

reported in the incident," the officer added.

Fire officer Prashant Gaykar and firefighters Atul Mohite, Azim Shaikh, Sudhir Navale, Tejas Patel, Sagar Shirke and Yash Virkar were part of the rescue and firefighting operation. In a separate incident at around 9 pm on Tuesday, a 70-year-old woman was evacuated after a fire broke out in her apartment in Sanskruti Sundar Society on Canal Road in Pune. Initial observations suggested that the fire started after the decorative item for the Ganesh festival caught fire from an oil lamp nearby.

The residents of the building broke open the door and rescued the elderly woman. The residents extinguished the fire with the help of the building's firefighting system before the firefighters reached the location, fire brigade officials said.

At present, 200 e-buses



supply was disconnected," the officer said.

According to the officer, the

electricity meter box and four bikes were completely gutted in the fire. No casualties were

## Ahmedabad: Ganesh pandals on air crash a big hit among devotees, victims' kin

**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**

Passengers peep out of autorickshaws, commuters on two-wheelers slow down their vehicles while maneuvering through the traffic, pedestrians halt as they cross a Ganesh pandal set up on a busy commercial street of Old Ahmedabad near the Metropolitan Court in Ghee Kanta. The reason? The pandal shows Lord Ganesh in action, as a frontline warrior.

Designed on the theme of the June 12 Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad's Meghna Nagar, the pandal by Ganesh Yuva Mitra Mandal pays tribute to the victims of the crash and "salutes" the frontline warriors, including officials of the fire department, 108



emergency services, police department, besides highlighting the role of media.

Talking about the photo of the hostel building used to make the cut-out in the backdrop, Rahul Rajput, Ganesh Yuva Mitra Mandal member, told The Indian Express: "We visited the site two-three weeks after the crash. That was when we took this photo." He added that the pandal has been built at a cost of around Rs 1.5 lakh.

**Vadodara .(Agency)**

Three thousand police personnel, additional paramilitary forces, and seven drone cameras—this is how the Vadodara police ensured that the annual immersion procession of the Juni Gadi Ganesh pandal's idol passed uneventfully through the city's Panigate area on Tuesday, just a week after eggs were hurled at a Ganesh idol there in an alleged desecration attempt.

Early on Tuesday afternoon, the seven drones began flying over the route that the Juni Gadi Ganesh pandal would take from 5 pm onwards, helping the police scan the terraces of residential and commercial multi-storey

structures on either side of the narrow streets—starkly divided between communities.

"There has been a history of rioting incidents during crowded processions, and in most cases, it is observed that the stones have been pelted from terraces or rooftops of structures by miscreants looking to breach the peace and break the law. The drone surveillance was to look for signs of potential trouble in the

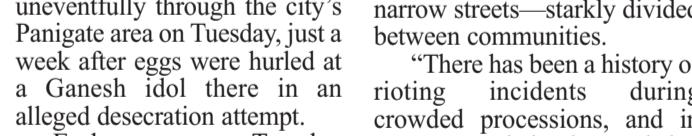
dedicated drones scanned the periphery as the procession moved along, to spot any potential law and order hindrances.

"Police deployment was there on the terraces, but the drones cover a bigger area with perspective... In the August 26 incident, the eggs were hurled from a higher floor of a structure, and the accused had enough time to escape, as it becomes difficult to locate the exact spot where the provocation comes from. Drone surveillance helps keep vigil on minute movements as the officials monitoring the drone have their eyes trained to spot the potential situation in time," the official explained.

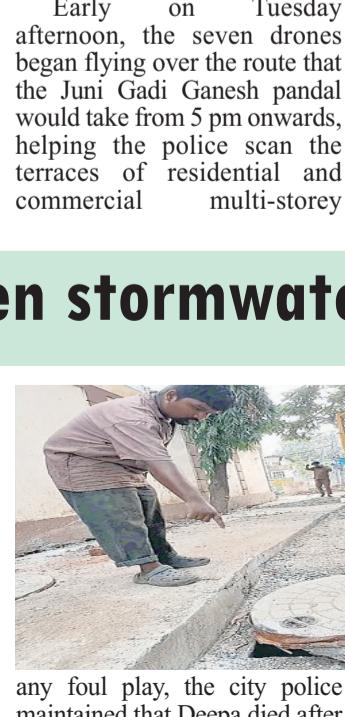
form of objects or persons on the terraces of the structures," a senior police official said.

"Since much of the groundwork was already done by the police earlier, especially after the August 26 incident, we did not spot piles of stones or other objects that needed to be cleared from the terrace," the official added.

The official added that while some drones focused on surveilling the procession,



any foul play, the city police



falling into the pit, as the wooden plank that was used to

cover the pit was damp due to the rain. "It could have caved in after the woman stepped on it," they said.

A senior police officer told TNIE, "We are 100% sure that there is no murder angle to the death. On the other hand, there is enough evidence to prove that it was accidental," adding preliminary findings of the postmortem, with injuries on the

head and face, also did not suggest murder.

Deepa's body was handed over to her family on Tuesday. A case has been registered under section 194 of the BNSS (law that deals with suicide or any death raising suspicion of an offense) to ascertain the cause of the death. Meanwhile, BJP leader K Annamalai condemned GCC for the death.

## Choolaimedu woman's death in open stormwater pit sparks GCC—police blame game

**Chennai .(Agency)**

A woman was found dead in a silt catchment pit of a stormwater drain with no proper lid at Veerapadi Nagar in Choolaimedu on Tuesday morning.

The deceased has been identified as J Deepa, a resident of Kodambakkam. She was staying with her 20-year-old daughter after her husband

abandoned her a few years ago. He death has triggered a war of words between the officials of Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and the police department.

Though GCC acknowledged that the pit was not covered properly, the officials contended that falling into the pit won't cause death, as it is shallow. A corporation official told TNIE

that the opening of silt catchment pit measures 1.5 feet in length and has a width of 1.5 feet and the pit has a depth of only 2 to maximum 2.5 feet.

"It is nearly impossible for someone to fall to death in such a pit. The body was found curled up inside the pit. What exactly happened could be known only after the police investigation," he said. Meanwhile, ruling out

any foul play, the city police maintained that Deepa died after

## EDITORIAL

**China must earn India's trust, not merely mention it**

The bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, marked a rare moment of diplomatic realism and strategic recalibration between two Asian giants navigating an increasingly fractured global order. At a time when the US is weaponising trade, evident in the recent 50 percent tariffs on key Indian exports, India and China have signalled the intent to decouple their bilateral trajectory from third-party pressures. Both Modi and Xi emphasised "strategic autonomy", a phrase that, in this context, served as a rejection of the zero-sum geopolitics shaping today's multipolar world. Modi's assertion that India-China relations "must be grounded in mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity" and "not viewed through the lens of a third country" was timely and pointed. Xi's metaphor that "the dragon and the elephant must come together" framed the ties in civilisational terms, but did not shy away from contemporary imperatives. Substantively, the meeting tackled two core tensions: terrorism and trade. Modi highlighted cross-border terrorism as a priority, drawing



attention to the shared vulnerability both countries face.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's statement that China has shown "understanding and cooperation" is a welcome, if cautiously optimistic, signal, particularly given Pakistan's presence in the SCO and Beijing's complex ties with Islamabad. The second area of friction, trade, saw both leaders acknowledge the pressing need to address India's ballooning deficit with China. Misri was forthright in recognising that narrowing this gap "will contribute to a change in perception in the relationship".

The agreement to deepen trade and investment while boosting policy predictability and direct flights adds a layer of economic practicality to the diplomatic symbolism.

Importantly, both leaders reaffirmed that they are "partners, not rivals". With global supply chains rattled, and the Global South seeking a stronger voice, India and China, despite deep-rooted differences, seem aware that durable cooperation serves their national and regional interests. Yet, trust must be earned, not merely declared. Peace on the border remains a precondition for any lasting breakthrough. Resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct flights are steps towards rebuilding people-to-people trust. This meeting may not transform the relationship overnight, but it has helped place it back on a more constructive—albeit cautiously optimistic—forward-looking path.

**Uniform to unicorn**

**From battlefield to startup floor, fidelity is India's greatest untapped resource .**



matures into judgment and then into capital; it then links experience to renewal, where startups find their seed.

Steadfastness arises only when the soldier can claim the uniform as home, honour, and, in many cases, legacy.

**Contrast Abroad**

Where India misnames fidelity as burden, others have abandoned it altogether. Russia and Ukraine fall back on mass conscription—trading experience for numbers, youth for attrition. West Asia fragments into militias where loyalty is bought, not earned. The result is conflict without closure, wars that drag on for years, measured only in ledgers and casualties. India, by contrast, has within reach a disciplined dividend of veterans—not raw recruits, not hired guns, but men and women at the height of skill and endurance, capital no other nation discards so lightly.

**Our Blind Spot**

As Pratap Bhanu Mehta noted in The Indian Express: "Business leaders often complain of weak human capital. Yet they were historically unwilling to invest in building it." Meanwhile, every year the Republic treats its most disciplined, mission-ready talent as surplus while spending billions to import or retrain in the same domains. This is not inefficiency, it is industrial blindness, policy can correct.

**Commitment versus Contract**

India understands enduring trust; it is written into memory. Yet in policy language, that trust is too often flattened into employment. In a democracy where jobs are shortcuts to power, pensions are miscounted as entitlements, and truncated schemes recast service as exposure, covenant as contract. Short-service schemes have value: they widen intake and bring youthful energy. Many who leave carry discipline into society. But a contract, by design, prepares for exit even at entry. The second dividend rests on long service, where commitment

A logistics officer could transform fragile supply chains. A nursing assistant trained in field hospitals could extend primary care to villages. A technician skilled on advanced systems is too often reduced to guard duty at a bank, stick in hand. Even a reimagined Territorial Army, with urban and rural components, could bridge gaps in security and civic resilience. These are dividends awaiting reinvestment.

**From Service Skills to Unicorns**

The Republic already forges soldierly skills that mirror the most sought-after capabilities of a startup economy: judgment under stress, logistics at scale, technology in the field, endurance in adversity, and the ability to lead teams in uncertain terrain. These are not abstractions; they are the DNA of unicorn creation. A second-dividend policy could deliberately match veterans with sectors crying out for precisely these abilities—cyber, artificial intelligence (AI), healthcare, supply chains, clean energy. What India now discards as surplus is the raw material of its next wave of billion-dollar enterprises.

**Global Proof**

Western veterans have founded unicorns in cybersecurity, logistics and AI, turning battlefield problem-solving into billion-dollar creation. In South Korea, compulsory service has produced leaders in shipbuilding, electronics and gaming, the anchors of its economy. Israel has turned its veterans into the bedrock of its startup ecosystem. India has its own proof. Naval officer Arogyaswami Paulraj's work on sonar led to MIMO (multiple input and multiple output) technology, which underpins modern wireless networks. Billions of devices depend on his breakthrough, yet India captured little of that return, letting one soldier's genius benefit the world but not the nation that trained him.

**Changing Character of Warfare**

The characteristics of warfare today are no longer defined by numbers and firepower alone. Abroad, the best deployable hardware is on display, yet wars drag into their fourth year without resolution. During Op Sindo, we saw something different: affordable imports and smart indigenous hardware, steered by experienced and deeply trained cognitive "skinware." Twenty-two minutes and 88 hours to conflict termination, followed by the political grand strategy of restraint.

This is a discipline-driven, unbearable combination for any adversary—today, tomorrow, whenever.

**Providence and the Pivot**

Every conflict we witness abroad is a trial by fire, costly for others, instructive for us. It exposes the limits of contract, and reminds us of what endures. The lesson is clear: India's second dividend is waiting at home, to serve in uniform and to build unicorns when the spurs are hung.

**Our Recipe for Deterrence**

Affordable and smart hardware. Unicorns, supported by the second dividend. Fidelity that never retires. Legacy strength as our spine, spread across the nation. It worked in 1971. It worked in 2025. It will work again. This is the continuum.

**The many shades of patriotism**

If migration is a referendum on our patriotism, consider that at over 18 million, Indians form the largest diaspora in the world. The true measure is not how large the economy is, but how anxiety-free and pollution-free each citizen can be



country has done for you. One lives for oneself first, then for one's family. The country is only a means to safeguard these two objectives.

Migration is India's truest referendum. According to UN data, over 18 million Indians live abroad—the largest diaspora in the world. Every year, nearly 750,000 Indians give up their citizenship to become Americans, Canadians, Australians, or Europeans. What does this really mean? Surely, it points to the State's failure to care for its people. If India were a corporation, its shareholders would have long sold their stock, even for the well-to-do, 'loving' the country becomes problematic the moment they step outdoors. Delhi's Air Quality Index last winter crossed 500—the scale's upper limit; anything above 300 is hazardous. Mumbai's AQI hovers around 200 on most days. Compare this with London, where the average AQI is 35, or New York, at

around 45. Breathing here is a form of dying. Why on Earth should anyone love such killing cities? It is a kind of abuse of the self.

Every political party, Right or Left, scrambles to establish its love for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the chorus on the Right. On the Left, Rahul Gandhi never misses a chance to wave the Constitution like an exorcist brandishing the Bible at the devil. Night after night, TV channels go into spasms of patriotic fervour. One recurring chorus is that India is "poised to become" the world's third-largest economy. But this is a paradoxical achievement,

because the pervasiveness of poverty is everywhere.

The Netherlands is the 17th largest economy in the world, yet its happiness ranking is fifth.

The size of the economy represents little to the poor. A few billionaires getting richer means little to the countless Indians who live scrapping

about on the fringe. Which is why there should be room to be neutral about one's country—unless there is an emergency, say, a war. It is not for India that we must fight, but for Indians. What is a land without its people? The true question is not whether we are the second, third, or fourth largest economy, but how secure and anxiety-free the citizen is. As of 2025, India's nominal GDP per capita is approximately \$2,878, ranking 136th globally out of 189 countries. And the Indian citizen is among the least prized of nationalities. India ranks 77th globally in the Henley Passport Index 2025. Surely you would want to 'love' a passport that guarantees no long clearance lines at international airports?

As jingoism becomes fashionable, freedom to dissent from the manufactured mainstream grows dangerous. At no point in post-independence history—except perhaps during the

Emergency—have more Indians been charged with sedition. Between 2014 and 2020, there were 399 cases under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita). The rechristening itself might be read as another ritualistic display of patriotism. But the arbitrariness of its use is clear from the conviction rate, less than 10 convicted.

Citizenship is an accident. You did not choose to be born in a particular country, or into a religion, or under a god. Yet it is on behalf of these accidents that people fight, kill, and die.

More people live and die for fiction than for fact. Perhaps these fictions, these narratives, are necessary because they give us identity.

As jingoism becomes fashionable, freedom to dissent from the manufactured mainstream grows dangerous. At no point in post-independence history—except perhaps during the

**India must use lessons China learnt long ago**

Wars are no longer fought only on land, at sea, or in the air. They are also fought in the invisible domain of information—where speed, precision and narrative shape outcomes even before a shot is fired. This has triggered a subtler, equally potent dimension: deterrence by information. A nation well-networked, agile in managing narratives, and proficient in handling information can create such a perception of dominance that adversaries hesitate to act. The 1991 Gulf War was a revelation. The US stunned the world by fusing space-based intelligence, precision-guided munitions, real-time surveillance and live command networks into a seamless war machine. Iraqi forces were paralysed not only by physical destruction, but also by the overwhelming information superiority of the coalition forces. For the first time, 'embedded journalism' was relayed from the heart of the battlefield.

China was the keenest observer. It saw not just advanced weapons, but the systemic integration of sensors, shooters and decision-makers into a cohesive information grid. This was not a traditional war—it was warfare under informationised conditions. By 1993, the Chinese People's Liberation Army enshrined this as a doctrine. By 2003, it progressed to the innovation of the 'Three Warfares'—media, psychological and legal. Media warfare meant controlling domestic and international narratives, influencing how conflicts were reported and shaping global perception of legitimacy. Chinese state media used these as strategic weapons. Psychological warfare was about sowing doubt, fear or hesitation in adversaries; while bolstering confidence of the allied audiences. Legal warfare created justifications for territorial claims and delegitimised adversary positions. Crucially, China never saw these domains as separate from military power. Instead, as complementing the traditional force, and preparing the ground for kinetic operations. The effectiveness of China's approach became visible during regional confrontations. In Doklam (2017), and more starkly during the Galwan standoff and broader Ladakh tensions in 2020, the PLA demonstrated tight control over strategic communication—a deliberate media blackout, carefully curated leaks, and a disciplined silence.

Pakistan, too, has long understood the role of information in conflict. As early as 1949, it established the Inter-Services Public Relations, recognising information as a weapon system. Over decades, ISPR has evolved into a formidable narrative machine, blending military messaging with media engagement and international outreach. In 2025, during Operation Sindo, Pakistan attempted to showcase its narrative-management capabilities following the Chinese template.

Rivals, not necessarily adversaries, may employ information offensively when it suits their strategic purpose. The current downturn in India-US relations is a case in point. Donald Trump's repeated claims that India is "profiteering" from discounted Russian oil, or that the Indian economy is "dead" are targeted messages intended to shape global perception and pressure India.

# NFR to run additional 07 pairs of festival special trains to clear extra rush

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 3rd September: In a bid to clear the extra rush of passengers during this forthcoming festive season, it has been decided to run additional 07 pairs of festive special trains over Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) to few destinations. Among these special trains- Train No. 08047/08048 (Shalimar - Rangapara North - Shalimar) will run from 19th September to 4th October, 2025 for 03 trips from both directions. Train No. 03005/03006 (Howrah - Lumding - Howrah) will run from 26th September to 29th November, 2025 for 10 trips from both directions. Train No. 05742/05741 (New Jalpaiguri- Gomti Nagar- New Jalpaiguri) will run from 28th September to 3rd November, 2025 for 06 trips from both directions. Train No. 03129/03130 (Kolkata- New Jalpaiguri- Kolkata) will run from 28th September to 24th November, 2025 for 10 trips from both directions. Train No. 05738/05737 (New Jalpaiguri- Narkatiaganj- New Jalpaiguri) will run from 28th September to 10th November, 2025 for 07 trips from both directions. Train No. 05740/05739 (New Jalpaiguri- Patna Jn.- New Jalpaiguri) will run from 20th September to 8th November, 2025 for 08 trips from both directions. Train No. 05734/05733 (Kishanganj- Amritsar- Kishanganj) will run from 2nd October to 15th November, 2025 for 07 trips from both directions. Accordingly, train No. 08047 (Shalimar- Rangapara North) special will depart from Shalimar on every Friday at 17:45 hours to reach Rangapara North at 13:40 hours on Saturday. In return direction, train No. 08048 (Rangapara North - Shalimar) special will depart from Rangapara North on every Saturday at 16:30 hours to reach Shalimar at 12:30 hours on Sunday. Train No. 03005 (Howrah - Lumding) special will depart from Howrah on every Friday at 07:15 hours to reach Lumding at 08:00 hours on Saturday. In return direction, Train No. 03006 (Lumding - Howrah) special will depart from Lumding on every Saturday at 11:00 hours to reach Howrah at 12:30 hours on Sunday. Train No. 05742 (New Jalpaiguri - Gomti Nagar) special will depart from New Jalpaiguri on every Sunday at 07:00 hours to reach Gomti Nagar at 07:15 hours on Monday. In return direction, Train No. 05741 (Gomti Nagar -

New Jalpaiguri) special will depart from Gomti Nagar on every Monday at 09:40 hours to reach New Jalpaiguri at 09:25 hours on Tuesday. Train No. 03129 (Kolkata- New Jalpaiguri) special will depart from Kolkata on every Sunday at 23:40 hours to reach New

cial will depart from New Jalpaiguri on every Saturday at 05:00 hours to reach Patna Jn. at 17:40 hours same day. In return direction, train No. 05739 (Patna Jn.- New Jalpaiguri) special will depart from Patna Jn. on every Saturday at 19:30 hours to reach



Jalpaiguri at 10:45 hours on Monday. In return direction, Train No. 03130 (New Jalpaiguri- Kolkata) special will depart from New Jalpaiguri on every Monday at 12:45 hours to reach Kolkata at 00:40 hours on Tuesday. Train No. 05738 (New Jalpaiguri- Narkatiaganj) special will depart from New Jalpaiguri on every Sunday at 14:05 hours to reach Narkatiaganj at 05:00 hours on Monday. In return direction, Train No. 05737 (Narkatiaganj- New Jalpaiguri) special will depart from Narkatiaganj on every Monday at 07:00 hours to reach New Jalpaiguri at 21:30 hours same day. Train No. 05740 (New Jalpaiguri- Patna Jn.) spe-

New Jalpaiguri at 09:30 hours on Sunday. Train No. 05734 (Kishanganj-Amritsar) special will depart from Kishanganj on every Thursday at 09:10 hours to reach Amritsar at 00:10 hours on Saturday. In return direction, Train No. 05733 (Amritsar- Kishanganj) special will depart from Amritsar on every Saturday at 04:25 hours to reach Kishanganj at 17:30 hours on Sunday. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available in IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

## Migrant worker's death sparks violence in Chennai; over 100 detained, 30 remanded after stone-pelting on police

**Chennai.(Agency)**

The death of a 34-year-old migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh, employed at the L&T

contract at the facility for the past one-and-a-half months. He was staying at the housing site called Kaveri camp, where

bench, causing severe injury, the police said. He was rushed in the company's ambulance to Government Stanley Hospital,

hospital.

The protest by the workers escalated when they allegedly started pelting police with stones on Tuesday morning. A larger group of workers joined them, escalating the situation, the police said.

Sources said the police had to resort to lathicharge to bring the situation under control.

More than 100 workers were detained, and 30 were remanded in judicial custody, the police said. The worker's body was handed over to his brother, who came from Uttar Pradesh.

The police have registered a case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the death. An FIR was filed against 30 workers for rioting, along with provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Avadi Commissioner K Shankar also visited the riot spot to ascertain the situation.

**Bengaluru.** A sessions co

dismissed the b actress Pavitra G number one Renukswamy. The fresh bail a filed after she v judicial custody following the Su cancellation of l her, actor Dars others.

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Tuesday edition of , accused n in the er case. ition was tken into ugust 14 e Court's ranted to and five

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## Renukswamy murder case: Sessions court dismisses bail petition of actress Pavithra Gowda

Prison. The hearing on the plea was adjourned to Wednesday.

Darshan seeks basic amenities

Actor Darshan, who is lodged in Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara, has filed a petition seeking basic amenities. He is accused number two in the Renukswamy murder case. Darshan's counsel, Sunil Kumar, on Tuesday argued that the actor has not been provided with basic facilities in prison and that the barrack where he is staying is filthy.

"I personally visited the prison and witnessed the conditions," his lawyer said, adding that if the situation continues, a complaint will be filed with the Human Rights Commission. He further stated that a petition has been submitted seeking basic facilities along with an additional blanket and pillow.



Additional Sessions Judge Irrappanna Pavadi Naik dismissed the bail petition.

The court on Tuesday also heard applications seeking the transfer of Darshan and other accused to different prisons from the Bengaluru Central

Modular Fabrication Facility in Kattupalli in Avadi police commissionerate, led to a clash between workers and the police on Tuesday.

Police said Amaresh Prasad of Azamgarh district, was employed as a welder on

3,600 workers stayed in temporary sheds with ground and first-floor.

On Monday night, Prasad, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, slipped while trying to enter his room on the first floor and fell. His head struck a

where doctors declared him dead. Tension erupted when his colleagues demanded that the body be brought back to the camp. Police sources said they refused since the body could be handed over to the relatives only after a postmortem at the

## 'Contempt of NGT orders' if dyeing clusters in Ludhiana reopened, PAC cautions authorities

**Ludhiana.(Agency)**

The Public Action Committee (PAC), on behalf of Kali Pani Da Morcha, has written to the Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner and Member Secretary of the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), warning that reopening dyeing clusters without complying with the Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions would amount to contempt of National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders.

The PAC pointed out that the Deputy Commissioner had ordered the closure of dyeing clusters on September 1 due to backflow of Sutlej waters and failure of the Bhattività STP. "The same toxic water, which is flooding homes in Ludhiana, is also used downstream in South Punjab and Rajasthan for drinking. This shows how serious



the issue is," the PAC stated.

The PAC letters remind the authorities that the NGT, in its order dated 09.12.2024 (Appeal No. 48/2024 and connected matters), already passed the binding directions: Bahadur Ke CETP (15 MLD) bound by EC requiring Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), Tajpur Road CETP (50 MLD) and Focal Point CETP (40 MLD) bound by EC conditions of no discharge into Buddha Nullah.

The PAC cautioned that "any attempt to reopen these clusters

and allow effluent discharge into Buddha Nullah would be direct contempt of the Tribunal's binding orders, exposing responsible officers to penalties under the NGT Act, 2010, including fine and imprisonment".

In its communication to the PPCB, the PAC also underlined that "it is not enough to simply withhold permissions, as dyeing units have a history of resuming without clearance. PPCB must actively ensure on the ground that clusters are not able to restart operations until full compliance with the EC conditions is demonstrated".

"The people of Ludhiana are already suffering 'saza-e-kaala paani'. Authorities cannot defy the NGT and push the city and downstream regions into further poisoning," the PAC added.

## SATS portal error: No relief yet for PU II students in Karnataka

**Bengaluru.(Agency)**

Parents of several PU II students and members of the Karnataka Private School College Parent Associations Coordination Committee have raised serious concerns over the alleged irregularities in uploading internal assessment marks on the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) portal.

The committee submitted a memorandum to the Department of Pre-University Education (DPUE) on Monday.

The committee stated that several students, who passed II PU exams in 2024-25, received incorrect scores. Colleges attributed this to some technical

glitches and typo errors. Though the parents approached the colleges to rectify the errors,

parent HS Byakod, another parent, said though students performed well in their internal



they were asked to wait. In some cases, they were allegedly told to pay money to rectify the errors immediately.

"We were asked to pay Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 to rectify the errors immediately," said a

scored 20. But the portal showed only 2. This affected his overall score. He could not take up an engineering course because of this discrepancy. A student must score a minimum of 6 marks. His application was rejected because the marks card showed only 2 instead of 20."

On July 8, the High Court of Karnataka granted relief to a few students, who had approached it. The committee, however, claimed that no action was taken by the colleges and the internal grades remain unchanged. "Hundreds of students have been affected and their careers are at stake," BN Yogananda, president of the committee, said.

Byakod said, "My son

## Gang selling bank accounts, SIM cards to Philippines-based cyber fraudsters busted

**Chandigarh.(Agency)**

The cyber crime team busted a gang involved in providing bank accounts and mobile SIM cards to the Philippines-based cyber fraudsters and arrested four of its members so far, Patiala police said on Tuesday.

Police said the gang, comprising Pankaj, Arshdeep and Manga Singh, all residents of Patiala, would lure innocent youngsters for opening salary

accounts in their names for a fictitious new job, and the gang would keep ATM cards and net banking details of those accounts.

Police said the gang would sell bank accounts with their net banking details to the Philippines-based cyber fraudsters Babu and Sumi, also of Punjab origin. One saving bank account would be sold for Rs 10,000 and a current bank

account for Rs 40,000, police said, adding that the gang has so far sold more than 30 such bank accounts to fraudsters, enabling them to route fraud money to the tune of crores of rupees in a few months.

Police said the gang operated an unauthorised de-addiction centre on the Chaura Road in Patiala for some time and would lure addicts with Rs 500 per SIM into buying new

SIMs in their names and provide those SIMs to the gang. The gang would further sell those SIMs to the Philippines-based cyber fraudsters and send the SIMs to the Philippines through courier, police said.

Police said the gang, comprising Pankaj, Arshdeep and Manga Singh, all residents of Patiala, would lure innocent youngsters for opening salary accounts in their names for a fictitious new job, and the gang would keep ATM cards and net banking details of those accounts.



cyber fraudsters and send the SIMs to the Philippines through courier, police said.

Police said the gang has so far sent around 50 SIMs through couriers to the Philippines. These SIMs are used by cyber fraudsters to call innocent people in India for committing cyber fraud, police said, adding that all these SIM cards were purchased from a single shop without proper verifications.

# Focus on building public trust, stay away from corruption: Delhi top cop's first lesson for SHOs

New Delhi. (Agency)

In his first meeting with the station house officers (SHOs), Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha on Tuesday advised them to focus on building public trust while urging the officers to stay away from corruption.

Golcha, who was appointed the police chief on August 21, held a meeting at the Police Headquarters, which was also attended by Special Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, and District DCPs. During the meeting, he briefed the officers for over two hours on key issues.

He told the officers that there is a need to rebuild the image of the officers working on the field. Golcha also emphasized the importance of sensitizing ground-level staff, including personnel posted at PCR (Police Control Room) unit and duty officers at police stations, to ensure they engage effectively and respectfully with complainants.

Advising on the motto "We are the best," Golcha underlined that police officers need to focus on image-building by ensuring that every complainant visiting the police station is treated with respect and their concerns are properly addressed. He also stressed the importance of registering cases promptly and urged officers not



to evade their responsibility in doing so.

Highlighting the issue of corruption and the raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

on police officers in the recent months, Golcha stated that such incidents tarnish the image of the Delhi Police. He urged the officers to steer clear of corruption.

Golcha further said that the force needs to increase its visibility on the streets. He advised the PCR units and local police to conduct checks and increase vigilance in the areas.

He told the SHOs that the merger of the PCR unit with the law and order wing was a commendable step taken in 2021, but underlined that the officers failed to fully capitalize on it. Later, the PCR unit was again separated from the law and order division and made into an independent unit. He noted that the visibility of PCR vans on the streets is currently very low. The commissioner further raised concerns about street crime and gangsters

operating from jails or abroad in the Capital. To prevent street crimes, he emphasized the need to closely monitor repeat offenders and those out on bail.

He further told the SHOs that out-of-turn promotions would be given to those officers who perform well and bring a good name to the force. Appreciating the department's handling of law and order during the Northeast Delhi riots in 2020, Golcha claimed that the cases registered after the riots were thoroughly investigated.

Delhi has 225 police stations across 15 police districts and other units.

## Delhi BJP MP withdraws HC plea to set aside charges for 'assaulting' traffic cop

New Delhi. (Agency)

BJP's Northwest Delhi MP

Yogender Chandoliya withdrew a petition in the Delhi High Court on Wednesday, which sought to set aside a magistrate court's order that framed charges against him in a 2020 case. He was accused of allegedly assaulting a public servant.

As per his complaint, he

pointed towards a scooter that was improperly parked. Following this, Kumar alleged,



"discharging his duty" near Shiv Mandir in Karol Bagh.

Earlier that day, the Prasad Nagar police station had received a call that a group of people had "blocked a crane". Kumar was on "crane duty", lifting vehicles that were parked improperly.

As per his complaint, he

pointed towards a scooter that was improperly parked. Following this, Kumar alleged,

## Upset that his wife made Instagram reels, man strangled her — then attempted suicide

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rajni loved creating reels on Instagram. The 30-year-old had over 6,000 followers. Her husband, Aman, strongly disapproved of it. The couple fought frequently over the issue. On Monday, police said, they got into another argument. In the early hours of Tuesday, Aman allegedly strangled Rajni to death — before he attempted to die by suicide, police said.

"On September 2, at 4:23 am, a PCR call was received at Najafgarh police station that a woman had been murdered. When a police team reached the spot, it found that the

woman had been strangled, allegedly by her husband. The husband was found hanging from the ceiling fan and was quickly brought down by the team," an officer said.

Aman, an e-rickshaw driver, was rushed to the Rao Tula Ram Memorial Hospital and was then referred to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital. His condition is critical, police said. "He consumed poison before he attempted to hang himself. His statement is yet to be recorded," the officer said.

Family members and neighbours told the police that the couple used to have frequent arguments, especially over the past year,

because of Rajni's passion for making reels. "The duo often had arguments as the husband objected to his wife making reels on social media and being active on Instagram, WhatsApp, and Snapchat.

On Monday night, the couple got into another argument. Prima facie, it appears that at 4 am, Aman woke up and strangled his wife in her sleep," the police officer said. The couple lived in Old Roshanara in Najafgarh. They have two sons, aged 9 and 5 years. They had been living in the rented accommodation since April.

## 3 of a family killed, 4 injured after car rams into stationary dumper in Delhi's Kapashera

The Delhi Police said the accident took place last week when the family from the Roshannagar area of Faridabad was returning from Rajasthan.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Three members of a family, including a four-year-old, died, and four others were injured after their car collided with a stationary dumper in the dark in South West Delhi's Kapashera area on August 25.

The driver of the dumper has been arrested, according to the Delhi Police. The police said the accident occurred at the exit



rushed to Safdarjung Hospital and also succumbed to his injuries," the police officer said.

Ayansh's parents, Neetu, 28, and Devendra, 30, along with Pramod, 55, and Rajput suffered minor injuries, and have been discharged.

"A case under sections 285,

125(a), 106(1) of the BNS [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita] was registered at the Kapashera Police Station, and the dumper was seized. The dumper driver Vipin Kashyap, 31, a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri, UP, was arrested on August 26," the officer said.

## Threats to Kapil Sharma, extortion calls: Why Harry Boxer is latest gangster on Delhi Police radar

New Delhi. (Agency)

From threatening comedian Kapil Sharma and warning Bollywood against working with actor Salman Khan to making extortion calls to Delhi businessmen, Hari Chand Jaat — better known by his alias Harry Boxer — has quickly risen in notoriety.

After two of his shooters were arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell last week, the gangster not only sent an audio message to the Delhi Police but also emerged as the latest name to dominate their radar.

A team from the Special Cell arrested his associates — Kartik Jakhar (29) and Kavish Phutela (25), who hail from Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan — in East Delhi. The duo are prominent members of the Harry Boxer-Rohit Godara gang.

Additional Commissioner

of Police (Special Cell) P S

Kushwaha told the media that the accused opened fire at the police team, which led to

produced in court.

While police said they are investigating the audio clip's authenticity, they have



retaliatory firing in self-defence. As a result, Jakhar

sustained a gunshot injury to his leg. Later, a purported audio

clip of Harry surfaced on social media. In it, he claimed that the Special Cell had picked up his associate, Jakhar, and that he could be harmed. He added that he has no animosity toward the police or the administration and urged that his associate be

intensified efforts to take strict action against the Harry Boxer gang and its members.

Earlier, police had identified

five most wanted gangsters — Himanshu Bhau, Surya Pratap alias Noni Rana, Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, Rohit Godara and Kapil Sangwan — who are allegedly operating from abroad. Harry has now joined the list.

## 'You funded Pahalgam attack terrorists': How 76-year-old Noida woman lost Rs 43 lakh to scammers

New Delhi. (Agency)

On July 18, Sarla Devi was startled when she got a call on her landline. No one usually called that number; she had a mobile phone after all.

The 76-year-old picked up. The person at the other end was a woman; she said she was from a telecom firm and transferred the call to the Mumbai Police Crime Branch.

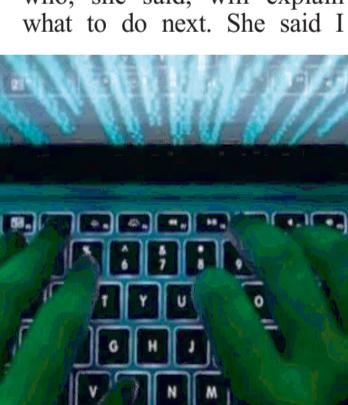
A 'police officer' then picked up. What he said left Devi reeling — he accused her of allegedly funding terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Over the next 24 days, the elderly woman was forced to transfer her life's savings — over Rs 43 lakh — to "prove her innocence". It was only later that she realized she had been scammed.

According to her complaint filed with the Cyber Crime Police Station in Noida's Sector 36, Devi stated that the caller initially claimed to be a representative from the head office of a major telecom company.

"The caller told me that a phone number under my name was registered in Mumbai's

Byculla and that it was being used for illegal activities — gambling and blackmailing. She then connected me to the Mumbai Police Crime Branch, who, she said, will explain what to do next. She said I



would need to submit a clearance certificate to them," Devi said in her complaint.

Devi was then allegedly connected to someone posing as an ACP from the Mumbai Police Crime Branch. The 'officer' warned her that an arrest warrant had been issued in her name, citing alleged involvement in hawala transactions and terror financing. He claimed her name had also surfaced in connection with funding terrorists behind the recent Pahalgam attacks.

## 'No mother would risk safety of her child for marriage': Delhi court sets aside husband's conviction in cruelty case

New Delhi. (Agency)

Setting aside a two-year-old conviction of a man for subjecting his wife to cruelty, a Delhi court raised questions about the wife's conduct, noting her claim that her husband had once threatened to drop their child — who was then six days old — from the balcony.

"... when it comes to the safety of her child, no mother would risk (it) for a marriage... And that incident was so grave that any woman ought to have registered a complaint; after all, it was about the life of a six-day-old child," said Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Shivali Bansal of the Dwarka Court, setting aside the order dated July 31, 2023.

ASJ Bansal was hearing a revision petition moved by advocate Pravesh Dabas, who represented the accused persons — husband Mukhtiar Singh and brother-in-law Satender Partap Singh — against their conviction and subsequent sentence of simple imprisonment for a year.

Calling the case a "classic example of misuse of provision Section 498A IPC [husband or

relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty]," the judge pointed out that while the wife, Anupama Chandra, had claimed she was subjected to cruelty from the first day of her marriage in November 2003 till March 2005, she lodged a complaint after a two-year delay. "The prosecution has tried to explain the delay... it is not the case of the prosecution that respondent no. 2 (Chandra) was uneducated or unaware about her rights... There was no reason for the respondent no. 2 to tolerate such acts of cruelty," ASJ Bansal said.

"If the conduct of appellant no. 1 and no. 2 (the accused) was such as could have posed a threat to the life of respondent no. 2 and her child, why was she willing to reside with appellant no. 1?... this conduct of respondent no. 2 is not in conformity with the allegations made by her against appellant no. 1 and no. 2," she added.

Chandra had alleged that her in-laws used to taunt her for "not giving enough dowry". She also claimed that she was beaten up frequently, wasn't given food, and was pressured to gift a flat.

The elderly woman was headed to the Ardhkuwari cave temple on a palanquin with her granddaughter Aarohi when

it was supposed to be a short trip. The family planned on leaving their house in North Delhi's Burari for Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Kashmir on August 23 and returning by August 29. Baby Ayansh had just turned two and his parents — Raja (40), who worked as a gardener, and Pinky (30) — thought that his mundan, a Hindu ceremony where a baby's head is shaved off for the first time, could be turned into a family vacation. After all, it was the first visit for everyone in the family, except Ayansh's grandmother, to the holy shrine.

A group of 16 people set out for the trip — Raja, Pinky, their daughters Dipanshi (9) and Aarohi (6), Ayansh, Raja's elder brother Ajay (49), their mother Ram Kumari, Pinky's sisters Suman and Poonam and seven members from Pinky's side of family.

Three days before the group's planned return, Yash, Raja's nephew, received a call on August 26. "Beta, haadsa ho gaya. Mujhe koi mil nahi raha (Son, a disaster has struck... I can't find anyone)," sobbed Ram Kumari over the call.

The elderly woman was

others in the family, who were trailing them, were caught in a landslide. "Raja was like the head of our family. He had made all the arrangements for the trip. He didn't want his

was watching TV news reports of the mishap as he spotted a familiar face. "One reporter managed to take an interview of Suman and Poonam (Pinky's sisters) in a hospital... With

elderly mother and his younger daughter to walk on the steep terrain so he arranged a palanquin for them... The people who carry the palanquins walk fast, so they were much ahead of the family," recalled Yash.

As darkness fell, Ram Kumari was informed of the disaster.

Panicked, the old woman and her granddaughter made their way to their hotel. She then pleaded to the hotel's owner to find Yash's number on her phone and give him a call.

"Even after getting the call, I had some hope," he said. Unsure of what to do next, Yash

bandages wrapped around her head, she was crying... they couldn't find other family members anywhere," said Yash. "I knew then that no one had survived." But he wanted confirmation.

"The hotel owner told me to come to Katra as soon as possible. He also sent me a list of the people who had died but the names of Raja and Dipanshi weren't there... The list of unidentified dead bodies was long, which erased my remaining hope," he added. He left for Katra the next day, drove for 12-13 hours straight before the worst of his fears turned into reality.

"The caller told me that a phone number under my name was registered in Mumbai's

# Blow to India as Sandesh Jhingan ruled out of CAFA Nations Cup due to injury

Indian men's football team captain Sandesh Jhingan has been ruled out of the rest of the CAFA Nations Cup after sustaining an injury during India's 0-3 loss to Iran, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed on Wednesday.

**New Delhi . (Agency)**  
Star Indian defender and captain Sandesh Jhingan has been ruled out of the remaining CAFA Nations Cup matches after sustaining an injury during India's 0-3 defeat to Iran, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed on Wednesday. The 32-year-old's injury is a significant setback ahead of India's final Group B clash against Afghanistan on Thursday.

The Blue Tigers currently sit second in the four-team group with three points from two games, following a thrilling 2-1 win over hosts Tajikistan and the subsequent defeat to Asian powerhouse Iran, who top the group with six points. India's hopes of advancing to the third-place match now rest on the result against Afghanistan. The CAFA Nations Cup is newly

appointed head coach Khalid Jamil's first assignment, and Jhingan was pivotal in the team's setup, scoring the winning goal against Tajikistan in the opener and playing every minute of both matches. He also captained the side against Iran and was named Player of the Match in the victory over Tajikistan. Defender Sandesh Jhingan sustained an injury during India's CAFA Nations Cup 2025 match against Iran and has been ruled out of the remaining matches. He will return to India today," the AIFF posted on X. India, ranked 133rd in the world, had stunned 106th-ranked Tajikistan with



early goals from defenders Anwar Ali (5th minute) and Jhingan (13th minute). Despite the heavy loss against Iran, the

## Leader Shubman Gill won't struggle with India's new T20 template: Irfan Pathan

**New Delhi . (Agency)**  
As it now appears almost certain that Shubman Gill will open the batting for India in the Asia Cup 2025, concerns have emerged regarding his ability to adapt to the high-risk tempo that defines the current Indian T20I team. However, former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan has expressed confidence that Gill possesses the attributes required to seamlessly adjust to whatever role the team demands of him as he returns to the T20I set-up after a year-long absence. Gill has been named vice-captain of the T20I side for the Asia Cup. While his return was widely anticipated, his elevation as deputy to Suryakumar Yadav has all but confirmed his place in the starting XI. This development, however, means India will have to break up a successful opening partnership between Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma, a duo that has

epitomised India's fearless T20I batting approach at the top of the order. Since the last T20 World Cup, Abhishek and Samson have scored five centuries between them, amassing 535 and 487 runs respectively, both at a strike rate exceeding 170. For now, Abhishek Sharma looks assured of a place in the XI. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar virtually confirmed as much during the squad announcement last month. The left-handed opener has personified modern T20 batting, combining audacity with intent and consistently providing India with explosive starts. Shubman Gill, on the other hand, has traditionally been more circumspect in the initial stages of his innings. Unlike Abhishek and Samson, Gill has not always shown the inclination to attack from the very first ball. Instead, he has

preferred a measured, risk-free approach early on before shifting gears later.

"I think Shubman Gill has improved his T20 cricket a lot, particularly in the last few seasons, including in the IPL. When he first began at KKR, I vaguely recall his strike rate hovering around 125. That has now improved to 150. Last year's IPL saw him strike at over 150 while consistently piling up runs at a higher rate,"

Pathan remarked, responding to a query from IndiaToday.in during a media conference organised by Sony Sports, the official broadcasters of the Asia Cup, which begins on 9 September. Indeed, Gill struck at 155 and scored over 600 runs in the 2025 IPL season. While this demonstrates that he possesses multiple gears in T20 batting, it remains to be seen whether he can make the mental shift required to play without fear of failure in a fiercely competitive international set-up.

'DON'T FORGET HE IS A LEADER'

Pathan is confident Gill will rise to the occasion, suggesting that the added responsibility of being part of the leadership group will serve as extra motivation for the young opener to adapt to the team's requirements.



## Don't know why Root reacted that way: Prasidh on heated altercation in 5th Test



**New Delhi . (Agency)**  
India fast bowler Prasidh Krishna has spoken for the first time about his on-field spat with former England captain Joe Root during the fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy at the Oval, insisting the flashpoint was down to a

misunderstanding. The five-match series between India and England was one of the most fiercely contested in recent memory, finishing 2-2 after a dramatic finale in south London. The decider was played with no shortage of intensity, and tempers briefly

flared on the second day when Root and Krishna engaged in a verbal exchange shortly after the Yorkshireman's arrival at the crease. Recalling the moment, Krishna explained: "I don't know why Root reacted (that way). I just said, 'you're looking in great shape' and then it turned into a lot of abuse and all of that." The 29-year-old revealed that he later cleared the air with Root, with whom he has shared the Rajasthan Royals dressing room in the Indian Premier League.

I did go and speak to most of them - including Root. I asked him what happened. He said,

was steady but tense, with Gautam Gambhir providing the foundation and MS Dhoni lending support before the chase tightened in the closing stages. When Ravindra Jadeja fell, India still required 49 off 29 balls. Harbhajan Singh joined Suresh Raina at the crease, and the equation soon narrowed to 16 from the final two overs. The 49th over, bowled by Akhtar, lit the spark. Raina launched a huge six, followed by quick runs, before Harbhajan faced the last delivery. A sharp bouncer saw him mistime a pull, and Akhtar stormed down the pitch,

team remains in contention for a spot in the third-place match if they hold their position.

Jhingan, reflecting on the defeat, posted on social media: "Although the scoreline is something that continues to hurt, there are still a lot of positives from this game. Thank you to all who came to the stadium to support and everyone back home cheering for us. Upwards and onwards."

The defender's absence is also a concern for his club, FC Goa, ahead of their AFC Champions League Two group opener against Al-Zawraa SC (Iraq) on September 17. Jhingan played a crucial role in Goa's recent win against Oman Professional League champions Al Seeb, which secured the team's place in the group stage.

M Chinnaswamy Stadium when news of the stampede outside the iconic ground broke, RCB abruptly cut short their festivities. Earlier in the day, the team had been felicitated by Chief Minister N. Siddaramaiah in an open-air ceremony at the Vidhana Soudha. The stampede was triggered by the announcement of an open-top bus parade, despite state police reportedly denying permission for it. Thousands of fans gathered in



anticipation of the parade — one that ultimately never took place. RCB, on August 30, announced Rs 25 lakh for each of the families of the deceased in the stampede and assistance to those injured. RCB had initially announced Rs 10 lakh, but they increased the compensation after announcing 'RCB Cares' -- an initiative with which they were planning meaningful action. Earlier this month, RCB announced a six-point agenda which goes beyond compensation for those affected in the stampede.

## After RCB, Virat Kohli breaks silence on Bengaluru stampede: Your loss is our story

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Days after Royal Challengers Bengaluru unveiled a six-point manifesto for meaningful action in the aftermath of the Bengaluru stampede during their IPL 2025 victory celebrations, Virat Kohli reflected on the tragedy, admitting that nothing had prepared him for the heartbreak of 4 June. RCB had broken their silence on social media two months after the incident, which claimed the lives of 11 people and left more than 40 injured. What had been planned as a city-wide celebration of the franchise's maiden IPL triumph turned tragic when a stampede broke out near the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Thousands of fans had poured onto the streets to welcome RCB after their historic win, but mismanagement of the event led to devastating loss of life. Nothing in life really prepares you for a heartbreak like June 4th. What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history turned into something tragic," Virat Kohli said in a statement shared by the franchise. "I've been thinking of and praying for the families of those we lost and for our fans who were injured. Your loss is part of our story now. Together, we will move forward with care, respect and responsibility." Virat Kohli was leading the celebrations at the

## R Ashwin in talks for surprise BBL debut after IPL retirement: Report



marquee overseas stars. An Indian cricketer of Ashwin's stature, with multiple IPL titles and World Cup victories to his name, would significantly expand the league's global reach, particularly across South Asia, bringing the curtains down on a 16-year-long association with the tournament, within months of retiring from international cricket. He made the announcement via social media: "They say every ending will have a new start. My time as an IPL cricketer comes to a close today, but my time as an explorer of the game around various leagues begins today." Ashwin posted on X. "Would like to thank all the franchisees for all the wonderful memories and relationships over the years, and most importantly the IPL and the BCCI for what they have given me until now. Look forward to enjoying and making the most of what's ahead of me."

## Flashback to 2010: Harbhajan Singh, Shoaib Akhtar's fiery Asia Cup exchange



three required from two balls. On Mohammad Amir's fifth delivery, he struck cleanly over mid-wicket for six, sealing victory by three wickets with one ball to spare. The celebration was visceral - helmet off, arms raised, and a roar directed straight at Akhtar at third man. The Pakistani pacer, unimpressed, made a V sign with his fingers and turned away. The drama carried into the post-match exchanges. "I went looking for Harbhajan Singh in the hotel room to fight with him," Akhtar later admitted in a video interview on the Holo app.

losing to Sinner, had the crowd behind him. A packed Arthur Ashe Stadium tried to inspire the American to break his Djokovic hoodoo. The Serbian, however, remained composed. On several occasions while serving, he gestured to the crowd with a finger to his lips and blew ironic kisses after taking the second set. In the third set, Djokovic remonstrated with umpire Damien Dumusois as Fritz threatened to take the match to a fifth set. Despite the challenges, Djokovic found

## Novak Djokovic looking to 'mess up Sinner-Alcaraz final plans' in US Open



a first victory over Djokovic at the 11th attempt, but the key moments went the way of the Serbian, who triumphed 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 after three hours and 24 minutes. That victory sets up a high-stakes semi-final against Alcaraz on Friday night. Djokovic, seeking to break through the semi-final barrier for the first time at a Grand Slam this season, knows he faces a tough challenge. Alcaraz, 16 years Djokovic's junior, is chasing a sixth Grand Slam title but has struggled against the Serbian,

losing five of their eight meetings. Their most recent clashes include the Australian Open quarter-finals earlier this year and last year's Paris Olympics final—a match that

ended in tears for both players, for very different reasons. "We don't need to spend words about the two of them," Djokovic said. "We know that they are the two best players in

# Market participants welcome Sebi's move to re-introduce intraday caps

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Welcoming the new curbs re-introduced by market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on intraday limits for index options, market participants said these intraday limits give better flexibility to traders. This will ensure tighter real-time surveillance. It will also bring in more discipline, stability and robustness in the equity derivatives segment while benefiting both institutional and retail players, they said.

SEBI, in order to ensure that the derivatives market -- the largest and the most active in the world, which continues to grow under robust risk management and transparent regulations --, has on Tuesday reintroduced the intra-day limits for index options trading from next month, capping intraday positions for each entity at Rs 5,000 crore and the gross intraday position at Rs 10,000 crore, a level that mirrors the existing end-of-day gross limit.

The new rules will take effect from October 1, the Securities and Exchange Board said in a circular, seeking to curb the risks posed by oversized exposures while preserving liquidity and orderly functioning of the market by rolling out a comprehensive



framework to monitor intraday positions in equity index derivatives. The new curbs come against the backdrop of rising concern that some participants have been taking disproportionately large positions, particularly on options expiry days, creating volatility and threatening market integrity. This had led to the Sebi clamping down heavily on the Wall Street major Jane Street in July and asked it to disgorge the illicit profit to the tune of Rs 4,805 crore.

According to the circular, the net intraday position, calculated on a futures-equivalent basis, will be capped at Rs 5,000 crore per broker and the gross intraday position, again on a futures-equivalent basis, will be capped at Rs

10,000 crore, a level that mirrors the existing end-of-day gross limit, per trader. Market experts welcome the new intraday cap in index options saying it gives better flexibility to traders while ensuring tighter real-time surveillance.

To enforce the new framework, stock exchanges will be required to monitor positions using at least four random snapshots during the trading session. One of these checks must take place between 2:45 pm and 3:30 pm, a time window that often witnesses a flurry of trading as positions are squared off before the close.

"For the entities breaching the aforesaid limits, stock exchanges shall examine trading patterns of such entities which would inter-alia include

seeking rationale for such positions from the clients, examining trading in the constituents of the index by the entity and discussing such instances with Sebi in the

surveillance meeting," read the circular. At the time of taking these snapshots, exchanges will also need to account for the prevailing price of the underlying index.

## Gold crosses Rs 1.06 lakh mark: Will buyers hold back this festive season

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Gold prices continued their record-breaking run on Wednesday, supported by growing investor belief that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this month and by persistent global uncertainty that is driving safe-haven demand. Spot gold edged higher to about \$3,537 per ounce, after touching an intraday peak of \$3,547, while US gold futures for December delivery climbed to nearly \$3,603. The yellow metal's surge reflects a mix of economic and political factors. Traders now see a more than 90 percent chance that the Fed will cut its benchmark rate at the September 17 policy meeting. Lower interest rates reduce the appeal of yield-bearing assets and typically boost non-yielding assets such as gold. At the same time, political uncertainty in the United States and lingering concerns around

trade tariffs and inflation are encouraging investors to park money in safer assets. Investor inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds have also picked up pace. Holdings in the SPDR Gold Trust rose to 990.56 tonnes, the highest in three years, showing renewed confidence in bullion as a long-term hedge. Central banks in Asia and Europe have also stepped up purchases, further strengthening demand. In India, the world's second-largest consumer of gold, futures prices for October delivery on the MCX reached an all-time high of Rs 1,06,199 per 10 grams, rising by Rs 407 in a single session.

Analysts say the surge reflects both international momentum—where spot gold crossed \$3,537 per ounce—and steady domestic demand ahead of the festive season. With Diwali and the wedding season approaching.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Andhra Pradesh government is fully supporting centre's proposals of introducing two slab structure of goods and services taxes (GST) and there will be relaxation in the tax slab for food items, education, steel,

main agenda of the reforms is to ensure that the prices of the daily usage items come down so that the masses could spend more and things become more affordable to poor people. Such measures will help boost Indian economy to me, asserted Andhra FM.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is holding the 56th meeting of the GST Council, in New Delhi, today with Union Minister for State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhury and various representatives of the states including Chief Ministers of Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya and Odisha; Deputy Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana; Governor of Manipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced GST reforms during his independence day speech. Center has proposed rate rationalization and simplified tax structure under GST reforms. Currently, GST has a four slab structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.

Now, the center has proposed a two slab structure of 5% and 18%, with 40% slab on items like tobacco products, pan masala etc. With GST meeting underway, businesses and consumers are hoping some major reliefs that could ease compliances and enhance spending respectively.



cement, health, textiles, confirmed Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister P Keshav on Monday. As GST Council meeting began today, the AP minister told media that Chandrababu Naidu has fully supported the government of India's proposal of simplifying tax structure that would benefit the end consumers. "As alliance party we support PM's Diwali gift and GST reforms. Chandrababu Naidu has taken stand to support all reform. This will be a major step in reviving poor man's economy," Andhra FM told reporters at the beginning of the Council meeting today.

He further added that the

## India's services sector logs 15-year high, inflation fears resurface

**Business confidence for the year ahead improved to a three-month-high, helped by expectations of strong demand and higher marketing investments.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's services sector touched its strongest growth level in 15 years in August, driven by robust demand and higher new orders, according to a business survey, reported Reuters. However, the boom in activity also brought a sharp rise in prices, signalling fresh inflation concerns. The HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, jumped to 62.9 in August from 60.5 in July. Any reading above 50 indicates growth. The figure shows strong expansion, though it was slightly below an earlier flash estimate of 65.6. The surge



DECADEW

While demand stayed strong, it allowed service providers to pass on higher costs to customers. Output prices rose at their fastest rate since 2012, while input costs also increased at the quickest pace in nine months. This comes at a time when overall retail inflation had recently fallen to an eight-year low, suggesting price pressures could soon return.

**OPTIMISM IMPROVES,**

**BUT JOBS LAG**

Business confidence for the year ahead improved to a three-month-high, helped by expectations of strong demand and higher marketing investments. But employment growth remained modest, indicating companies are still cautious about hiring despite the buoyant demand.

**BROAD-BASED MOMENTUM ACROSS ECONOMY**

The strength in services added to strong manufacturing performance, lifting India's Composite PMI—which tracks both sectors—to 63.2 in August, its highest in 17 years.

The upbeat survey comes after official data showed the economy expanded 7.8% in the previous quarter. However, challenges remain, including rising inflation risks and external headwinds such as higher US tariffs on Indian exports.

**MUMBAI. (Agency)**

Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) have become one of the most popular ways for Indians to invest in mutual funds. The appeal is simple, you can start with as little as Rs 100 and gradually build wealth through the power of compounding and rupee-cost averaging. But while SIPs are seen as a disciplined way to invest, many investors often make mistakes that quietly reduce their overall returns.

Experts point out that SIPs are not a quick money scheme. They demand patience, planning, and regular review. Here are five common mistakes you must avoid if you want your SIPs to work in your favour.

**CLOSING SIP PREMATURELY**

The biggest advantage of SIP comes with time. Many investors panic when markets fall and stop their SIPs midway. This prevents them from

enjoying the long-term benefits of compounding and averaging. SIPs are not meant for short-term gains. Running an SIP for just two or three years and expecting large returns is unrealistic. The true power of SIPs is seen over



10–15 years or more. Setting clear goals and giving your money enough time is important.

**PICKING THE WRONG FUND**

Choosing a fund without proper research or simply

following advice from friends and relatives can backfire. Your choice should depend on your goals, time frame, and risk tolerance. For instance, equity funds suit long-term wealth creation, while debt or balanced funds are more appropriate for short-term needs. A common mistake is sticking with the same SIP amount for years. As your income grows, your investment should also grow. Increasing your SIP by even 10–15% every year, known as a step-up SIP, can significantly boost your final corpus over time. **IGNORING PORTFOLIO REVIEWS**

Starting an SIP doesn't mean you can forget about it completely. Market conditions, fund performance, and personal financial goals can change. Reviewing your portfolio at least once a year helps you stay on track. If a fund is consistently underperforming, switching after advice from a financial expert is wise.

## SBI To Provide Up To Rs 1.6 Crore Insurance Cover To Railway Employees



**These states have stressed that companies must not profit from lower GST rates and that benefits should be passed directly to consumers. They are also pressing for a clear compensation plan to ensure that states do not face massive revenue shortfalls.**

heavy states like Punjab, Bihar, and West Bengal rely heavily on GST revenue. Without compensation, they could face serious stress."Former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg echoed the warning.

"Opposition states have made it clear that substantial compensation is needed. Losses could run up to Rs 2 lakh crore if unaddressed, making this meeting potentially contentious."Pratik Jain, Partner at PwC India, said the GST reforms could roll out soon, potentially within days. "Lowering rates will boost consumption, but the Centre will need to manage state finances carefully," he noted.

As deliberations continue, the GST Council faces the challenge of balancing immediate relief for consumers with long-term fiscal stability for states, making the outcome of this meeting closely watched across the country.

New Delhi. (Agency) Indian Railways & State Bank of India have recently signed MoU for enhanced insurance benefits to Railway Employees. Under this MoU, insurance coverage for Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with SBI has been significantly enhanced. In case of accidental death, the insurance benefit has been increased to Rs 1 crore, compared to the current coverage of Rs 1.20 lakh, Rs 60,000 and Rs 30,000 for Group A, B, and C employees respectively covered under CGEGIS. Additionally, all Railway employees holding only a salary account with SBI

will now be eligible for natural death insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh—without the need for paying any premium or undergoing any medical examination. With nearly 7 lakh Railway employees

maintaining salary accounts with SBI, this agreement marks a major step towards employee welfare, reflecting a caring and constructive partnership between Indian Railways and SBI. Some of the key

complimentary insurance covers under this MoU include: Air Accident Insurance (Death) Cover of Rs 1.60 crore plus an additional up to Rs 1.00 crore on RuPay Debit Card; Personal Accident (Permanent Total Disablement) Cover of ₹1.00 crore; and Personal Accident (Permanent Partial Disability) Cover of up to Rs 80 lakh.

(Also Read: 45% Of Indian Midle-Class Salaries Gone In EMI) This MoU between two leading entities is employee-centric, compassionate, and designed to bring exclusive benefits to the workforce—especially frontline railway personnel in Group C and others.

## August PMI: Services sector growth at 15-year high

MUMBAI. (Agency)

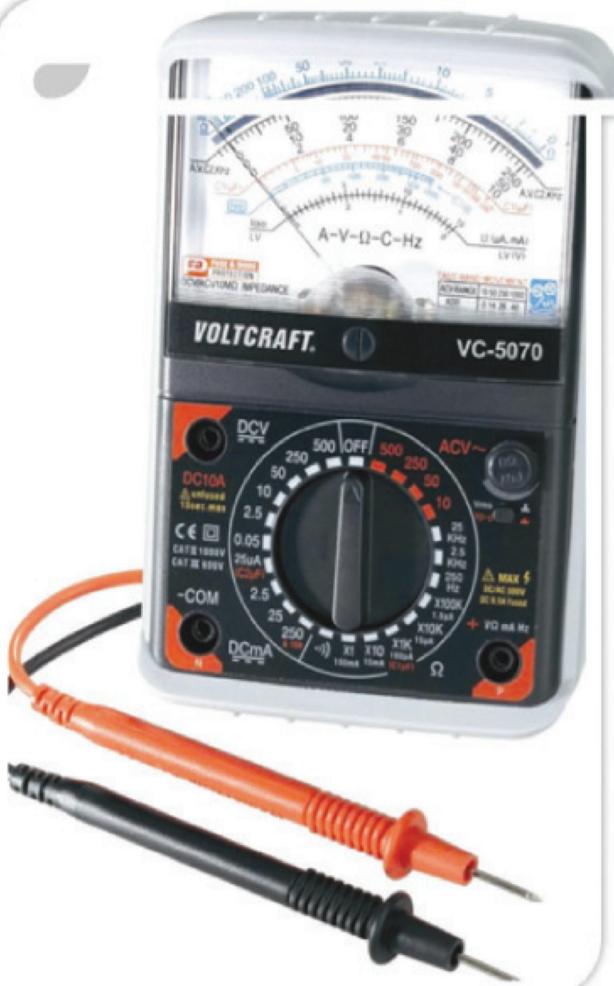
The dominant services sector continued its strong pace hitting a 15-year high in August on new orders and rising output led by international demand with the sectoral purchasing managers index (PMI) climbing to 62.9 in the reporting month from 60.5 in July. This is the strongest pace of growth since 2010. British lender HSBC said on Wednesday, its monthly services PMI, compiled by

compared to only 11% who saw a decline, the report said. "The broad-based expansion in international sales bolstered overall demand, which prompted the domestic services firms to hire additional workers. Reflecting higher labour costs and robust demand conditions, both input and output prices rose substantially in the reporting month," said Pranjal Bhandari, the chief economist at HSBC India. Last week the

she had said the flash manufacturing PMI surged to 65.2 in August on record services, which was the highest on record while the composite PMI rose to a 15-mth high at 61.1 on manufacturing jump. Export orders rose at the third-fastest rate since this this segment was added to the survey in 2014, with higher demand coming from clients in the US, Europe, and the West Asia.

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Go beyond gaming consoles and music players and check out a few practical tools that can help you with home repairs lest an emergency arises...

#### 1. Wire Cutters:

Because that tooth you lost as you tried to peel off a particularly tough wire isn't coming back, it's safe to use tools meant for the purpose. A pair of wire cutters always proves handy for any electrical emergencies you may have. Plus it is safe, as the plastic grip at the end prevents you from getting electrocuted.

#### 2. Claw Hammer:

After you have drilled a hole in the wall, it is a light claw hammer that is used to drive the nail in. Its claw also helps you pull out old

nails, thereby protecting the surface where you're plucking the nail out from. And no, using a pestle is not a good idea as it could damage your fingers as well as your walls. Plus the Mrs won't be too happy either.

3. Leatherman: A multi-purpose knife that makes other knives look like needles, this is a gadget that every man should own. From screwdrivers, to serrated blades, wire cutters, crimpers, pliers, scissors and even can-openers, the array of tools it offers is astonishing and practical. Besides that, you can always improvise with the many adjustments it provides.

With Kate Middleton announcing her second pregnancy just a year after Prince George turned one, here's looking at 'two under two' phenomenon that is finding takers closer home too

Barely six weeks after Prince George turned one came the official announcement that the Duchess of Cambridge is pregnant again. With another heir on the way, the royal couple will be parents to two children under the age of two. Closer home, many urban couples are opting to closely space out the pregnancies too, following the strategy of 'two under two', also known as baby bunching.

Says consultant gynaecologist and IVF specialist Dr Bandita Sinha, "With most women in the metros starting their families well into thirties, they do not have the luxury of choosing wider space due to diminishing fertility. Also, those who are career-oriented may not want to take long breaks in their profession, so planning their next pregnancy quickly helps them to take care of two children together and get back to work early."

#### **Two years wait is a must**

While the earlier generations had wider age gaps between siblings, today, most siblings are usually one-and-a-half or three years apart. World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a waiting period of at least two years after the baby's birth, says Sinha, adding, "In India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recommends spacing births by three years. However, the decision of spacing may vary depending upon the age and the health of the mother, career choices, financial conditions and child care support in the family." Adds consulting psychiatrist Dr Pavan Sonar, "Psychologically, it is advisable to have a gap of around four years as the



mother gets enough time to recover physically from the first pregnancy and support the next. It also gives the family adequate space to adjust to the entry of the new one, and help the first baby get adequate love and care."

#### **Lesser age gap equals more sibling bonding**

While growing up, Gauri Pednekar, who has a brother eight years older to her, often wished she had a sibling closer to her age. When she planned her pregnancies, she gave birth to daughters who are two years apart. She says, "It's been five years since my second child was born and today, both of them are each other's playmates. They play with the same kind of toys, go to school together and are a great support system for each other."

Dr Sonar says, "Reduced age gap facilitates more friendly relations between siblings. Also, parents can manage the attention, time and resources for each child well because they are closely spaced and hence, have the same kind of needs."

#### **It's more challenging**

# The 6 tools every man should own



#### 4. Electric Drill:

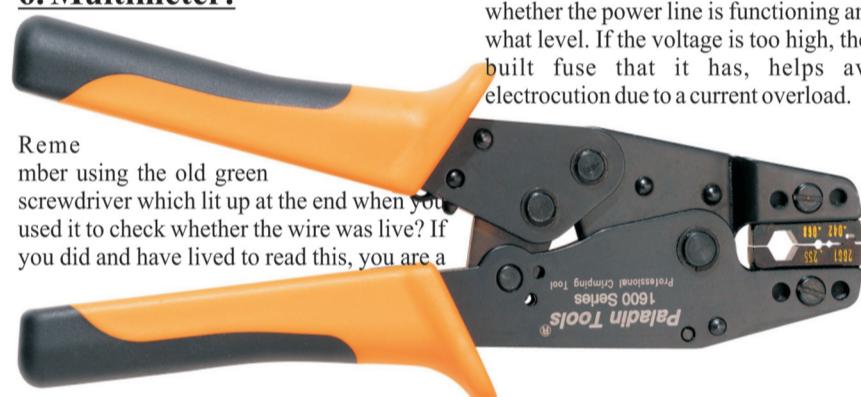
There's always space for home improvement. Maybe it's that new family photo you want to hang on the wall. Or a new name-plate for the main door. The old fashioned way was to go banging away with the hammer. However, using an electric drill is a smart, clean way of going about things. It gets the work done fast, and there is no noise. So your neighbours don't have to worry about the wall coming down on their heads!

#### 5. Crimpers:

A live internet connection is a lifeline. So, when the cables go awry and you face downtime, you don't need to wait for your internet guy to come in and sort your problem. Because if you notice,

most times, the guy will just chip off your ethernet cable, put in new RJ45 connector and fix it with a crimper. To avoid all that hassle, all you need is a crimper and a connector and you will be back online in no time, unless the issue is serious.

#### 6. Multimeter:



Remember using the old green screwdriver which lit up at the end when you used it to check whether the wire was live? If you did and have lived to read this, you are a

lucky man as there was no fuse in those little things to prevent electrocution. Get a digital multimeter instead. It helps measure voltage, current, and resistance and to check whether the power line is functioning and at what level. If the voltage is too high, the in-built fuse that it has, helps avoid electrocution due to a current overload.

## How to cope with a career low and stay positive

**Smita Aliva, a 36-year-old advertising professional, says, "I have been working in this company for the past three years and I have seen a few colleagues being fired for no reason. I now fear I will face the same treatment and it has affected my work."** She's not alone, given the scenario.

Not only will you feel relieved, you will also be able to understand the perspective of your boss.

#### **Don't worry too much:**

Don't get too affected by your colleagues losing his/her job or people finding it difficult to cope at work. It's all a part and parcel of the professional environment. Working hard will surely reap benefits.

#### **Look out for another job:**

Says clinical psychologist Dr Seema Hingorany, "Staying in a negative work atmosphere pulls you into further negativity. So, if you are not happy with your present job, it is better to look out for a job which suits you."

#### **Seek professional help**

Says Advaita Kalra, a 27-year-old software engineer, "I was jobless for almost eight months and had started losing hope. I would keep applying to various companies, but none had any vacancy. That is when a friend suggested that I approach an outsourced HR agency. Within two weeks, they approached me with a job opening and I was happy to take it up."

