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sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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PM Modi to visit flood-hit Punjab's Gurdaspur on September 9, to meet families

Sources said the Prime Minister is likely to stress the urgent need to strengthen embankments along the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, and Ghaggar rivers, which have weakened over the years due to illegal mining and lack of maintenance, during his visit.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on September 9 to meet people and farmers affected by one of the worst floods the state has faced in recent years and to oversee relief operations and rehabilitation efforts. During the visit, he is expected to review the damage

caused by rising waters that submerged villages and destroyed crops across multiple districts. The BJP's Punjab handle announced the visit on X, stating, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Gurdaspur, Punjab on 9th September. He will meet directly with the flood-affected brothers-sisters and farmers to share their sorrow and take every possible step to help the victims."

Government sources said that the Centre is committed to ensuring that Punjab will not be left alone in this crisis. The Prime Minister's visit will focus on both immediate and long-term recovery measures, including silt removal from fields, disease prevention, and the safe disposal of dead animals once floodwaters recede.

Relief and rehabilitation will be carried out through coordinated efforts between the Centre and the state government, ensuring ground-level

implementation. Sources added the Prime Minister is likely to stress the urgent need to strengthen embankments along the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, and Ghaggar rivers, which have weakened over the years due to illegal mining and



lack of maintenance, during his visit. These efforts are expected to form part of a broader flood-control plan, building on measures implemented during the Vajpayee-Badal era, while incorporating PM Modi's new action initiatives for disaster preparedness and mitigation. Government plans for

Punjab include short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures aimed at helping farmers bounce back from the devastation, restoring livelihoods and ensuring the state's resilience against future floods, sources said.

Punjab has been ravaged by relentless monsoon rains, with over 1,900 villages across 23 districts submerged. At least 43 people have died, while crops on nearly 1.71 lakh hectares have been damaged, according to the state government.

Large areas of farmland remain underwater, rivers continue to flow above danger levels, and several highways are blocked due to landslides and flooding.

The visit comes amid calls from state governments for central assistance to tackle the worsening flood crisis. Earlier, government sources said the PM will also visit several other flood-ravaged states in northern India to assess the ground situation and review ongoing relief measures.

Congress questions GST reforms, asks if anti-profiteering authority will be revived

Agency New Delhi.

Amid claims from the BJP-led NDA government that it has rationalised the GST slabs for the greater economic welfare of ordinary people, the Congress on Saturday questioned whether the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA), established to monitor GST rate cuts passed on to consumers, would be given a fresh lease of life.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary for communications, Jairam Ramesh said that the NAA was created under Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, to monitor whether GST rate reductions lead to a decrease in consumer prices. "On September 30th, 2024, the Modi Government issued a notification virtually abolishing the NAA with effect from April 1, 2025," he said, adding that the Modi government had issued a notification on 30 September 2024, which effectively abolished the NAA from April 2025. "Will the NAA now have a fresh lease of life? How will it be ensured that the rate cuts do not benefit only a favoured few?" Ramesh asked in his post. His query follows the GST Council's recent rationalisation of GST rates removing the 12% and 28% tax slabs, effective from September 22 this year. A few days ago, Ramesh had also posted that the INC has long been advocating for GST 2.0, which would reduce the number of rates and cut taxes on many mass-consumption items.

He said that the Union Finance Minister made the announcement after the GST Council meeting. "However, even before the GST Council meeting, the Prime Minister had already proclaimed the substance of its decision in his Independence Day speech of 15 August. Is the GST Council to be reduced to a formality?" He also added that the very design of GST 1.0 was flawed, a point the INC had raised back in July 2017 when the PM had made one of his typical U-turns by introducing GST.

Not in race to claim credit: Eknath Shinde on ads featuring only Devendra Fadnavis

Eknath Shinde made the comments in response to a question over full-page advertisements published in prominent newspapers on Saturday, featuring only Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Agency New Delhi.
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has asserted there is no race among the ruling Mahayuti allies to claim credit for work, and that he is working with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as a team. Shinde made the comments in response to a question over full-page advertisements published in prominent newspapers on Saturday, featuring only Chief Minister Fadnavis.

One advertisement showed Fadnavis offering floral tributes to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, while another showed him paying obeisance to Lord Ganesha on the occasion of Anant Chaturdashi, the last day of the 10-day Ganpati

festival. Both the ads carried the word "Devabhau" in Marathi at the bottom. However, it could not be known who sponsored the advertisements.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a public function in Thane on Saturday, Shinde was asked whether the advertisements were an attempt by Fadnavis to project himself as the architect of the Maratha reservation.

In response, he said, "We are not in a race to take credit... Whether it is the Maratha community or the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, the work of delivering justice to them has been done by the Mahayuti

government. The validation of this work was already received in the last assembly elections."

"Now Devendraji and I have



started our second innings as a team. Going forward, our agenda remains the same - development of the state and helping the poor and needy," Shinde added.

The issue of Maratha reservation rocked the state once again recently with activist Manoj Jarange's five-day hunger strike in Mumbai to press for the demand.

Jarange launched the protest on August 29 and called it off on September 2 after the state government accepted most of his demands. After the stalemate ended, CM Fadnavis said the government found a solution in the interest of the Maratha community. The ruling Mahayuti comprises the BJP, the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, Sep. 7: Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta said that the floods in Punjab have left thousands of families homeless and displaced. In these difficult times, the Delhi Government is committed to sharing their pain and extending every possible assistance. She emphasised that the relief material is not just supplies, but represents the affection and support of the people of Delhi being sent to their brothers and sisters in Punjab. She informed that the trucks carry food grains, drinking water, clothes, tarpaulins, medicines, sanitary kits, milk powder for children, and other essential daily-use items. The Delhi Government organised the collection and packing of relief materials on a war footing so that assistance could reach the affected areas at the earliest. The Chief Minister further stated that, in addition to the relief material, the Delhi

Government has contributed Rs 5 crore to the Punjab Chief Minister's Relief Fund. She

continue to stand hand in hand with its brothers and sisters in Punjab. She remarked



said that Delhi is ready to extend all possible support in accordance with the requirements of the Punjab Government. The Chief Minister personally spoke with her counterpart in Punjab and assured him that until the situation stabilises, Delhi will

that Delhi and Punjab are not merely neighbouring states but are also deeply bound by emotional and cultural ties. The nation as a whole lives by the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam- the world is one family.

Contd.....page-3

"Fellow Hyderabad": Asaduddin Owaisi Says AIMIM Will Back INDIA Bloc's Sudershan Reddy In Veep Poll

Sudershan Reddy, a retired Supreme Court judge, is pitted against incumbent Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan for the post of Vice President.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday said that his party will support INDIA bloc's nominee B Sudershan Reddy in the September 9 Vice Presidential election. Mr Owaisi said that he received a request from the office of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to extend support to the retired Supreme Court judge, pitted against incumbent Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan (NDA nominee) for the post of Vice President. Taking to X, the Hyderabad MP wrote: "@TelanganaCMO spoke to me today and requested that we support Justice Sudershan Reddy as Vice President. @aimim_national will extend its support to Justice Reddy, a fellow Hyderabad and a respected jurist. I also spoke to Justice Reddy and expressed our best wishes to him."

Former Supreme Court judge B. Sudershan Reddy was on August 19 declared as the united Opposition parties' candidate for the Vice-Presidential election -- an exercise described by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge as an "ideological battle". Introducing Reddy as a "pro-poor and champion of economic and social cause", Kharge had said that he represents the values which reflect our freedom struggle and on which our Constitution and democracy are based.

"Today, these values are under assault, and this is the reason that the Opposition decided to contest this ideological battle unitedly," he said. Reddy, who has practised law in Andhra Pradesh and served as the Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, was appointed as a Supreme Court judge in January 2007. He retired in July 2011. Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan's name was Vice President candidate was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President J.P. Nadda on August 12.



ED summons BJP worker who accused Rahul Gandhi of holding UK citizenship

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Karnataka BJP worker S Vignesh Shishir, who recently filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court alleging that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is a British citizen, official sources said on Saturday. Shishir has been asked to appear before the ED on September 9 with all relevant documents and evidence, under provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The agency is currently conducting a probe into the allegations, sources added. FEMA allows the ED to investigate suspected violations of foreign exchange laws by individuals or entities. When asked for

comment on the summons, the Congress party declined to respond. In his Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the Allahabad High Court, Shishir claimed he possessed documents and emails from the British government suggesting that Rahul Gandhi holds British citizenship. He argued this would make Gandhi, currently the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, ineligible to contest elections in India.

On August 30, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ordered the Union government to provide 24/7 security to Shishir. The order came in



response to a writ petition filed by him, citing security concerns.

The bench, comprising Justices Sangeeta Chandra and B. R. Singh, noted in its interim order that Shishir had been pursuing cases against a prominent

political figure and had reported receiving threats. The court also observed that he had been summoned by police in Raebareilly district as part of an ongoing investigation. Shishir informed the court that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been looking into his complaint since June 2024.

He claimed to have appeared before the agency multiple times in Delhi, submitting evidence related to his allegations. During an earlier hearing, the central government told the court it had officially contacted the UK government for clarification regarding Gandhi's citizenship status.

Will Fight Those Against Dasara Invite To Banu Mushtaq Legally: Siddaramaiah

Dasara celebration will begin in Mysuru from September 22 and culminate on 'Vijayadashami' which falls on October 2 this year.

Karnataka. (Agency)
Those opposing International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq inaugurating this year's 'Mysuru Dasara' will be fought both politically and legally, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said.

Responding to a question on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Mysuru MP Prathap Simha moving the Karnataka High Court for a stay on the state government's invitation to Mushtaq to inaugurate Dasara, Mr Siddaramaiah told reporters on Saturday: "Very happy, let him go (to the court), it will be decided in the court. Why had no one gone to court when (poet) Nissar Ahmed inaugurated Dasara? He (Simha) was an MP then." He pointed out that Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan had held Dasara



festivals during their rule in Mysuru and Mirza Ismail,

"Hyder Ali and Tipu also questioned Dasara - why weren't questions raised about that? Or when Mirza Ismail was taken on a parade on an elephant during Dasara? This is just politically-motivated. They (BJP) are opposing for the sake of politics, we will

also fight it out politically, also legally in the court," he said. Dasara celebration will begin in Mysuru from September 22 and culminate on 'Vijayadashami', which falls on October 2 this year.

On Wednesday, the Mysuru district administration had formally invited Mr Mushtaq, despite objections from some sections, including the opposition BJP.

Mr Simha has accused the Congress government of making a "unilateral decision" without consulting key stakeholders, including the erstwhile Mysuru royal family. He has requested the High Court to issue directions to withdraw the invitation extended to Mushtaq, citing public outrage and the potential to disrupt communal harmony.

News box

Books gone, lessons continue: When relief camp turns classroom for kids

Noida. (Agency)

Under the shade of trees beside a relief camp at Nagli Wajidpur in Sector 135, children sat on the ground, eyes fixed on blackboards. Their schoolbags and textbooks had been swept away by the Yamuna, which engulfed their homes and fields earlier this week.

"But lessons must carry on," Payal, a Class 9 student at the camp, said as she scribbled some notes on a borrowed paper. Nearly 3,700 villagers from 18 flood-hit villages of Gautam Budh Nagar remain displaced as the river, though receding, continues to submerge vast stretches of farmland. At the Okhla barrage, the water level dipped to 200 metres on Saturday, with discharge dropping to 1.92 lakh cusecs. But in low-lying areas, relief camps are still home to thousands who wait for the floodwaters to withdraw completely. To keep children engaged, social organisations and administration have begun running makeshift schools in and around the camps.

At Sector 135's relief centre set up by the district administration, around 60 children were taught the basics of counting and colours by the naib tehsildar and lekhpal on Friday. "The idea is to give them a routine and a sense that life is still moving forward," Ashutosh Gupta, SDM Sadar, where 12 villages are affected, said. For the children, the loss is tangible.

"The children are still shaken by the flooding and displacement. The younger ones get restless because they're away from their comfort zones, so we try to keep the atmosphere light and playful to lift their spirits," Shristi from Chetna NGO, which is teaching children at a camp in Sector 130's Asgarpur, told.

At the camps, families receive meals, water, and bedding. The administration has stationed six medical teams with supplies, including anti-snake venom, and launched fogging drives to control mosquito breeding. Animal relief is also underway, with more than 1,400 cattle sheltered on Pushta Road in Sector 135. For displaced families, though, uncertainty lingers. Santram, a gardener who worked at a nursery on the floodplains, said his family suffered losses of nearly Rs 2 lakh, but he is determined that his children's education does not suffer.

Why busy parents are going to sleep coaches for their infants

Noida. (Agency)

Whoever coined the term – 'sleep like a baby' – must not have had one. Ask any new parent. Babies don't sleep soundly for long.

An average adult's sleep cycle is 90-120 minutes. For babies, this is around 40 minutes. Infants also don't have the ability to connect cycles as adults do – so a night's sleep for an adult is 4-6 cycles – and stay asleep for a longer duration. It's why they wake up frequently, leaving parents exhausted.

But new-age parents, especially in cities where both are working, have had enough of sleepless nights. They are constantly looking for solutions, turning to books, podcasts, videos, and more recently, paediatric 'sleep consultants'. It's a thriving market in Delhi-NCR – which is an aggregate of five cities and supports a huge middle-class working population – driven both by young parents' need to rest and greater awareness about the connection between quality of sleep and a child's growth and immunity.

"Just like nutrition exploded a few years ago and everyone was talking about 'what to eat', the focus is now on sleep," said Himani Dalmia. A paediatric sleep consultant is essentially a certified sleep coach who may or may not be a doctor. Dalmia, who studied humanities in the UK, is one such. Heena Rastogi, a researcher, said she hasn't slept properly for a year. She also lost weight and developed hormonal imbalances, all because her one-year-old daughter is a "light sleeper".

Astrologer held from Noida condo apartment for Mumbai terror hoax

Noida. (Agency)

Ashwini Kumar, a Noida resident who was arrested by Mumbai Police for making a phone call threatening serial explosions in the Maharashtra capital, wanted to take revenge on a former friend in Bihar and came up with this devious plan.

Kumar, originally from Patna, moved to the city five years ago and set up an astrology business. In 2023, his friend Firoz Ahmed filed a cheating case against Kumar in Bihar's Phulwari Sharif police station, following which he spent four months behind bars there.

Nursing a deep grudge and looking for an opportunity to hit back, Kumar sent a threat message on Thursday to Mumbai's traffic control room with Firoz's name on it, warning that 34 live bombs were planted across the city and 14 terrorists from Pakistan had infiltrated. Kumar appended a fictitious name, 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi', to convey the sense of a terrorist organisation being involved. The message, sent through WhatsApp from a number that Kumar had recently purchased and put Firoz's display picture on, claimed the attacks could impact one crore residents.

Amid Ganesh Chaturthi festivities, Mumbai Police had declared high alert, deploying the crime branch, anti-terrorism squad and local teams in sensitive areas. After investigators traced the origin of the message to Noida, Mumbai police coordinated with Noida police commissioner Laxmi Singh.

On Friday night, a special team from Mumbai comprising SWAT units accompanied by Noida police raided Kumar's residence at Civitech Stadia in Sector 79. Police recovered seven mobile phones, three SIM cards, an external SIM slot device, six memory cards, and four SIM holders, which Kumar had used to mask his identity. Preliminary interrogation revealed that Kumar had no links to any terrorist group. "He wanted his friend to be jailed," said a senior officer, adding the details of the fraud case would be sought from Bihar Police.

Bulk waste generators in Gurgaon face penalty deadline

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Gurgaon: MCG on Friday directed all bulk waste generators (BWGs) to immediately clear their pending dues and submit the payment receipts to its office by Sept 8.

MCG has warned that failure to pay within the stipulated deadline will invite strict legal action. This will include the imposition of additional penalties, punitive measures and the registration of FIRs against the BWGs.

Chief officer of MCG's BWG cell Colonel Sanjay Pandey said, "The challan payments can be made at MCG's citizen facilitation centres located in Sector 34, Sector 42 and the old office near Civil Hospital. To facilitate compliance, these centres will also remain open on Saturdays for challan payments."

The civic body has also sent emails to all BWGs, directing them to acknowledge receipt of this notice and ensure payment within the prescribed time.

MCG has made it clear strict monitoring

will continue to ensure adherence to SWM Rules, 2016 and civic regulations.

This comes a day after MCG withheld the salaries of four clerk-cum-bulk waste generator (BWG) inspectors and their teams for failing to recover penalties from violators of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

On Thursday, in an official notice issued by the additional commissioner Ravinder Yadav, MCG observed that despite repeated directions and meetings, the recovery of penalties from offenders continues to remain pending.

The notice stressed that the release of salaries will now be conditional upon satisfactory recovery of penalties. MCG formed the BWG monitoring cell to



inspect bulk waste generators and ensure compliance with SWM Rules in Oct last year. The cell is headed by a chief officer. One inspector is appointed for each of the four zones in the BWG cell.

In July last year, MCG revised the criteria for identifying BWGs per the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs guidelines. According to the revised guidelines, waste generators that produce 100kg or more waste daily are classified as BWGs against the previous limits of 50kg or more. MCG also recently announced stringent measures against illegal dumping of waste.

It has invoked Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to warn violators that they could be fined up to Rs 1

lakh and may land in jail for up to five years. The crackdown, officials said, is to tackle violations mostly by BWGs, contractors and vehicle operators who dispose of waste at non-designated sites.

Amid rain and flooding, Noida records 100 more cases of dengue in a wk

Noida. (Agency)

The city recorded over 100 new dengue cases in the past week, taking this season's total to 176, while malaria cases touched 85. Health officials say the surge is because of heavy rainfall and waterlogging, warning that the numbers could rise further.

Earlier, reported that dengue cases in the district nearly doubled in the second week of Aug, prompting the health department to issue 48 notices, including ones to 13 housing societies for allowing stagnant water to turn into mosquito-breeding grounds.

"Several hotspots have been identified and inspections are underway to prevent mosquito breeding there," said Dr Stuti Kirti Verma, district malaria officer. She said survey teams visited Sector 9 slums and houses, where larvae were found, while Barola, Harola, Amrapali Dreams, Galaxy Vega, and Royal Nest remain among the most affected localities in Noida. Officials said 265 rapid response teams have been deployed under the Dastak campaign for surveillance, treatment, and awareness drives.

Meanwhile, 59 dengue and 56 malaria cases have surfaced in Ghaziabad so far, with seven patients currently hospitalised. "All district hospitals have been instructed to reserve 10 isolation beds with mosquito nets for dengue patients. Primary health centres will have at least five such beds," said Dr R. K. Gupta, ACMO, Ghaziabad.

Private hospitals in Noida have witnessed a spike too. "We are seeing 20-25 dengue cases daily in the OPD. Many patients are being admitted with platelet counts below 15,000," said Dr Shovana Veshnavi, principal consultant (internal medicine) at Max hospital.

With malaria and dengue cases expected to rise this year due to heavy rain, people have been advised to take preventive measures. Symptoms of malaria include fever (recurring every 48-72 hours) with chills, malaise, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice (in severe cases).

Radhika charge sheet: 'Shot dead by father over taunts'

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Gurgaon: Two months after 25-year-old junior international tennis player Radhika Yadav was murdered by her father Deepak on July 10, Sector 56 police filed the chargesheet in a local court on Thursday.

According to sources, police claimed that Deepak, despite investing heavily in grooming his daughter as a tennis player, killed her after an argument when he asked her to quit coaching. They added that he was deeply affected and poisoned by "taunts" from his relatives and native villagers about being financially dependent on his daughter.

The incident occurred at the family's Sector 57 home around 10.30 am. Radhika was in the kitchen when Deepak suddenly took out his gun, approached her, and shot her from behind four

times. Initially, other family members living in the three-storey house thought a cooker had exploded. Radhika's mother was downstairs at the time. The sound of



gunshots alerted Radhika's younger brother Kuldeep, who lives on the ground floor, prompting him to rush upstairs. Kuldeep found a bleeding Radhika

slumped on the ground. Neighbours rushed to help transport her to a private hospital, where she was declared dead.

Deepak, 49, was arrested and charged with murder after Kuldeep filed a police complaint. Police also recovered the murder weapon, a licensed revolver belonging to Deepak. Sources said Deepak had worked diligently to build Radhika's career, accompanying her to practice sessions and tournaments.

However, Radhika suffered an injury that prevented her from continuing to play competitive tennis. "Following the injury, she began coaching both male and female players," an investigator said. Investigators said the accused was unhappy with Radhika giving tennis coaching. He repeatedly asked her to give it up, which led to frequent arguments between the two.

Court junks petition against Gurgaon mayor's caste certificate

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Gurgaon: A district court has dismissed a petition challenging the legitimacy of mayor Raj Rani Malhotra's caste certificate.

The legal tussle began in April this year when Yashpal Prajapati, representing the Maharaja Daksh Prajapati Society, filed a petition alleging that Malhotra had fraudulently obtained a Backward Class-A category certificate by falsely claiming to belong to the 'sunar' caste. The petitioner argued that Malhotra, who runs a jewellery business, had secured the certificate on Feb 16 through the additional deputy commissioner, and used it to contest and win the mayoral election. Prajapati demanded the immediate nullification of the mayoral election and sought an order barring Malhotra from exercising her official powers.

Prajapati contended that caste was determined by birth – not by profession – and alleged that Malhotra, as the daughter of Vishan Dass Butta of the Buta

Punjabi Jat community, did not qualify for the 'sunar' caste status.

He further alleged that the certificate was issued in collusion with govt officials and bypassed the legal process, potentially



depriving genuine BC A category members of their rights. The petition also named Seema Pahuja of Congress, who, like Malhotra, had filed her nomination for the mayoral post under the BC-A category. Prajapati asserted that both candidates were from the general category and not

from the 'sunar' or any BC-A caste as notified by Haryana govt. He called for the immediate cancellation of their certificates and sought the registration of a case against all those involved.

In court, Malhotra defended her position by arguing that her certificate was issued by a competent authority after following the due process of law. She emphasised that her victory in the mayoral election was "decisive and legitimate".

After a careful review of the evidence and the arguments, the court found no irregularities in the issuance of Malhotra's caste certificate.

Manish Kumar, civil judge (senior division), noted that due process had been observed and that there was no material on record to support the allegations of fraud or procedural lapses. The court reiterated that caste was determined by birth, not by profession, and found no grounds to invalidate the certificate or the election result.

Just a month old, this bank gives newborns what they need the most: Mother's milk

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Born on August 15, she couldn't be nursed by her mother. Manisha (32) was in intensive care, battling critical injuries sustained in a road accident that day on Rohtak-Jhajjar road. She was 32 weeks pregnant, eight short of full term. Doctors succeeded in saving the baby. Manisha succumbed five days later.

For an entire fortnight, the baby girl – fragile with a birth weight of 1.7kg – was sustained by other lactating mothers till she was discharged from the neonatal ward of PGIMS Rohtak on September 1. These women weren't directly nursing her. Mother's milk for the baby was sourced from the milk bank set up at the hospital last month.

Set up with Rs 40 lakh funds from National Health Mission, Haryana's first human milk bank has already helped stabilise nearly 200 babies who did not have access to mother's milk for different reasons. The temperature-controlled bank, with a -20°C freezer, stores bottles of pasteurised breast milk collected from lactating mothers. On August 5, Neelam (26)

delivered a premature baby boy, who was brought to the neonatal ward so that he could be fed because the mother wasn't producing milk. It's the same for his neighbour, a tiny 630gm baby boy born to 19-year-old Lali.

Women in the hospital's maternity ward who produce excess milk are the donors. Gaura (25), a housewife from Bahadurgarh, was in pain after giving birth to a daughter. A nurse at the ward suggested she donate the excess milk she was producing. "I agreed immediately as it was such a noble cause and it also helped ease the pain," she said. "I donated milk for last five days." Right now, supply meets demand – but only just. The bank has collected around 25 litres of milk in a month and used around 21 litres. "We are managing well," said a doctor, "but as awareness grows and more premature babies are admitted, demand will increase". PGIMS doctors help deliver 40 to 50 babies a day. To keep up, the hospital's lactation support staff now visit delivery wards daily. Their job is to check if any mother is producing excess milk

and, if so, counsel her about donating.

Nurse Geeta, who is part of the lactation support team, explains how personal these conversations often are. "We go to every new mother in the ward and talk to them. If she is producing more milk than her baby needs, we explain how donating even a small amount can save another baby's life—maybe a preterm baby fighting for survival or an orphan who has no other source. Sometimes mothers hesitate at first because they don't know what milk banking is. We tell them about safety, pasteurisation, testing—everything. By the time we finish, most of them are ready to help," she says.

Their work doesn't end there, however. "We also counsel mothers who cannot produce enough milk. It's not easy for a mother to accept that her baby will be fed milk from another woman. So, we sit with them, explain why donor milk is safest, and how it gives their baby the best chance to grow stronger. We talk to both donors and recipients, and that trust is what

keeps this bank running every single day," Geeta adds.

According to Dr Jagjit Dalal, professor and head of Neonatology at PGIMS, the bank collects 800 ml of donor milk per day. "The steps are rigid and carefully monitored. Donor mothers are screened and give consent. Milk is expressed under strict hygienic conditions, labelled, tested, pasteurised at 62.5°C for 30 minutes, and tested again.

It's then frozen at -20°C and can be stored for up to three months. Before it's given to a newborn in the NICU, it's thawed and dispensed strictly on a doctor's prescription. Blood tests for HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis are mandatory. We also conduct microbiological cultures before and after pasteurisation, and maintain a strict cold chain to prevent contamination. In some cases, we pool milk from multiple mothers, then pasteurise and test it again to ensure quality. Mothers who want to store milk for their own babies can also do that, but that milk isn't pasteurised – it's frozen and should be used within 24 hours,"

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Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikh-times.in
Email : sikh-timesindia@gmail.com

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NEWS BOX

US Man Charged After Bullet Meant For Bird Kills Daughter Days Before Her Birthday

World. (Agency)

In a tragic incident, a US father has been charged by the authorities after he fired a bullet to shoot a bird, but ended up killing his daughter. The man, identified as David Schultheis of Prairie Du Rocher in Illinois, was attempting to gun down a buzzard that had flown into a brick building on July 21 when the bullet passed through the bird, pierced a window and struck his daughter, Emma Schultheis. Emergency responders were called to the scene and immediately started administering CPR and other life-saving treatments. Ms Schultheis was rushed to a St Louis-area hospital but was later pronounced dead, according to a report in the New York Post. She was due to turn 15 in six days. The sheriff's department handed the case to Monroe County State's Attorney's Office last month and filed formal charges.

"There are no words that can adequately express the heartbreak and gravity of this tragic event," the sheriff's department said. "The death of a child under any circumstances is profoundly devastating."

"While this incident may have been preventable, our obligation is not to dwell in speculation but to uncover and present the facts with integrity," they added. On September 2, Monroe County State's Attorney Ryan Webb charged Schultheis with reckless discharge of a firearm, while a woman named Karen Schwarze was charged with concealment of a homicidal death and obstruction of justice. Authorities did not specify Schwarze's connection to the victim. Notably, Schwarze hid the .40-calibre pistol used in the shooting and pressured others not to speak about the incident to the law enforcement agencies.

US Commandos Killed North Korean Civilians In Botched 2019 Mission: Report

World.(Agency)

Elite US Navy SEALs launched an audacious operation in 2019 to plant a listening device in North Korea to spy on the country's reclusive leader Kim Jong Un, the New York Times reported Friday, but the mission quickly unraveled and culminated in the deaths of multiple civilians. The operation came in the first administration of President Donald Trump during sensitive nuclear talks with Kim, whom the US leader met three times. The mission was considered so risky that it required direct presidential approval, the Times said, but Trump insisted Friday he had no knowledge of the operation. "I don't know anything about it. I'm hearing it now for the first time," the president told journalists. Despite months of practice, the mission still went horribly wrong, the Times reported.

The SEALs -- from the same unit that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011 -- approached North Korea in mini-submarines that exposed them to frigid water for hours, then swam ashore, according to the newspaper, which interviewed two dozen people to piece together the account. The special forces personnel thought they were alone, but didn't see a small boat in the area.

The boat later approached the mini-subs, with the crew carrying flshlights. One person jumped into the water. Thinking the mission was compromised, the senior enlisted SEAL ashore opened fire on the boat, as did the others with him. When they reached the boat, they found two or three bodies, but no guns or uniforms: the dead were apparently civilians who were diving for shellfish. The SEALs used knives to puncture the lungs of the boat's crew so the bodies would sink, and were able to escape unharmed. The Times said the operation prompted a series of military reviews that found the killings were justified.

The results of the reviews were classified, and key congressional leaders were kept in the dark.

‘Lot 41’: Iran turning Islamic Revolution burial site into parking area; satellite images show paving

world. (Agency)

A section of Tehran's largest cemetery, where thousands of people executed after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution were buried, is being paved over to make a parking lot. Lot 41 of Behesht-e Zahra cemetery has long been known as the burial place of dissidents, monarchists, communists and others killed by firing squad or hanging in the early years of the Islamic Republic. The area has been under tight surveillance for years, with grave markers vandalised and trees deliberately dried out. United Nations special rapporteur in 2024 says the demolition is part of Iran's effort to erase evidence of mass killings and prevent families from mourning. Satellite images from Planet Labs show the land being freshly paved in August, with trucks and asphalt piled on site. Cemetery officials say the parking will serve visitors to a nearby section where authorities plan to bury victims of the recent Iran-Israel conflict, reported reformist newspaper Shargh. Tehran's deputy mayor, Davood Goudarzi, confirmed last week that the lot is being turned into parking space. He described those buried there as "hypocrites of the early revolution" and said the project was "ongoing in a precise and smart way," as quoted by Associated Press.

The move has sparked criticism from rights activists and lawyers, who argue that families were never consulted, as required by Iran's own cemetery laws. Research suggests between 5,000 and 7,000 people may be buried in Lot 41. "It represents the final phase of destruction," said Shahin Nasiri, a University of Amsterdam lecturer who studied the site. "Families are still searching for the graves of loved ones. The destruction adds another barrier to truth and justice."

The move follows a pattern of Iranian authorities targeting graves of political prisoners, Baha'i minorities and protesters from the 2009 Green Movement to the 2022 Mahsa Amini demonstrations.

Israel strikes high-rise building as it sets sights on taking over Gaza City

Israel has begun mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

DEIR AL-BALAH. (Agency)

Israel struck a high-rise building in Gaza City on Friday after an evacuation warning, as the military stepped up operations aimed at seizing control of the famine-stricken city of some 1 million Palestinians. Strikes elsewhere in Gaza City killed at least 27 people, health officials said. The military accused Hamas militants of using high-rises in the city for surveillance and planned ambushes, and said it would carry out "precise, targeted strikes" on militant infrastructure in the coming days. Israel has begun mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and is repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive, which has sparked opposition

domestically and condemnation abroad. Palestinians said Friday's strike targeted the Mushtaha tower in Rimal, an upscale neighborhood before the war. Gaza City resident Ahmed al-Boari said people fleeing Israeli operations elsewhere in the city had sought shelter in and around the building. Satellite imagery showed a large number of tents nearby. It was not immediately clear if anyone was wounded or killed in the strike. Israel said it struck the building because it was used by Hamas for surveillance. Photos of the building taken before Friday's strike showed that its roof was already heavily damaged from earlier raids.

Fears grow as Israeli forces advance

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones" where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting. That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the war, which has

already displaced around 90% of the territory's population. The offensive has also sparked widespread protests among



Israelis who fear it will endanger hostages still held in Gaza, some of whom are believed to be in Gaza City. There are 48 hostages still held in Gaza, 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive.

Hamas video shows hostages

Hamas released a propaganda video Friday of two hostages in Gaza City. The video shows Guy Gilboa-Dalal in a car, at one point joined by another hostage, Alon Ohel. Gilboa-Dalal speaks, likely under duress,

US-Funded Research At Colleges Aided Chinese Military: Report

Washington. (Agency)

Over a recent two-year period, the Pentagon funded hundreds of projects done in collaboration with universities in China and institutes linked to that nation's defense industry, including many blacklisted by the US government for working with the Chinese military, a congressional investigation has found.

The report, released Friday by House Republicans on the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, argues the projects have allowed China to exploit U.S. research partnerships for military gains while the two countries are locked in a tech and arms rivalry. "American taxpayer dollars should be used to defend the nation - not strengthen its foremost strategic competitor," Republicans wrote in the report. "Failing to safeguard American research from hostile foreign exploitation will continue to erode U.S. technological dominance and place our national defense capabilities at risk," it said.

The Pentagon and didn't immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment. The congressional report said some officials at the Defense

Department argued research should remain open as long as it is "neither controlled nor classified." The report makes several recommendations to scale back U.S. research collaboration with China. It also backs new legislation proposed by the



committee's chairman, Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Michigan. The bill would prohibit any Defense Department funding from going to projects done in collaboration with researchers affiliated with Chinese entities that the U.S. government identifies as safety risks. The Chinese Embassy on Friday called the report "groundless." "We oppose it," the embassy said. Beijing has in the past said science and technological

cooperation between the two countries is mutually beneficial and helps them cope with global challenges. The 80-page report builds on the committee's findings last year that partnerships between U.S. and Chinese universities over the past decade allowed hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to help Beijing develop critical technology. Amid pressure from Republicans, several U.S. universities have ended their joint programs with Chinese schools in recent years. The new report focuses more narrowly on the Defense Department and its billions of dollars in annual research funding. The committee's investigation identified 1,400 research papers published between June 2023 and June 2025 that acknowledged support from the Pentagon and were done in collaboration with Chinese partners. The publications were funded by some 700 defense grants worth more than \$2.5 billion. Of the 1,400 publications, more than half involved organizations affiliated with China's defense research and industrial base.

New York Mayor Eric Adams Says Won't Quit Race, Can Beat Zohran Mamdani

New York City. (Agency)

New York City Mayor Eric Adams insisted again Friday that he won't end his reelection campaign, stressing that he'll remain in the race as reports swirl that he's been approached about possibly taking a job in the Trump administration. At a hastily called news conference, Adams declared, "I am in this race. And I am the only one who can beat Mamdani," referring to the Democratic nominee, Zohran Mamdani. "How many times have I been told throughout this journey to step aside, to surrender, to give up, to give in," he said. "That's the same thing we tell everyday New Yorkers. Everyday New Yorkers are not giving up, are not giving in, are not surrendering, so their mayor is not going to do that." Adams has spent the week fending off news reports that



intermediaries for President Donald Trump had contacted people in the mayor's orbit to talk about whether he would consider abandoning his campaign to take a federal job. He had released a statement earlier Friday that said he "will always listen if called to serve our country" but that he had not yet received any "formal offers." Hours later, he summoned news reporters to the mayor's official residence in Manhattan, Gracie

Mansion, fueling speculation that he would bow out of the contest.

But instead, he doubled down on his intentions to press on, launching broadsides at Mamdani and former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, calling them "two spoiled brats" who are "not like us," while playing up his own working-class origins. Trump has told reporters he would prefer not to have Mamdani, 33, as the next mayor of the largest U.S. city. He said he'd like to see two of the three other major candidates taking on Mamdani — Cuomo, who like Adams is running as an independent, and Republican Curtis Sliwa — leave the race to create a one-on-one contest. Moments after Adams' announcement, Trump was asked about it by reporters at the White House. "He's free to do what he wants," Trump said of Adams.

Trump's job market promises fall flat as hiring collapses and inflation ticks up

Washington. (Agency)

The U.S. job market has gone from healthy to lethargic during President Donald Trump's first seven months back in the White House, as hiring has collapsed and inflation has started to climb once again as his tariffs take hold. Friday's jobs report showed employers added a mere 22,000 jobs in August, as the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3%. Factories and construction firms shed workers. Revisions showed the economy lost 13,000 jobs in June, the first monthly losses since December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new data exposed the widening gap between the booming economy Trump promised and the more anemic reality of what he's managed to deliver so far. The White House prides itself on operating at a breakneck speed, but it's now asking the American people for patience, with Trump saying better job numbers might be a year away. "We're going to win like you've never seen," Trump said Friday. "Wait until these

factories start to open up that are being built all over the country, you're going to see things happen in this country that nobody expects." The plea for patience has done little to comfort Americans, as economic issues that had been a strength for Trump for a decade have evolved into a persistent weakness. Approval of Trump's economic leadership hit 56% in early 2020 during his first term, but that figure was 38% in July of this year, according to polling by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The situation has left Trump searching for others to blame, while Democrats say the problem begins and ends with him. Trump maintained Friday that the economy would be adding jobs if Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell had slashed benchmark interest rates, even though doing so to the degree that Trump wants could ignite higher inflation. Investors expect a rate cut by the Fed at its next meeting in September, although that's partially because of weakening job numbers. Senate Minority Leader Chuck



Schumer, D-N.Y., said Trump's tariffs and freewheeling policies were breaking the economy and the jobs report proved it. "This is a blaring red light warning to the entire country that Donald Trump is squeezing the life out of our economy," Schumer said. By many measures, Trump has dug himself into a hole on the economy as its performance has yet to come anywhere close to his hype.

— Trump in 2024 suggested that deporting immigrants in the country illegally would protect "Black jobs." But the Black

pleading for an end to the war and the return of hostages. He was last seen in a video more than six months ago with another hostage, Evyatar David, as they watched other hostages being released during a ceasefire. Israel's has killed more than 64,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants but says women and children make up around half the dead. Settlers attack Palestinians in the West Bank Israeli settlers descended on the Palestinian village of Khallet A-Daba in the occupied West Bank overnight, attacking residents with clubs and pepper spray, said Palestinians who arrived at the village in the attack's aftermath. Video obtained from Palestinian activist Adeeb Huraani, 26, showed an older man with cuts on his head and leg, and a woman whose headscarf was soaked in blood. Another video shows Basel Adra, a local activist, holding a baby with blood on its head, calling for help and saying there is "a lot of blood."

Canada's Big Admission Over Khalistani Terror Groups Funding

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A Canadian report has raised red flags over terror financing linked to Khalistani terrorists in the country. While it has been an open secret that Canada provides a safe haven to Khalistani terror groups like the Babbar Khalsa, International Sikh Youth Federation, and Sikhs for Justice, Ottawa has, for the first time, admitted that these groups have been operating from Canadian soil and receiving financial support.

The admission is part of an assessment on money laundering and terrorist financing risks in Canada by its Finance department. The Khalistani groups "are suspected of raising funds in a number of countries, including Canada", it said. The report also pointed to financial links between Canada and other listed terror groups like Hamas and Hezbollah under the Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE) category. Several terrorist entities listed under the Criminal Code in Canada that fall under the PMVE category, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Khalistani violent extremist groups Babbar Khalsa



International and the International Sikh Youth Federation, have been observed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to receive financial support originating from Canada," the report said. Extremist groups are capitalising on charitable funds to drug trafficking and auto thefts, the report said, noting that Canada remains a terror financing hub. It also pointed to the misuse of the non-profit sector by Khalistani terrorists and donations from expatriates. "These groups previously had an extensive fundraising network in Canada but now appear to consist of smaller pockets of individuals with allegiance to the cause but seemingly no particular affiliation to a specific group," the report noted. It also flagged diverse funding methods for these groups, from crowdfunding and cryptocurrency. These terror groups use "diverse funding methods to sustain their operations, including the abuse of the MSB and banking sectors."

1 Dead, 5 Injured Due To Electrocution During Ganesh Immersion In Mumbai

The incident occurred when a dangling electric wire accidentally touched the Ganpati idol, leading to six devotees near it getting electrocuted.

Mumbai . (Agency)
A man died and five other persons were injured after coming in contact with a live electric wire during a Ganesh idol immersion procession in Mumbai on Sunday morning, civic officials said.

The incident occurred on Khairani Road in Sakinaka area at around 10.45 am when a dangling electric wire accidentally touched the Ganpati idol, leading to six devotees near



it getting electrocuted, the officials said as per the information received from local police. Some locals rushed the injured persons to nearby private medical facilities and one of them was taken to the civic-run Seven Hills Hospital, an official said.

Doctors at the Seven Hills Hospital declared Binu Sukumaran Kumaran (36) "brought dead", the civic official said.

Five others -- Subhanshu Kamat (20), Tushar Gupta (20), Dharmaraj Gupta (49), Karan Kanojia (14) and Anush Gupta (6) -- were admitted to the Paramount Hospital and their condition was reported to be stable, the official said.

Over 30 children fall ill in Kochi, cause yet to be traced

Kochi .(Agency)
Around 35 to 40 children in Keerampara panchayat, near Kothamangalam, fell ill and sought treatment at various hospitals in the past week. The children, under the age of 10, were hospitalised with symptoms like vomiting and diarrhoea.

"As many cases were reported and children sought treatment at the Primary Health Centre, the medical officer informed us about the spread. We suspect contaminated water to be the reason behind the disease spread. Most families are dependent on Kerala Water Authority's (KWA) connections. However, people who use well water have also been affected with symptoms," said Beena Rijo, the vice-president of the panchayat. The panchayat authorities have sent samples for lab tests to diagnose the condition and cause of spread.

"The condition is not diagnosed yet. We checked with the school. But children who don't go to school, including anganwadi kids, have also been affected. Also, these children recover in two or three days. The panchayat and health officials are investigating the spread," said Basil Baby, ward member of Chenkara, one of the affected areas.

The first case was reported on September 1. Basil Baby said that the local body has been ensuring chlorination of drinking water sources, and prevention activities. Most cases are reported in Chenkara, Punnekkad North, Palamattam, and Punnekkad South wards of the local body.

"The people here usually don't go out to have food. However, while enquiring, we came to know that some children have consumed food from outside – hotels and restaurants. We are still investigating to find the cause of the spread and prevent further spread," she added.

"There were several payasamelas and food fests. We don't know if these food items have caused the viral infection. The department of health and the local body have taken precautions," said Mamachen Joseph, former president of Keerampara panchayat.

Married UP Woman, Teen Lover Kill Girl Who Saw Them In "Compromising Position"

The girl's body was found inside a well, stuffed in a jute bag with a cloth tied around her neck.

Hathras .(Agency)
A woman was arrested and a teenager was detained in connection with the murder of a six-year-old girl in a village here under the Sikandra Rau Police Station area.

Urvi had gone missing around 10 am on Wednesday from her home, where a function was being held. Around 1.30 pm, her body was found inside a well, stuffed in a jute bag with a cloth tied around her neck.

The post-mortem report confirmed death by strangulation. "The girl had seen the arrested woman and the minor in a compromising position. The girl threatened to tell her father, and as she was leaving, the two strangled her to

death," Additional Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Singh said.

The woman, aged around 30, confessed that she had been in a relationship with the 17-year-old boy for about three months.

On the day of the incident, with her husband and mother-in-law away, she invited the boy over. "The girl walked in on them and, despite being warned, said she would tell her father. The two then killed her, stuffed her body in a sack, and threw it in an abandoned well," the officer said.

The woman at the time of her arrest had bite marks on her hand, likely inflicted by the girl in her struggle to escape, he added.



Where the forgotten heal: inside Pune's unique hospital where stray dogs get a second chance at life

Pune .(Agency)
When Bella, a street dog, was carried into Karma Foundation, she had already endured unimaginable cruelty: both eyes burned with battery acid. Few believed she could survive. Yet, in the stillness of midnight, surgeons worked against the odds to save her.

Today, Bella is blind, but she is happy. She runs, her tail wagging, following people by scent and sound. Her life is no longer defined by pain, but by resilience, resilience that only unconditional love can nurture. "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated," Mahatma Gandhi once said. In Pune, this philosophy is embodied in the Karma Foundation, an animal hospital where every scar, every wound, and every abandoned life on the streets is given dignity, compassion, and a second chance.

Bella is one of hundreds of animals who find a lifeline at Karma Foundation every year. Founded in 2018 by Priya Kailad, the hospital began as a modest 200 sq ft area. Before founding the organisation, Kailad worked as a child psychologist with a school for children

with special needs, where her compassion for the vulnerable took root. Carrying that same empathy forward, she began rescuing distressed animals-dogs, cats, even goats. "Every day I saw dogs hit by cars, animals



bleeding on the streets, and no one stepping forward to help," Kailad recalls. "The indifference was as painful as the cruelty." That heartbreak became her determination to build a space where the forgotten could heal.

From that small area, Karma Foundation in Aundh, Pune, has grown into an ably equipped hospital with an operation theatre, ventilator, pathology lab, X-ray unit, and a dedicated team

of doctors, surgeons, and animal handlers. But what truly sets it apart is its philosophy- it is not a shelter, but a hospital. "We are not a shelter, we are a hospital. That's a big difference," says Kailad. "Our job is to heal and return animals to their homes on the streets, unless they truly cannot survive there."

The work is relentless, and the struggles are many. Funding is a constant worry, with medical bills mounting for surgeries, treatments, and round-the-clock care. "People expect animal welfare to be free," Kailad says, "but quality care requires resources, from sterile operating theatres to life-saving equipment." The hospital model also allows them to prioritise treatment over long-term housing, ensuring resources are used where they are most needed.

Often, Karma Foundation is unable to admit animals suffering from highly infectious diseases because the hospital lacks specialised isolation wards required for such cases.

"Just like every hospital didn't have a Covid ward, we too cannot risk other animals' lives by admitting contagious cases," Kailad explains.

Insufficient drains: Waterlogging threat looms over Aroor-Thuravoor elevated highway section

Kochi .(Agency)
The Aroor-Thuravoor stretch of NH 66, where an acute traffic congestion is being witnessed due to ongoing elevated highway construction work, faces a permanent waterlogging threat as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is reportedly proceeding with the drainage construction without sufficient drain outlets.

Officials of various panchayats, through which the stretch passes, and the Janakeeya Jagrata Samiti accuse the NHAI of providing storm water outlets to small canals en route, instead of draining it out to big water bodies, which they claim will only result in flooding of low-lying areas.

In fact, Kodamthuruth panchayat is yet to give permission to the NHAI to provide drain outlets, despite the central agency seeking the same nearly a year ago.

"The NHAI is seeking to drain the water into small canals (edathodu), instead of the Kuthiathode lake. But the same will only result in waterlogging of the entire low-lying region. Only 1.5 km of the NH frontage passes through our region, from Kuthiathode to Chammanad School. We are not ready to give the nod to drain

the storm water into small canals," said Kodamthuruth panchayat president Jayakumar V G. "What should have been ideally done is to drain the storm water into major water bodies like Aroor Lake, Chandiroor canal and



Kuthiathode lake, instead of small water bodies, which will get easily filled up. The panchayat is yet to give the nod, but the NHAI is going ahead with the drainage construction without sufficient outlets," said Sanoob Aziz, a member of the Samiti, formed to protest the lack of adequate basic amenities on the stretch.

"The NHAI is constructing a big drainage, throughout the stretch realising this. But the lack of sufficient drain outlets will lead to permanent waterlogging during heavy rains. Various spots like Kodumthuruth, and the

northern side of Chandiroor bridge are already getting waterlogged at the slightest of rains," he added. NHAI officials, though, turned down the charges, while admitting that they are yet to get the permission of the Kodamthuruth panchayat to set up drain outlets.

Elevated highway: 70 per cent work completed

Meanwhile, the construction of the country's longest six-lane elevated highway on the 12.75-km Aroor-Thuravoor stretch has entered the final phase.

"We have achieved 70 per cent progress. We have completed erecting all piles on the entire stretch. Also, the construction of all the piers (total 400) is over. Similarly, 230 deck slabs out of the total 353 have been completed, while 2,500 girders out of the total 2,560 have been erected," the NHAI official said.

Kerala's child mortality rate lower than that of US, says health minister Veena George



Thiruvananthapuram .(Agency)

Kerala's child mortality rate is now less than that of the US. "Kerala's child mortality rate is 5 per 1,000 births, lowest in the country as per the latest Sample Registration System report. Infant mortality rate for the United States is 5.6. Kerala's mortality is lower than that of developed countries," Health Minister Veena George said in a statement on Saturday. The minister congratulated health workers and other stakeholders who worked for this.

Kerala's infant mortality rate is below 4 pc as against the national figure of 18. This too is on a par with developed countries. Kerala could bring down the child mortality rate from 6 in 2021 to 5.

The minister said the government was giving much importance to infant, child and maternal care. Steps were taken to raise the standards of all hospitals with delivery care. Sixteen hospitals in the state won national LaQshya certification and six hospitals won national MusQan certification. Kerala is the first state to implement a mother and child friendly hospital initiative. Comprehensive newborn screening facility is available at all hospitals offering delivery care.

The government also runs the Hridayam scheme to identify and treat children with congenital heart diseases. So far 8,450 children were given free heart surgeries. "Kerala has the same child mortality rate for urban and rural areas. Intensive care units for infants have been established in hospitals including those in tribal and coastal areas. Healthcare facilities are available to urban and rural populations alike," she said.

Halal concerns and hefty fee cloud operations of modernised abattoir in Thiruvananthapuram

Meat traders warn that the steep charges, coupled with transportation costs, could push meat prices, which currently hover around Rs 280 to Rs 300 per kg.

Thiruvananthapuram .(Agency)

Even as the city corporation has inaugurated the state's first fully modernised abattoir, its operations are yet to gather full steam amid concerns raised by butchers and meat traders. After remaining shut for over a decade, the city corporation inaugurated the slaughterhouse, modernised at a cost of Rs 10 crore, very recently.

The civic body's decision to levy a slaughtering fee of Rs 1,500 for large animals has come as a heavy blow to the butchers and meat vendors. Meat traders warn that the steep charges, coupled with transportation costs, could push meat prices, which currently hover around Rs 280 to Rs 300 per kg. With the opening of the slaughterhouse, the civic body is planning to put an end to illegal slaughtering and meat vending. Shafeeq Abdul Rahman, a representative of butchers and meat traders,

said that the slaughtering fee is not affordable for them. "As many as 100 traditional workers involved in slaughtering will lose their jobs after the transition. We want the government to give them some relief as they are losing their jobs permanently. The high slaughtering fee, along with the transportation cost, will eventually reflect in the meat prices," said Shafeeq.

The agreement with the agency stipulates an annual rent arrangement, under which the contractor will pay Rs 75 per large animal and Rs 15 per small animal to the corporation, with a 10% annual hike.

Butchers have also voiced concerns over the transition to a largely mechanised slaughtering process, arguing that it does not take into account halal practices, which are essential to a significant section of consumers. "Eighty percent of people



involved in this business are from the Muslim community and they will not agree

to a fully mechanised system without following halal practices. We will be raising all these issue with the authorities," said Shafeeq. The new slaughterhouse, which has a handling capacity of 50 to 75 animals, is equipped with an effluent treatment plant (ETP), biogas units, chilling rooms, odour control systems, and a rendering plant for waste management. More than 70% of operations are mechanised, designed to ensure hygienic, safe, and environmentally sustainable meat production.

According to civic authorities, minor works are still remaining at the abattoir. "The work of the biofilter will be completed within two weeks. Once the work is completed, we will officially announce a deadline to make the transition. Prior to that, we will be meeting the stakeholders. We will sensitise the butchers and meat vendors on the new system.

RSS @ 100 | Reimagining India's script over a century

The spotlight is on the RSS because it has completed a century of existence. Also because many believe that it is controlling the BJP and micro-managing its affairs. The recent interactive session RSS sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat held in the national capital cleared many doubts; but it disappointed those who were expecting the RSS to explode a bombshell. The RSS is not used to rattling the appercart. It works quietly, patiently and persistently committed to its ideology and style of work. It is this perseverance and relentless resilience that has made the RSS the unique organisation it is. The Sangh parivar's detractors have been impatiently waiting for any opportunity to unsettle Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continuance in office. As he could not be democratically defeated, his opponents expected that the so-called imaginary age bar the Sangh was supposed to impose on its pracharaks would open a Pandora's box. The Sangh's role has been transformative and decisive, but it doesn't interfere in the day-to-day affairs of its affiliates. It plays a guiding motherly role. That is why at this stage Bhagwat spoke more about social harmony and unity than about a Hindu rashtra. The organisation has expanded phenomenally and come to occupy the centre-stage of Indian political debate. Its influence has increased and it has come to influence the course of history in the 21st century. Thanks to the nation-building activities the Sangh has been involved in in the last 10 decades, its approach is being keenly watched by the world community. After Bhagwat's three-day session last week, the speculation on Modi's continuance as prime minister is over and, understandably, the opposition is upset. He explained that at no point was there a decision to retire at the age of 75. He further buttressed the point by affirming that he himself is not planning to step down in September, when he completes 75. He also made it clear that the Sangh would strive for national integration, uphold the values of the Constitution, and that the vision of a united, developed India was primarily the core idea of the Sangh family. On many occasions, Sang leaders have proved prophetic. Many years ago, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh founder and RSS ideologue Dattopant Thengadi had told this writer that the Sangh would attain its pinnacle of glory when Bhagwat becomes the sarsangchalak. At that time, Bhagwat was nowhere in the national Sangh hierarchy. Similarly, Thengadi had foreseen the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of Communism many years before it actually happened. The fifth sarsanghchalk, K S Sudarshan, had on many occasions predicted the rise of India after 2012. At that point, the UPA was in power at the Centre and there was no sign of Modi emerging as a saviour on the national stage.

The RSS's declared goal is 'param vaibhav' (ultimate glory of India). Critics asked why Bhagwat did not speak about Hindu rashtra during his stay in Delhi. Has the RSS moved away from its basic goal? Or why did the sarsanghchalak not take a hard position on the liberation of Hindu temples across the country, limiting himself to Kashi and Mathura? What these critics have not realised is that the Sangh does not act on the script dictated by its adversaries. The Sangh has been a reformative and innovative power in Indian society. Unlike its ideological opposition in the Left, the Sangh has been progressive in its approach to reforms, new technology and modern gadgets. The Left has fallen by the wayside of history, opposing India's one culture, the Quit India movement, the Constitution, even computerisation, the space mission, private capital, and the opening up of the economy. Its thinkers and historians carried colonial baggage and tried to undermine the civilisational strength of India. The RSS, on the other hand, took every challenge and opportunity to reach out to new areas and adopt a new workstyle. It has been unhesitating in adopting new technology, and even changed its uniform.

Water will find a way, in India & Pakistan

THE GREAT GAME: The Indus treaty held because it had rules about treating the waters of Punjab's rivers

WATER, water everywhere, said the poet, a line that is really a drumbeat in your brain as you look around the Mand area in Sultanpur Lodhi, where the Beas has burst its banks and flooded the paddy crop — a story The Tribune is also following, on the loss and devastation of one half of its two-crop agricultural cycle. Watching Punjab's rivers rise these past few weeks has been a lesson in both History and Geography. We know that the confluence of two Persian words, Panj and Aab, gave rise to the portmanteau word 'Panjab', meaning "the land of the five waters"; it is attributed to Ibn Battuta, the traveller from Tangiers who is believed to have roamed this region in the 14th century. But here's the irony : Prior to Battuta, Punjab was known as Panchnad, a Sanskrit word that means the "land of the five rivers" — a word that dates from the time of the Mahabharata, and which, even today, is the name of the river in Pakistan into which all five rivers of undivided Punjab — the Jhelum, Chenab, Sutlej, Beas and Ravi — fall, before the one mighty portmanteau river pours itself into the Arabian Sea. Note, then, how Nature (with a capital N) abhors small men-made divisions and partitions, either during 1947 — when blood ran like water — or after, as recently as April 2025, when in the wake of the horror of the Pahalgam massacre, a furious India put the circa 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance. The IWT had held, despite two wars and one limited conflict, because it had rules about treating the waters of Punjab's rivers.

On the eve of Operation Sindoor, India shut down the sluice gates of the Baglihar dam on the Chenab in Jammu and announced that not a "single drop of water" would be allowed to flow into Pakistan in retaliation for Pahalgam. For the first time in decades, Jammu folks flocked to walk the dry Chenab bed and post Instagram pictures. Pakistani authorities reacted nervously, fearing the worst for their crops and human habitat.

Three months later, it is Geography's turn to turn the tide on geopolitics. As Himachal Pradesh and Punjab experience their strongest monsoon in decades, the reservoirs in the Bhakra, Ranjit Sagar and Pong dams — that give life-sustaining water to all of north India all year round — have filled to capacity, forcing officials to release water into Punjab's three eastern rivers in order to keep the structure of the dam safe. But that's not all. Questions on both sides of the border are now being raised — for example, should officials have not released water from these North Indian dams, which has contributed to flooding on both sides of the border?

Ajnala. Kapurthala. Sultanpur Lodhi. Ferozepur. Kartarpur Sahib. The rollcall of Punjab's towns that seem to be floating these days is giving rise to several memes — among them, "bheegta Punjab," a take-off on "udta Punjab." Flooding is so widespread in the Ferozepur region that it has obliterated familiar markers on the



Radcliffe Line. Parts of the border fencing that divides India from Pakistan has been submerged. As far as the eye can see, water and land have merged with the horizon. It's as if Geography is taking its revenge on History.

Meanwhile, common sense is replacing fury. India may have suspended the IWT, but it has been sending water data to Pakistan via its high commission in Islamabad. That's because India understands its responsibility as an upper riparian state — imagine what would happen if China, the upper riparian in the case of the Brahmaputra, which begins as the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, refused to send water data to lower riparian India? Shudder at the thought. In any case, so much water flows down the Chenab and the Jhelum in Jammu & Kashmir, especially during the monsoon, as much as 136.2 million acre feet (MAF) annually, that the run-of-the-river Baglihar and Kishanganga dams have no option but to allow the water to flow into Pakistan. That is why suspending or holding the IWT in abeyance doesn't mean much on the ground — the water, as is its wont, will flow from the hills to the sea. The hills, in this case, happen to be the Himalayas and the sea, the Arabian Sea. Water disdains maps and treaties and pacts. It will find a way.

A larger question, however, has insinuated itself into the big picture, that of dam storage, rights and responsibilities. Udhampur MP and the influential junior central minister Jitendra Singh has blamed the IWT for denying India permission to desilt its dams on the western

rivers (Chenab, Jhelum). But read the IWT carefully — Singh's contention is only partially correct, as the IWT only prohibits desilting during the monsoons; India is free to desilt at any other time. Moreover, the IWT is silent on desilting dams on the eastern rivers (Sutlej, Ravi and Beas), and as my colleague Lalit Mohan reports from Ropar on the news pages of The Tribune, the Bhakra Nangal dam's carrying capacity has been reduced by 19 per cent because of the accumulation of silt over the decades. In fact, the big story is that the Bhakra dam has never been desilted since it was built in 1963.

If this is true about the Bhakra Nangal on the Sutlej, could it also be true about the Pong and the Ranjit Sagar dams, on the Beas and Ravi rivers, respectively? And if this is true for all three, does it follow that dam officials had to release water from these dams this monsoon — which caused the flooding in Punjab — because they were concerned about protecting the integrity of the dam structure? Let's ask the forbidden question : If these dams had been desilted over the years, would they have been capable of carrying much more water, especially at a time of extraordinary rain as has occurred this monsoon? Meaning, would Punjab's extraordinarily resilient villagers have remained home and dry? Perhaps it's time to pt people front and centre, to treat Nature tenderly, with kid gloves, to separate her from Politics. The rise and fall of dynasties and empires, shape-shifting maps — Nature follows her own rules. Let us respect them.

Climate resilient plan must for Bhubaneswar

If inclusivity is a serious goal, ease of rectification of the condition and the degree to which normal functions are compromised need to be considered, instead of criteria-based eligibility

A new study has rather alarming projections for Bhubaneswar. An integrated heat and cooling action plan developed for the Odisha capital estimates that, by 2050, 'normal' hot days might turn out to be as bad as heatwave events. While rising heat projections are a global phenomenon, Bhubaneswar is likely to witness the summer maximum temperature soar by 1.5 °C, with heat stress extending to 7-9 hours daily, posing significant health risks and productivity loss. The report also found a peculiar trend of low mortalities during summer (March-July), but higher numbers during August-October when humidity levels jump. While the report by think tank iForest suggests an integrated action plan, what Bhubaneswar actually needs is an urban development rethink. What must agitate the state government is the fact that the capital—now with a population of about 1 million—witnessed unbridled construction activity in the last two decades. In the six years between 2018 and 2024, the city's built-up area grew by almost a quarter and, at the same time, the vegetation cover plunged by a tenth. More importantly, a whopping three-fourths of water bodies



vanished. These factors have contributed to the 'heat island' effect, turning the capital into a boiling cauldron. Bhubaneswar is among the most liveable cities in the country, but the tag may not remain for long unless urban planning factors in decisive climate action.

Located not far from the coast, Bhubaneswar has borne the brunt of natural calamities. Some of the worst cyclones to hit the state have not only dealt severe blows to the city's infrastructure, but these hazards have also caused significant loss of green cover.

At the core of Bhubaneswar's problems is the regional disparity the state has witnessed in the last several decades. As the biggest urban centre, spread now over 180 sq km, it has seen continuous migration, heaping pressure on housing resources, which in turn attracted huge real estate investmens and consequent unplanned, skewed growth. Much of the damage can be contained if the government revisits the city's comprehensive development plan. The change in land use patterns must be carefully monitored, and no-go areas identified and strictly adhered to. The capital of a coastal state requires climate-resilient infrastructure, not just housing projects dotting the cityscape. The focus should be on sustainable growth.

These reforms are more like GST 1.2 than 2.0

On September 3, the 56th GST Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, unveiled goods and services tax reforms labelled GST 2.0, which would be effective from September 22.

Listening to the longstanding demand of consumers, the changes collapse the multi-tier tax structure—with rates of 0, 5, 12, 18 and 28—into a dual-slab model of 5 percent for essentials like unpacked foodgrains, fresh vegetables and select medicines, and 18 percent for most other goods and services, including electronics, cement, small cars and electric vehicles. A 40 percent rate targets 'sin goods' like tobacco and pan masala.

As the GST system was flawed to begin with, any change to simplify and rationalise it is a welcome step. But the question one has to ask here is, is it sufficient? India expects a 7.8 percent real GDP growth in the first quarter of 2025-26, painting an optimistic picture. But it masks deep economic challenges as GDP as a metric fails to capture rising inequality, weak consumer demand and high unemployment. For nearly a decade, sluggish consumer demand has plagued India. This is evident in the latest numbers available for some bellwether industries—urban consumer goods growth slowed to 2.6 percent during January-March 2025, passenger car sales dropped 1.4 the next quarter, and two-wheeler sales shrank 6.48 percent in July over comparable periods in 2024.

The International Labour Organisation's 2024 report revealed 83 percent of India's unemployed are young (aged 15-29), underscoring the crisis. One of the major reasons for low consumption is increased inequality, as it reduces money in the common man's hand and transfers it to the super rich. As per

an Oxfam report from the same year, the richest 21 people in India hold as much wealth as the bottom 70 crore people put together.

As Adam Smith identified many centuries earlier, one of the major reasons for high inequality is taxation policy. Indirect taxes—which are levied on the rich and poor alike—such as GST and excise comprise about half of revenues. In contrast, it's a third for the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development countries. The Indian incidence disproportionately burdens the poor, who spend 22 percent of their income on fuel—the highest share globally—due to 300 percent excise duty hikes since 2014.

The 2025 GST reforms, with a dual-slab model (5 percent for essentials, 18 percent for most goods), offer limited relief but fail to address fuel duties. This regressive taxation stems from offsetting corporate tax cuts (35 percent to 22 percent), costing ₹2 lakh crore, which failed to boost investment, with private gross fixed capital formation at an 11-year low of 32.4 percent in 2023-24, down from 40 percent in 2015.

The Oxfam report shows the top 1 percent hold 40.1 percent of wealth, draining resources from 70 crore poorer citizens. To revive demand, the government must reduce fuel excise duties and reconsider corporate tax cuts, as lower oil prices would ease costs across goods, spurring consumption and economic recovery. Though the latest changes are hailed as a revolutionary reform, more anomalies remain in the GST rates for items, revealing inequities and irrationality. Ultra-luxury items like polished diamonds enjoy nil tax under specific schemes, boosting a ₹1.2-lakh-crore sector, while processed agricultural

products—crucial for reducing 30 percent produce waste worth ₹92,651 crore a year—face 18 percent GST, stifling Tamil Nadu's 70 lakh farmers. Zero-rating these could boost farmer incomes by 20-25 percent, per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The textile sector, employing 4.5 crore nationally and 1 crore in Tamil Nadu, faces 18 percent on garments above ₹2,500, undermining



competitiveness amid 50 percent US tariffs and a 10 percent export decline in 2023.

While 33 lifesaving drugs are now exempt, diagnostic kits and medical devices, at 5-18 percent, burden Tamil Nadu's healthcare system that serves 7.8 crore people, hampering affordability and access. These disparities highlight the reforms' failure to support critical sectors and state economies.

The latest reforms failed to democratise the GST Council, where the Centre holds 33 percent of the

total votes and each state, irrespective of their size or economic output, have 2 percent. With each resolution requiring 75 percent votes to pass, passing any resolution without the consensus of the Union government has become impossible.

Only four states—Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra—contribute about 50 percent of total GST collection, but have only 8 percent of the GST Council votes; they cannot, therefore, pass any resolution on their own.

A lack of consultation can also be evinced from the half-backed rollout of GST 2.0. The states were not fully consulted about the resulting loss of revenue and how it would be offset. The ideal step would have been for the Union government to work on a financial model to see the range of revenue losses for each state, and discuss with them on offsetting their losses. This affects industrialised states like Tamil Nadu, which could lose potentially ₹6,000-15,000 crore revenue for the next fiscal year. So high net GST-contributing states would now face lower GST revenue.

In order to compensate for the sudden revenue loss for states, the Union government should consider extending the compensatory cess that can undo the partial loss of revenue. Though the Finance Commission has recommended 42 percent of the revenue from divisible pool to be divided among states, only 31 percent is devolved with the states, simply because of very high cess and surcharge (which constitute the non-divisible pool) of 23 percent.

Stranded in Bharmour, 64 Manimahesh Yatra pilgrims airlifted by IAF to Chamba

In all, 588 individuals were airlifted from Bharmour to Chamba in last two days

Shimla .(Agency)

With the improving weather conditions, the Indian Air Force helicopter MI-17 airlifted 64 people to Chamba through four sorties Saturday, officials said, adding that they were stranded in Bharmour while on Manimahesh Yatra. In all, 588 individuals were airlifted from Bharmour to Chamba in the last two days. The Chamba district administration sent all the rescued pilgrims to their respective destinations through HRTC buses, free of cost. Besides, mortal remains of two individuals were also airlifted to Chamba, officials said.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appreciated the efforts of the district administration, NDRF, SDRF, Chamba Police, Home Guards, NGOs and individuals who worked relentlessly to accomplish this massive rescue operation.

The CM said the people of Chamba, who organised langars for the stranded people, have shown the true spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.



He also praised the Revenue Minister, Jagat Singh Negi, for leading the operation on the ground who camped at Bharmour. The CM said that the minister reached Bharmour on foot from Chamba and ensured the safety of

each stranded person. This gesture highlights the present state government's sensitivity by adopting humanitarian approach and commitment towards the people's safety, Sukhu said.

13.79-km Shimla ropeway approved: Himachal Deputy CM

Chandigarh/shimla . (Agency)

Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri Saturday said the final approval has been granted for a 13.79-km ropeway project in Shimla. The project to be built at a cost of Rs 1,734.70 crore will take four years to complete, he said, adding it was a step towards turning the state into a tourism hub like Switzerland.

Agnihotri said the ropeway will have three lines, 14 sections and 13 stations, linking the state Secretariat, hospitals, schools, the railway station, and the main bus stand in the state capital.

Agnihotri said that under the Smart City Project, 19 infrastructure projects worth Rs 50 crore and three more projects worth Rs 25 crore would be built in Shimla by next December.

Other ropeways under construction in the state, he said, were the Rs 65-crore Baba Balaknath temple ropeway, the Rs 278.62-crore Bijli Mahadev ropeway, and the Rs 76.50-crore Mata Chintpurni Temple ropeway. All these projects have been envisaged to be built by June 2027.

He said that realising the dream of promoting rural connectivity, the country's first rural

ropeway (Baglamukhi ropeway) was inaugurated in December 2024. The project, built at a cost of Rs 53.89 crore, has already benefitted around 69,000 passengers. During natural disasters, this ropeway also serves as a lifeline for locals and relief operations.

Agnihotri said the work on the 1.20-km



Dhalpur to Peej ropeway in Kullu was ongoing. This Rs 80-crore project is expected to be completed by June 2027.

He said the state government has plans to connect Shimla to Parwanoo through a 38-km ropeway.

The public-private partnership project will cost Rs 5,602.56 crore.

UP syncs rules for stray dogs with Supreme Court's order



Lucknow .(Agency)

In the wake of the Supreme Court judgment revising its earlier order on stray-dog management, the Uttar Pradesh government has issued fresh guidelines for the management of stray dogs following an increase in incidents of dog bites and human-animal conflicts.

The state's Urban Development Department released an updated circular with stringent measures that formalise designated feeding zones, strengthen Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes and set up local conflict-resolution mechanisms.

According to the government, the circular, informed by directives from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and aligned with Supreme Court mandates and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, outlines a multi-faceted strategy.

The Supreme Court had drawn nationwide attention after a two-judge bench on August 11 ordered the removal of street dogs from the Delhi-National Capital Region within six to eight weeks and placed them in shelters permanently.

That order provoked a backlash from animal-welfare groups and prompted a three-judge bench on August 22 to modify the stance.

The revised ruling allows non-rapid, non-aggressive sterilised and vaccinated dogs to be returned to their original localities, while prohibiting unregulated public feeding, requiring designated feeding zones, and urging the formulation of a uniform national policy. It also warned that obstruction of municipal dog-catching operations could attract contempt proceedings.

ABVP deadline nears, bulldozers at SRMU

Lucknow .(Agency)

Hours before the ABVP's 48-hour deadline to the Uttar Pradesh government came to an end on Saturday, the Barabanki district administration demolished a building on the campus of Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University (SRMU), saying it was illegally constructed on a government land.

The demolition of the 'illegal structure' on the campus was among the four demands of the ABVP, which has been protesting since last Monday's police lathicharge on students protesting over the invalidity of the law degree of the SRMU that left several of its members injured.

Late Saturday afternoon, a joint team from the district administration and police reached the SRMU campus with bulldozers and removed the portion identified as an encroachment. A heavy police force was deployed both inside and outside the campus.

"A demolition drive was carried out, and the portion found built on government land was removed," said Barabanki Additional Superintende

Tripathi added that in connection with the September 1 violence on the campus, police have arrested two more persons, taking the total number of arrests to four. All four are outsiders, said police. The ABVP had earlier alleged that outsiders were involved in the violence on SRMU campus that led to brutal police lathicharge on student during demonstrations over the "validity" of certain law degrees issued by the university. The ABVP later released a list of students it claimed were hurt, along with video clips purportedly showing police chasing students and beating them with canes. nt of Police Vikas Chandra Tripathi.

Public Garden Lake revival stalled for over two months; no clarity on when work will resume

Hyderabad . (Agency)

The much-awaited Rs 34.5 lakh restoration of the historic Public Garden Lake has been stalled for over two months, though work was scheduled for completion in June. Key components of the first phase — dewatering, desilting sludge, embankment jute-pitching, native grass planting and installation of solar-powered aerators — remain incomplete.

The project, launched in April, is being executed by the Environmental Foundation of India (EFI) as part of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative with the Horticulture department.

Environmental activist Mohammed Abid Ali, who has been monitoring the work, alleged poor planning and negligence. "Nutrient-rich sludge removed from the lake was kept

along the embankments for beautification, but no stone pitching was done. With the onset of heavy rains, much of this mud has washed back into the lake, nullifying weeks of work and wasting public funds," he told.

He added, "This lake is over 100 years old and has been neglected for more than a decade. It once hosted boating and attracted migratory birds from across India and abroad. Now, due to poor execution, we are back to square one."

Public Garden, one of Hyderabad's oldest parks, holds ecological and heritage value. Activists fear that continued delays will see the lake miss another migratory bird season. They urged Chief



Minister A Revanth Reddy to intervene and ensure timely completion.

The lake, once fed by Hussainsagar through

feeder channels, has been cut off from its sources for years. Without restoration and proper stormwater management, experts warn, it risks falling back into neglect.

As of now, the first phase of the three-phase rejuvenation remains incomplete, with no clarity on when work will resume.

G Sangeetha Laxmi, joint director of the Horticulture department, told TNIE, "For setting up solar-powered aerators, we need the cement to dry. With the everyday rains, we are unable to proceed. Once we get two to three days of dry weather, the works will resume."

Road in Hyderabad's busy hospital zone needs urgent repairs

Hyderabad . (Agency)

The road stretch between Nampally and Lakdikapul, one of the busiest hospital zones in the city, has remained in disrepair for over a year.

Incomplete road works, broken stretches, bumper-to-bumper traffic, and rising dust pollution have made commuting a daily struggle for those travelling between Nampally and Lakdikapul, particularly patients visiting MNJ Cancer Hospital and Niloufer Maternity Hospital.



The situation is further aggravated by unhygienic and broken Sulabh toilets near the hospitals, with residents alleging that urine often overflows onto the road, creating a foul stench and unsafe conditions.

Traffic snarls worsen in the evenings

when vehicles from both Nampally and Lakdikapul converge, leaving ambulances stuck on uneven roads. Roadside businesses and footpath encroachments add to the chaos, while non-functional CCTV cameras and traffic signals have reportedly contributed to several minor accidents in recent months.

Urging GHMC to take action, social activist Mohammed Abid Ali stated, "This is not just about commuters, it is about patients

fighting for their lives. Cancer patients and mothers with newborns are forced to navigate unsafe roads and unhygienic surroundings. GHMC must complete the road work, clear encroachments, and restore sanitation facilities without delay," he said.

GHMC to establish dedicated in-house design wing to sketch, plan and build

Hyderabad . (Agency)

To reduce reliance on private consultants and expedite the finalisation and execution of city-related projects, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner RV Karnan has announced the establishment of a dedicated in-house design wing. This new unit will comprise 10 engineers from GHMC, selected from reputed institutions such as IITs and NITs, and will function under the leadership of senior engineering officials.

The in-house design wing is being set up at a critical juncture, as the state government rolls out major initiatives under the Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure (H-CITI) and the Strategic Road



Development Programme (SRDP). With this new team in place, these flagship projects are expected to progress with greater speed, efficiency and precision. Operating under the Chief Engineer (Projects), the wing will be equipped with

modern infrastructure, advanced licensed software, and CAD support to ensure delivery of world-class outputs within strict timelines.

To further accelerate the implementation of H-CITI and SRDP works, particularly those aimed at easing traffic congestion, Commissioner Karnan has directed engineering officials to set project-wise timelines to ensure timely completion.

During a review meeting held on Tuesday with zonal commissioners, project engineers and officials from planning and land acquisition departments, a detailed presentation was made highlighting project progress, on-ground challenges, pending tasks, and causes of delays.

Punjab govt schools to reopen after floods on Sep 9, staff to check safety of buildings today

Private schools are allowed to open on September 8, provided they ensure the safety of students, said Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains.

Ludhiana . (Agency)

Government schools across Punjab will reopen Tuesday, September 9, after the floods, announced Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains Sunday. However, private schools have been allowed to call students Monday, September 8, provided they guarantee the safety of students and ensure their buildings are completely safe, said Bains.

For government schools, teachers and other staff will inspect buildings and get cleaning done on Monday, said the minister, adding students can come Tuesday onwards.

Schools across Punjab have been closed since August 27 due to heavy rains and floods. Punjab is facing the worst floods in the past three decades, with at least 43 deaths until now.

Announcing the decision to reopen schools, colleges and universities, Bains wrote on X: "All government, private, and aided schools, colleges, and universities in the state will reopen as usual from tomorrow (Monday). If any school or college is affected by floods, the decision to close it will be made by the respective district's Deputy Commissioner."

"It will be mandatory for the management of private schools to ensure that the school building and classrooms are completely safe to guarantee



the safety of students and teachers," he added.

"On September 8, all government schools in the state will remain closed for students. Teachers will be present in the schools, and cleaning activities will be carried out with the assistance of panchayats, municipal councils, and corporations.

Teachers will thoroughly inspect school buildings. If any kind of issue or defect is found, it must be immediately reported to the district's Deputy Commissioner and the Engineering Department. From September 9, all government schools will

reopen as usual," he added.

Earlier, the Punjab government extended the closure of all schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions in the state until Sunday due to heavy rain and floods.

Bains had issued a strict warning to private schools and institutions, stating that complaints were being received that they were still calling staff members for work.

He had said strict action would be taken if private institutions did not follow the government's directions.

Meet Parul Dhadwal, Fifth-Generation Woman Officer Commissioned Into Army

►Parul Dhadwal was among 155 Officer Cadets who were commissioned into the Indian Army on Saturday.

Agency New Delhi.
The Parameswaran Drill Square of Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai, witnessed a proud moment on Saturday as 155 Officer Cadets, including 25 women, were commissioned into the Indian Army during a spectacular Passing Out Parade. Additionally, nine foreign officer cadets and 12 foreign officer cadets (women) from nine friendly foreign countries successfully completed their

training, fostering bonds of camaraderie and cooperation across international borders. The event also made history with the commissioning of Lieutenant Parul Dhadwal, the first woman officer from her illustrious military family's fifth generation, into the Army Ordnance Corps.
A total of 130 male cadets and 25 women cadets completed their rigorous training, embodying the Army's values of duty, courage, and sacrifice.
The immaculate parade, reviewed by Air Force Chief Amar Preet Singh, showcased precision and discipline. He presented the Sword of Honour and Silver Medal to ACA Raj Biswas, the OTA Gold Medal to AUO Parul Dhadwal, and the Bronze Medal to BUO Pranjali Dixit. Lt Parul Dhadwal's commissioning was the day's highlight. Standing first in the order of merit, she

received the President's Gold Medal, underlining her outstanding dedication and academic excellence. A resident of Janauri village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, she represents a rare fifth-generation military legacy.
Her great-great-grandfather, Subedar Harnam Singh, served with 74 Punjabis between 1896 and 1924. Her great-

grandfather, Major L.S. Dhadwal, served with 3 JAT, while Colonel Daljit Singh Dhadwal (7 JAK RIF) and Brigadier Jagat Jamwal (3 KUMAON) carried the torch forward.
Today, her father, Major General K.S. Dhadwal and brother Captain Dhananjay Dhadwal (20 SIKH) continue to serve, making it a rare instance of three serving officers in one family. The parade concluded with the solemn Pipping Ceremony, where cadets adorned their new ranks and pledged allegiance to the Constitution of India. As the young officers marched out of OTA Chennai, they embraced the academy's motto - 'Serve with Honour'.
For Lt Parul Dhadwal and her family, the moment symbolised both continuity of tradition and the breaking of new ground with the entry of its first woman officer in olive greens.



Pradhan calls for promoting Odisha's brand globally at India and Odisha Journalism Awards event

Agency New Delhi.
Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday emphasised the need to develop the "brand of Odisha" and bring the state into the global arena. Speaking at the India and Odisha Journalism Award event organised by Pallibani Mission, he said that through the National Education Policy 2020, they have worked to encourage all mother tongues of the country, and Odisha play a key role in realising the PM's 'Developed India' dream. The event was attended by Pradhan as the chief guest, Yoga guru Ramdev as the special guest, and The New Indian Express Group Editor Santwana Bhattacharya as the chief speaker. "In 1936, Odisha earned the distinction of forming the first linguistic-based state in the country, and we will soon witness its centennial celebration," he said. "As an Odia, it is our responsibility to establish their great culture, rich history, and heritage not only at the national level but also on the international stage," he added.
Sanjeev Paliwal, managing editor of International and Sahitya Tak; Pratap Somvanshi, managing editor of Hindustan; and Saurabh Dwivedi, founding editor of The Lallantop, were honoured with the Indian Journalism Award. The Odisha Journalism Award was presented to Sangram K Sarangi, editor of Argus Digital; Ratnakar Bhoi, district correspondent of Sambad; and Satyasundar Barik, special correspondent of The Hindu. Congratulating the awardees, Bhattacharya said, "We're a community under incessant attack from power, society, and technology. Society thinks we are too close to power, and power thinks that we are too close to society. Meanwhile, AI steals our work, feeds it back to us and tells us, We are no good."

Six rescued from blaze at shopping complex in central Delhi's Paharganj



Agency New Delhi.
Six people were rescued from a midnight fire that broke out inside a wholesale shopping complex in Central Delhi's Paharganj on Friday, police said. All the rescued individuals were taken to a nearby hospital for medical examination, and no major injuries were reported, officers added.
Police said a PCR call regarding the fire was received at the Paharganj police station around 2.06 am. Officers rushed to the scene at E Block of the flattened factory complex in Jhandewalan. Seven fire tenders were deployed to contain the blaze.
"The building is a wholesale shopping complex, which usually closes around 10.30 pm. However, on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, due to urgent parcel work, five employees were working late. The workers were trapped on the upper floors, along with the night guard, when the fire broke out.
According to the night guard's statement, the fire originated near the exit gate of the building, which blocked the passage and left the six of them trapped inside. The blaze started on the ground floor, and dense smoke soon engulfed the premises," said DCP Central, Nidhin Valsan.
A preliminary inquiry suggests the fire was triggered by an electrical short circuit, officers said. Those rescued were identified as Sagar (40), Santosh (45), Aniruddh (51), Chhotu (18), Dev (22), and Sunny. Police said two officers lifted a heavy stone and smashed through an iron grill at the rear of the building, creating an opening through which the night guard was pulled to safety. The remaining five workers were brought down with the help of fire services and evacuated from the complex, officers added.

Displaced by Yamuna floods, families struggle in makeshift camps along Delhi-Meerut Expressway

Agency New Delhi.
More than 70 families displaced by the Yamuna floods are living in makeshift tents along the Delhi-Meerut Expressway near Akshardham, struggling to survive amid harsh conditions. Forced to abandon their jhuggis and kuccha homes, they now face daily challenges in tarpaulin shelters. Sitting outside her tent, Ganga Devi said, "It is either demolition, or rain and now the flood. We hardly earn Rs 300-400 a day cleaning Delhi's garbage. Where will we go now?"
Inside 6x8 tents, clothes hang damp, refusing to dry in the rain. Kamlesh Kumar comforted his son, saying, "Only a couple of clothes are left and that's what we wear." Meena Kumari, a mother of three, added, "At night, when one child moves, the others wake up. We cook outside, but everything gets soaked."
The camp runs parallel to the



expressway, raising safety concerns. "We fear our children may run towards the highway. Who will stop a speeding truck?" said elderly Kapu Mukhiya.
Education has collapsed, with most children wandering or helping parents. Women cook lentils and rice

on open stoves with limited relief rations. Ram Kumar, once a flower seller, said, "Mosquitoes bite, rain leaks in and we cannot lock our tents." Officials said the Yamuna level stood at 206.47m, above the evacuation threshold of 206m, with agencies on alert.

Delhi airport to launch first luxury bus service to Noida, Greater Noida

Agency New Delhi.
Delhi airport operator DIAL will soon launch India's first luxury bus service connecting the airport with Noida and Greater Noida in the National Capital Region. The operator has partnered with inter-city bus service provider FlixBus to offer this premium service. The luxury bus service will provide a sustainable and affordable travel option for passengers, marking a significant milestone in the region's transportation infrastructure, DIAL said. "Passengers can avail of the luxury service for just Rs 199 each. Currently, about 20 per cent of Delhi airport's passengers use public transport... the new service is expected to further boost this share by providing



a premium and reliable alternative for passengers travelling to and from Noida and Greater Noida. The service will be available round-the-clock for all," DIAL said.
The routes will cover key locations in Noida and Greater Noida, including Sector 16, Botanical Garden, Golf

Course Road, Gaur City, Jaypee Wishtown, and Pari Chowk. Average travel time is expected to range from 130 to 180 minutes, depending on traffic conditions, DIAL said. Passengers using these luxury buses will enjoy a range of amenities, including real-time tracking, USB charging ports, CCTV surveillance, ample luggage space, and plush reclining seats. Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO, DIAL, highlighted the collaboration with FlixBus, stressing the importance of expanding public transport for flyers and reducing dependence on private vehicles. The initiative, he said, aims to set new standards in airport connectivity while promoting sustainable urban mobility.

'Lawyers have no right to strike as per SC': Bar Council of India urges Delhi lawyers to recall strike call

The strike had been called off after the Delhi Police Commissioner's office had issued a statement saying that "the Union Home Minister would meet the representatives of the Bar to discuss the issue with an open mind"

Agency New Delhi.
The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Saturday urged the coordination committee of all district court bar associations of Delhi to defer or recall its indefinite strike call from September 8 in protest against L-G V K Saxena's August 13 notification allowing police personnel to give evidence to courts from police stations via video conferencing.
"The Hon'ble Supreme Court, as we all know, has held that lawyers have no right to strike or call for a boycott of courts. Only the Bar Councils, as the statutory bodies under the Advocates Act, are entrusted with the authority to regulate the conduct of advocates, and therefore any collective abstention undertaken without their sanction from State Bar Councils may lack legitimacy and risk weakening the credibility of the

profession itself," a circular issued by the BCI read.
"...repeated abstentions from work are causing grave hardship to litigants, including undertrial prisoners and victims of crime, and also to those advocates who are eager to discharge their professional duties in Delhi Courts," it added while urging the members of the Coordination Committee to hold a joint meeting with the BCI and the State Bar Council of Delhi on Monday.
Last month, the Coordination Committee - representative of Delhi's lawyers - had gone on strike for six days against the August 13 notification. The strike had been called off after the Delhi Police Commissioner's office had issued a statement saying that "the Union Home Minister would meet the representatives of the Bar to discuss the issue with an



open mind".
However, in a circular dated September 4, the office of Police Commissioner Satish Golcha said that as per a Delhi High Court notification on August 4, designated places for recording evidence include prisons, forensic departments, prosecution offices, and police stations.

Opposing this, the Coordination Committee issued a circular stating that there will be a "complete indefinite abstention from work in all district courts of Delhi from Monday... and there shall also be agitation in a more intensified manner against the arbitrary and illegal notification".
Advocate Tarun Rana, secretary of the New Delhi Bar Association, said, "After this (new circular), I am more firm - either the genuine demand of lawyers in the interest of the public is fulfilled or we will continue our agitation in a more intensified manner." "If the BCI wanted to have a meeting, it could have done it before Monday. I urge all lawyers to stay strong. In my 33 years of experience, no justice can be done on video conferencing when it comes to presenting evidence," advocate Dhir Singh Kasana added.

PM Modi To Visit Flood-Hit Punjab On Tuesday To Review Relief Measures

Agency New Delhi.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on September 9 to take stock of the flood devastation that has hit several parts of the state. Punjab is facing one of its worst floods in decades, with the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi and several seasonal rivulets in spate due to heavy rain across north India. The Centre has assured that Punjab "will not be left alone in this crisis" and is working on short-term, medium-term and long-term plans to help farmers recover.
During his visit, the Prime Minister is expected to focus on urgent issues like silt removal from fields, preventing the outbreak of diseases and ensuring the safe disposal of dead animals once floodwaters recede.
Officials said the Centre and the state government will work together on ground-level relief and rehabilitation. Strengthening of embankments along the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and Ghaggar rivers - many of which have weakened over the years due to illegal mining - is also likely to be on the Prime Minister's agenda.
Officials on Saturday said that 46 people have died due to the devastating floods in Punjab.

The highest number of deaths has been reported from Hoshiarpur and Amritsar (seven each), followed by Pathankot (six), Barnala (five), Ludhiana and Bathinda (four each), Mansa (three), Gurdaspur, Rupnagar and SAS Nagar (two each), while one death each has been reported from Patiala, Sangrur, Fazilka and Ferozepur. The floods have also damaged crops on 1.75 lakh hectares of land and impacted about four lakh people in 1,996 villages across 23 districts.

Delhi: Boy reaches police station with knife lodged in chest, 3 juveniles held



Agency New Delhi.
On Thursday afternoon, a 15-year-old boy arrived at the Paharganj police station with a knife lodged in his chest. A student of a school in Central Delhi, the boy said he was stabbed by three of his schoolmates near the school gate. He was soon rushed to Kalawati Saran Hospital and later referred to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where he was operated upon and the knife was removed. The next evening, three of the boy's schoolmates were apprehended in a case of revenge attack, police said.
According to the boy, the three accused had confronted him at the school gate. "They argued and one of the accused threatened to kill the boy with a broken beer bottle... Then while another accused stabbed him, the others restrained him," an officer said.
Police said an inquiry revealed that about 10-15 days ago, one of the accused had been beaten up by some boys. "He suspected that the victim had instigated and sent those boys to assault him. To take revenge, the three juveniles confronted him at the school gate," DCP (Central) Nidhin Valsan said.
A case of attempt to murder was lodged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The three - aged 15 and 16 - were also booked under Arms Act. Following this, they were apprehended and the knife used in the stabbing and the broken beer bottle were recovered, police said.

NEWS BOX

Reinvigorated Jasprit Bumrah ready for some T20I action after over 1 year

New Delhi. (Agency)

India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is set to make his T20I return after over a year in the Asia Cup 2025. Bumrah, who last featured in a T20I game in the final of the T20 World Cup 2024, will be playing in the continental tournament, which features a total of 8 nations. The pace spearhead is coming off a month-long rest where he spent time with his family. Before that, he played 3 of the 5 Test matches against England. Speaking after India's first training session, Bumrah said that he was glad to be back in the T20I fray and that he feels re-energised after his time at home. It feels really good to join the T20 group after a long time. This three-week window was really good, got some time at home," Jasprit Bumrah said in a BCCI video. The fast bowler will have the support of Arshdeep Singh, who has slowly turned into India's best T20I pacer. Arshdeep will be hungry to get the coveted 100th T20I wicket, a feat that no Indian has achieved before. Speaking through the BCCI video, Arshdeep said that it was all fun and games now in training, but the team will get serious as the matchday comes closer.

"It is a lively environment. Laughter and banter



going around and it's day one so we will get into it. By the time we play the first match we will have full intensity," he said. India are being led by Suryakumar Yadav, who has taken over Rohit Sharma's World Cup-winning side. Suryakumar's India have played the game without fear and are expected to be heavy favourites in the tournament. "To have such a brilliant bunch around with unbelievable skill sets, I always have a smile on my face when I see those boys on the ground," Suryakumar Yadav said. The captain is himself returning after a sports hernia operation and focus will be on how he performs in the first game.

BCCI doubles revenue, adds Rs 14,627 crore in 5 years: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) might be going through some temporary sponsorship trouble, but it has steadily strengthened its coffers by Rs 14,627 crore over the past five years, reported Cricbuzz on Saturday. The report states that in 2023–24 alone, the board made Rs 4,193 crore, taking its cash and bank balance to Rs 20,686 crore. The rise, recorded after disbursing all dues to state units, has seen the general fund almost double from Rs 3,906 crore in 2019 to Rs 7,988 crore in 2024, as per the figures shared with state associations. The Indian Cricket Board is one of the most powerful sporting organisations in the world and takes on the massive task of sustaining the cricketing ecosystem in the country. The BCCI in recent years has started focusing on a lot of youth tournaments to provide overseas exposure for youngsters. According to the



report, the statement of accounts submitted at the 2024 AGM reads: "Honorary Secretary apprised the members that since 2019, the cash and bank balance of BCCI has increased from Rs 6,059 crore, which was before disbursing any amount to the state cricket associations, to Rs 20,686 crore, which is after disbursing all amounts owed to the state cricket associations. Therefore, since 2019, BCCI has added Rs 14,627 crore in the last five years. This is an increase of Rs 4,193 crore since the last financial year. Further, since 2019, the general fund too has increased from Rs 3,906 crore to Rs 7,988 crore, which is an increase of Rs 4,082 crore." It further stated that the BCCI continues to set aside huge sums for tax liabilities, provisioning Rs 3,150 crore for FY 2023–24 while contesting the matter in courts and tribunals. "The BCCI has provisioned Rs 3,150 crore towards income tax obligations for FY 2023–24. While BCCI is on the right track before the courts and tribunals, it has still made provisions towards paying any obligations that may arise towards tax," said the report.

Pakistan to start WTC 2025-27 cycle with two-match series against South

Pakistan will host South Africa in their opening series of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27. Faisalabad is set to host its first ODI in 17 years, marking a significant return of international cricket to the city.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan cricket team will begin their campaign in the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle 2025-27 against the defending champions South Africa. It will mark the first series for the Proteas in Pakistan since 2021, where they were whitewashed 2-0 under the leadership of Quinton de Kock. After the two Tests, the two teams will also lock horns in a three-match T20I series and an ODI series of as many matches. The Test series will begin on October 12 with the two matches being hosted in Lahore and



Rawalpindi, respectively. The three T20Is will be played from October 28 in Rawalpindi, with the remaining two matches

to be played in Lahore. On the other hand, all three ODIs will be played from November 4 at Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad, which is set to

host its first 50-over international in 17 years, with the last one being against Bangladesh in April 2008. We are looking forward to welcome South Africa for the opening series of our ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign. The return of ODI cricket to Faisalabad after 17 years is a special moment. Iqbal Stadium holds a proud place in our cricketing history and we are excited to bring international cricket back to this part of the country," said PCB Chief Operating Officer Sumair Ahmed Syed while announcing the series schedule. Apart from South Africa, Pakistan will also host West Indies and Australia at home in the WTC Cycle 2025-27. They will also travel overseas to play against Bangladesh, West Indies and England. Pakistan will aim to start their campaign on a winning note, having finally ended their 11-match winless streak at home by beating England 2-1 in October 2024. They further drew level 1-1 against the West Indies in January, earlier this year.

Aryna Sabalenka's champagne war with team after US Open victory

New Delhi. (Agency)

Aryna Sabalenka celebrated her US Open title defence in style. After beating Amanda Anisimova in a tough 1 hour, 34-minute battle, Sabalenka proceeded to play out a champagne-spraying war with her team. The video of the hilarious incident was captured by the tournament's official social media handle. Sabalenka, who had not won any Grand Slams this season, breathed a sigh of relief after beating USA's Anisimova. The US star had beaten Iga Swiatek in the semi-final and gave Sabalenka a run for her money in the summit clash. Aryna Sabalenka beat her opponent 6–3, 7–6(3), underlining her claim as the modern queen of the hardcourt. The Belarusian has not missed a hardcourt major final since 2022. Her latest trophy brings her Grand Slam haul to four, as she became the first woman to win back-to-back US Opens since Serena Williams claimed three straight from 2012 to 2014.

The clash between two of tennis's hardest-hitting, biggest-serving women boiled down to unforced errors, as Sabalenka kept them to 15 compared to 29 from the racket of her opponent. "I want to thank everyone who came here, who flew in to be there in my box," said



Sabalenka, who fell to her knees after clinching victory with an unreturnable serve and embraced her coaches in the stands in a scene of utter joy. "I'm going to reach a lot more finals and I don't care where

you are in the world, I want you in my box."

US Open 2025: Women's Singles Final Highlights Sabalenka, 27, had ice in her veins as she saved three break points in a nervy first game, and Anisimova handed over the early break when she sent a shot past the baseline in the second.

Anisimova hit her stride when she won a 12-shot rally with a forehand winner out of Sabalenka's reach to break back in the third game, and she went up a break as Sabalenka hit one beyond the baseline in the fifth.

The tiger-tattooed Belarusian prowled along the baseline in frustration, tuning out the fans who were squarely in her opponent's favour as she faced an American in the final for a third straight year. Sabalenka pounced on her chance to get the momentum back, breaking Anisimova to love in the sixth and converting on another break point from the baseline in the eighth. She closed out the first set with an unreturnable serve and sent a backhand whizzing past the American to convert on a break point in the third game of the second set.

Jitesh Sharma likely to be picked over Sanju Samson in India's Asia Cup opener: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jitesh Sharma is likely to be picked over Sanju Samson in India's opening match of the Asia Cup 2025. The Men in Blue are set to begin their campaign on September 10 against UAE, and the scenes from their first practice session indicate that Sanju Samson might get benched for the first fixture, with Jitesh Sharma getting the nod ahead of him.

Ever since Shubman Gill's return to the T20I setup, there have been questions over Samson's place in the playing XI as Gill, being the vice captain, is most likely going to open the innings. It leaves Samson competing with Jitesh for a spot in the middle order as a wicketkeeper batter. However, Jitesh seems to be India's preferred choice for the opening fixture as he underwent extended batting sessions under the watchful eyes of the head coach Gautam Gambhir during India's first practice session in Dubai. According to ESPN Cricinfo, Samson only faced throwdowns in the beginning, before padding up and going through a net

session. Despite Samson exhibiting his immaculate timing and monstrous hits, fresh from a prolific run in the Kerala Cricket League, Jitesh seems to be India's first-choice wicketkeeper batter. The 31-year-old flourished as the finisher for the



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their victorious campaign in the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). He amassed 261 runs from 11 innings at an

average of 37.28 and a strike rate of 176.35. Jitesh's best innings came against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), as his breathtaking 85* (33) helped RCB chase down 228 in just 18.4 overs and finish in the top two of the points table.

He last played for India in January 2024 against Afghanistan and has scored 100 runs from seven T20Is so far. On the other hand, Samson was seen in sensational form in the recent Kerala Cricket League, scoring 368 runs from five innings at an average of 73.60 and a breathtaking strike rate of 186.80. The 30-year-old has had a prolific run in T20Is after being promoted to open the innings by captain Suryakumar Yadav in the series against Bangladesh in October 2024. Samson has slammed three centuries from 12 innings since then, scoring 417 runs at an average of 37.90 with three centuries to his name. However, with Gill coming back into the fray, he will have to wait for his opportunity.



London. It is so addictive, and it is so good to know these kind of people. On your bad days when you feel a bit lethargic, you see them and think, 'let's go'. When you are at the top, everyone wants to be a Virat Kohli or Ronaldo, and for these two to keep their place is unbelievable," Chhetri said. Apart from the now standard Yo-Yo test, a DXA Scan, which is a simplified method to test bone density, was also done during the fitness test conducted by the BCCI. Meanwhile, Kohli will return to international cricket in the three-match ODI series against Australia in October.

The star batter last played for India in the Champions Trophy 2025 and scored a hundred in a successful chase against Pakistan in the league stage. He also scored a match-winning 84 vs Australia in the semi-final. Kohli announced his retirement from Tests in May 2025 and now will only feature in ODIs.

Back in form: India's clinical domination of China

Rajgir . (Agency)

Just when doubts were surfacing and words like "out of form" were being used for certain players and passages of play at the Asia Cup in Rajgir, the Indian men's hockey team constructed a dizzying world of flair, style, and finesse. They demolished China 7-0 to advance to the final, a seminal piece of work spread over four quarters and the better part of sixty minutes. Their dominance was such that China, a team that had made India struggle for a 3-2 victory in the group stages, hardly saw the ball or the inside of India's striking circle.

Many would point to China's world ranking of 22 against India's seven, and the fact that India are Olympic bronze and Asian Games gold medallists. Yet, in a scenario where the top five teams were running each other close, this was a significant victory. It was a win where the team shed its doubts and a good amount of rustiness, playing with a panache not seen in recent months. China was surprised—not just by the ferocity of the attacks, but by India's control. India had China in a stranglehold. Gone was the one-dimensional play that India usually got stuck in. With fans cheering their every move, India



played with velvet feet; the ball fizzing around, enjoying itself, as Indian sticks turned and swirled, the touches giving the game a surreal feeling. If China believed India would turn up and play the usual game—struggling at the back, misfiring in the middle, and missing chances upfront—their coaches need to take the blame for that. Craig Fulton, on the other hand, reshuffled the deck and came out with a whole new deal. Unlike the game against Malaysia, Abhishek was allowed to move into the striking circle, and Shilanand Lakra played a supporting role from the middle and top of the circle. The midfield opened outwards and not so much through the middle. The back line moved up from the flanks,

held, and rotated, avoiding mis-passes that could have turned into counterattacks. What China prepared for didn't happen. Neither did their bench have any ideas that could have stopped the free-fall, cutting off the lines that fed the Indian forwards constantly. Modern hockey may be about player intelligence and on-field flexibility, but it is also heavily dependent on what the bench dictates. China's biggest failure was a lack of ideas from their coaching minds. Hockey Asia Cup: India vs China Highlights

India used the aerial effectively but sparingly. The first goal came off a Harmanpreet aerial, picked up by Jarmanpreet on the edge of the circle. The cross was low and hard to Shilanand Lakra, who pushed it powerfully into the goal. Less than two minutes on the board, India led 1-0 with a goal from a player who had not only found his feet but was playing with an attractive blend of confidence and guile. If he wasn't getting into scoring positions, his runs and ball-holding created chances for others. It led to India's first penalty corner. Harmanpreet Singh's flick was stopped by Qijun Chen on the line. The rebound was tapped in by Dilpreet.

A new China-led Axis thanks to Donald Trump

MUMBAL(Agency)

What we have witnessed in recent days in Tianjin and then China’s ‘Victory Parade’ in Beijing this week is nothing short of momentous. As nations struggle and pivot around to realign to a new axis, these are watershed moments perhaps not seen since the dramatic Bandung Declaration of 1955. It was in Bandung, Indonesia 70 years ago, when 29 Asian and African developing countries laid the foundation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) advocating political and economic independence of nations from the Cold War power blocs.For this dramatic shift in geopolitics, we have to thank none other than Donald Trump. Unleashing a tariff assault across the globe, and threatening foes and friends alike, he has re-juggled the dominoes and opened a large window of opportunity for China to lead a new anti-US axis.

Attempting to force India and others to queue up behind his ‘America-first’ doctrine, it is Trump who has triggered a new movement of self respect among nations. Admitting to shooting himself in the foot, Trump said on Truth Social on Friday: "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future together."

Tianjin and Beijing

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) floated by China in 1996 as a security bloc dubbed the ‘Shanghai Five’ has always been a nondescript set-up. It was initially formed in 1996 to settle post-colonial border disputes between Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Trump has just breathed life into this regional bloc as nervous nations look for alternative markets after the hammer blows of the US’ new tariff regime kicked in. When the last session of the SCO was held in July 2024, Prime Minister Modi opted out on the pretext of a Parliament session at home. It was a snub to the Chinese at a time when India had declared itself to be the US’ card against Chinese domination. With the additional ‘Russian oil’ tariff of 50% kicking in from 27 August, India is now looking to mend fences with China as its opts for a more multi-polar foreign policy. No wonder Narendra Modi went scurrying to Tianjin.

The SCO platform has thus served as an important platform for the new found allies to send out their varying signals. For India, the hand-holding bonhomie displayed by India’s PM towards Vladimir Putin was a clear signal India will assert its right to buy Russian oil and arms if it comes cheaper than American-made.

Stocks to buy: What's the outlook for Nifty for week starting September 8? Check list of top stock recommendations

New Delhi.(Agency)

Stock market recommendations: According to Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical Research and Derivatives, SBI Securities, the top stock picks for this week are Swiggy, and Goldiam International Ltd. Here’s his view on Nifty, Bank Nifty for the week starting September 8, 2025:Nifty ViewThe benchmark index Nifty experienced notable volatility throughout the past week, with each trading session beginning with either a gap-up or gap-down, underscoring the prevailing uncertainty in market sentiment. Alongside these erratic openings, the index frequently reversed sharply from intraday highs and lows, making it a tough landscape for traders and keeping market participants alert.

After hitting a recent low of 24404, Nifty bounced back with a recovery rally, despite the ongoing volatility, and managed to close the week in the green. On the weekly chart, it printed a bullish candle with a long upper shadow, indicating that while buyers stepped in, selling pressure remained evident at higher levels.

From a technical perspective, Nifty continues to trade above its 100-day and 200-day EMAs, suggesting that the long-term trend is still intact. However, the index is currently fluctuating near its 20-day and 50-day EMAs, reflecting indecision in the short- to medium-term outlook.Interestingly, all major moving averages are flat, which typically signals a lack of momentum and a phase of consolidation. This is further supported by momentum indicators like RSI and MACD, which are also showing neutral readings, reinforcing expectations of a range-bound movement in the near term.

GST reforms: Two-wheeler sales may grow 5-6%; PVs likely to see modest 2-3% rise

New Delhi.(Agency)

Two-wheeler sales are expected to grow by 5-6 per cent this fiscal, aided by the GST Council’s recent tax rationalisation, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.Passenger vehicles (PVs) are forecast to see a modest 2-3 per cent rise.As per news agency ANI, Crisil said the rate reduction would lift demand in the auto sector, which has been under pressure in recent months. Two-wheelers and PVs, together accounting for nearly 90 per cent of industry volumes, are expected to see demand increase by 200 basis points and 100 basis points, respectively.Sales in the two-wheeler segment had slowed in the first quarter due to the impact of new On-Board Diagnostics II norms and weak rural demand following the early and intense monsoon.For PVs, affordability issues and purchase delays had weighed on sales.“With the GST cut fully passed on, vehicle prices are expected to drop 5-10 per cent (Rs 30,000–60,000 on small PVs; Rs 3,000–7,000 on two-wheelers). With the rate cut coinciding with the Navratri and the festive season, sentiment would get a timely boost. Coupled with new launches.

From Tamil Nadu To UP: Who’s Winning India’s Factory Race Check The Complete List

The biggest surge came from Uttar Pradesh, which added nearly 3,000 factories in just one year—rising from 19,168 to 22,141. Fifteen years ago, UP ranked fifth with just 13,756 factories; today, it has broken into the top league as India’s most dynamic industrial gainer.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Fresh ASI data for FY2023–24, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, shows Tamil Nadu hosting 40,121 factories, marginally up from 39,676 a year earlier. Gujarat secured the second spot with 33,311 factories, a healthy jump from 31,080, while Maharashtra stayed third with



26,539 factories.The biggest surge came from Uttar Pradesh, which added nearly 3,000 factories in just one year—rising from 19,168 to 22,141. Fifteen years ago, UP ranked fifth with just 13,756 factories; today, it has broken into the top league as India’s most dynamic industrial

gainer.Other states in the top 10 include Andhra Pradesh (16,011), Karnataka (14,984), Telangana (13,446), Punjab (13,166), Rajasthan (10,868), and Haryana (10,389). Interestingly, Kerala and West Bengal—once part of the elite list in 2010—have been replaced by new

challengers Haryana and Telangana, signalling a shift in India’s industrial map.UP’s rise is particularly striking. With over 7.3 million registered MSMEs—second only to Maharashtra’s 8.9 million and ahead of Tamil Nadu’s 5.4 million—the state has rapidly become a manufacturing powerhouse. Government data also shows a 60.8 percent jump in MSME-linked manufacturing jobs in UP last year, reflecting the speed of this transformation.

The churn among the top states underscores a broader trend: industrial growth is no longer restricted to traditional hubs. The entry of states like Telangana and Haryana points to fresh opportunities for small and mid-sized businesses in emerging regions.As India pursues its USD 5-trillion economy target, this evolving factory landscape doubles up as a roadmap for MSMEs—encouraging them to scale up faster, tap into industrial clusters, and ride the wave of state-led manufacturing growth.

GST Reforms To Boost Global Capability Centers' Growth In India: Report

Earlier, services by GCCs to overseas affiliates often faced the risk of “intermediary” classification, leading to disputes, GST taxability on services and denial of export benefits, according to the report by Grant Thornton Bharat.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The GST reforms will directly bolster global capability centres’ (GCCs) operations in India -- not just with tax adjustments but also helping them with enhanced global competitiveness, cost structures and cash flows, a report said on Sunday. The 56th GST Council meeting has delivered one of the most sweeping tax overhauls since 2017.Earlier, services by GCCs to overseas affiliates often faced the risk of “intermediary” classification, leading to disputes, GST taxability on services and denial of export benefits,

according to the report by Grant Thornton Bharat.With the omission of Section 13(8)(b) of the IGST Act, place of supply for such services will now be determined by location of the recipient. This ensures that the services delivered abroad are treated as exports, eligible



for zero-rating and ITC refunds,” the report informed.The amendment will lead to greater certainty, competitiveness and may grant relief from prolonged litigation. Further, it will also provide new avenues for growth by transitioning intermediary functions to the Indian GCCs.The Council has revised GST rates on several goods and services. Reduction in rates on air conditioners, monitors

and increase in rates on passenger transport /renting of motor vehicles and air transport services (except for economy class).

“For GCCs, this translates ito both a positive as well as negative impact depending on the nature of goods/ services procured along with the eligibility of ITC,” the report mentioned.Provisions related to sanctioning of 90 per cent refund on provisional basis were already present; however, due to manual interventions, the implementation was not effective.“With the proposed risk-based identification and evaluation of refund claims through system, it may enable effective implementation of the above provisions. This provision and process will be operationalised from November 1, 2025. Faster, risk-based refunds will ease working capital pressure and improve cash flow predictability,” the report noted.

The number of Global Capability Centres (GCC) in India are expected to increase from 1,700 to over 2,200 by 2030.

DA Hike 2025: Central Govt Employees, Pensioners May Get 3% Raise Ahead Of Diwali

New Delhi.(Agency)

While waiting for the formation of the 8th Pay Commission is stretching each passing day, the central government employees and pensioners may expect another Dearness Allowance (DA) hike very soon. The Centre is expected to announce a Dearness Allowance (DA) hike for employees and pensioners ahead of the festive season, including Diwali. The move is projected to bring major relief to over 1.2 crore central government employees and pensioners, while increasing their discretionary income with Dussehra and Diwali festivals on the horizon.



Recommended StoriesThe DA of the employees will likely increase by 3 per cent from 55 per cent to 58 per cent. The dearness allowance (DA) hike is announced twice a year -- effective January and July. Going by the inflation trend, the July 2025 DA hike

for central government employees is likely to be at 3-4%.The DA hike is announced twice a year in February-March and September-October, with retrospective effect from January and July each year, respectively. It helps employees offset the impact of inflation.

How Is DAHike Calculated?

The hike in dearness allowance (DA) is calculated based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), which is released monthly by the Labour Bureau. The government calculates the DA hike by averaging CPI-IW data for the preceding 12 months, and applying a specific formula under the 7th Pay Commission:

Will personally monitor GST rate cuts are passed on to the consumer: Sitharaman

Desperate to raise consumption in the economy, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that while the relief in income tax this year left more money in the hands of common people, the GST rejig will allow for greater spending, making things more affordable.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Calling the landmark GST overhaul a ‘people’s reform’, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that rationalisation of rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family, boost consumption, and bolster the economy. In an interview to PTI, the Finance Minister said she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction but hastened to add that industry has shown

positivity towards such cuts. Within days of the decision, from car makers to public sector insurance companies and shoe and apparel brands have already announced significant price cuts and the rest are likely to follow suit by the time new GST rates are implemented, she said. Nearly 400 products – from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners – will cost less when the rejig of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri on September 22. Premium paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free. A third rate of 40 per cent has been earmarked for a small list of sin goods and ultra-luxury items.

This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST,” she said. Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change – 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else. The

existing slab of 12 and 28 per cent rates have been done away with. In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab with bread, milk and paneer



attracting no tax at all.Sitharaman said the reform – the single biggest since the 2017 rollout of the one-nation, one tax regime – has been carried out with a focus on the common man. Every tax on daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically. While the significant relief in income tax that she gave in her Budget in February this year left more money in the hands of common people,

the GST rejig will allow for greater spending, making things more affordable. “People do understand for example, Rs 100 with which they go to the shop to buy a thing. Today, the same Rs 100 they can buy one and a half of the commodity. Earlier, they bought one,” she said. So this rate reduction is going to bring down monthly household ration and medical bills, as well as help aspirational buying like upgrading from car, replacing white goods like refrigerator or washing machine.“There is not going to be one family which is going to be without this positive impact of the GST touching them... 140 crore people are going to benefit from this in one way or the other. So this will boost consumption, and as a result, I think the virtuous cycle will start,” she said. Asked about monitoring mechanism for ensuring passing on of GST rate cut benefit, Sitharaman said the ministry has been talking with industry and trade. “They’ve all come out openly to say we will pass this on. So, I can see the positivity from industry and trade... I’m very confident they will pass it on,” she said.



According to Peush Jain, MD, Commercial Leasing & Advisory, Anarock Group, over 200 GCCs have already created demand for more than ₹30,000 crore worth of commercial real estate. “Cities like Jaipur, Indore, and Coimbatore are emerging as attractive destinations since prices are 20–40% lower, while offering better chances of retaining talent,” he said.Urvisha Jagasheth, assistant vice-president, research, Knight Frank India, added: “The entry of IT parks and GCCs has positioned Tier 2 and 3 cities as new growth engines for real estate. These locations are benefiting from improved connectivity, cost arbitrage, and a large skilled talent pool. Developers are actively acquiring land and launching projects to capture this wave of corporate migration.”In South India, GCCs are heavily concentrated in Coimbatore, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Mysuru, and Visakhapatnam, each hosting more than 20 centers.



Alia Bhatt

After Her Pickleball Session, Greet Paps With A Warm Smile And Wave

When Alia Bhatt is not shooting for her projects, she makes sure to take some time out for herself. Instead of sticking only to gym workouts, she puts on her sports shoes and swaps her routine regimes with a game of pickleball. On Saturday, September 6, the actress was spotted outside the building in Mumbai, where she usually plays pickleball. As seen in a video shared on Instagram, she was stepping out after an energetic session of the game with a bunch of her friends. The actress was dressed in a game-appropriate outfit, comprising a black tank top paired with white bottoms and white sneakers. With her hair tied neatly into a bun for the game, she let her post-game glow do all the talking.

In the clip, Alia seemed relaxed and cheerful as she chatted and laughed with a few others before heading towards her car. The paparazzi, who were waiting outside, did not miss their chance to capture the actress in this joyful mood. Alia, too, acknowledged their presence. With a warm smile on her face, she waved at them before she entered her car to leave the place.

When Alia Bhatt Lashed Out At Paps For Entering Building Premises

Alia Bhatt was spotted at the pickleball game just weeks after she lashed out at shutterbugs when they tried to step inside the building premises to capture her photos. The incident occurred when the actress arrived for a pickleball game and noticed that they had started following her inside. Although she was angry, she still politely asked them to respect her privacy and leave the premises.

In the video shared on social media, Alia entered the gate, and as paps followed her, she told them, "Gate ke andar mat aaye. Aapka building nai hai. Please bahar jao. Please bahar jao. Abhi aap jaiye. Aapka building nai hai, aap nai aa sakte hai andar. Aap sunn nai rahe hai. Nai (Don't come inside the gate. This is not your building. Please go outside. Please go outside. Leave right now. This is not your building, you cannot come inside. You're not listening)." When they left, she said, "Thank you" and headed inside.

What's Next For Alia Bhatt?

Alia Bhatt, who was last seen in Vasan Bala's Jigra, will soon be seen in YRF's spy film, Alpha. She is also starring in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War. The film marks her reunion with her actor-husband, Ranbir Kapoor, after their collaboration on Brahmastra. Bhansali's directorial also stars Vicky Kaushal in the lead. Moreover, Alia was recently appointed as Levi's newest Global Brand Ambassador.



Draped In Gold And Grace: Mouni Roy's Onam Style Is Textbook Perfect



Actress Mouni Roy marked the festive occasion of Onam by embracing tradition and elegance in a stunning Kerala-style saree. She shared a festive picture on Instagram, capturing the spirit of the celebration with a radiant smile and a traditional Onam spread laid out before her. Draped in a classic white-and-gold Kasavu saree, Mouni looked breathtaking as she took part in the cultural festivities.

Her attire, complemented by traditional gold jewellery and jasmine-adorned hair, beautifully reflected the essence of Kerala's most cherished festival. She captioned her Instagram post, "Happy Onam to all celebrating #home."

Traditional Touch With A Modern Flair

Mouni looks graceful in the picture, savouring an Onam Sadhya, the traditional South Indian feast served on a banana leaf, symbolising the harvest festival. Her understated yet elegant attire won the admiration of her followers, with many praising her for honouring South Indian culture so beautifully.

The actor's post received an overwhelming response, drawing thousands of likes and comments applauding her for embracing tradition with such poise. The festive tableau of Onam, complete with traditional attire and delicacies, brought a vibrant cultural touch to social media timelines.

Celebrating The Spirit Of Onam

Onam, celebrated primarily in Kerala, is a 10-day harvest festival that honours the homecoming of the mythical King Mahabali. It is marked by bright floral arrangements, cultural performances and a grand traditional feast.

Mouni's gesture of sharing her celebration online struck a chord with many, drawing attention to the cultural richness and timeless beauty of the festival. The occasion also reflected how Indian celebrities are increasingly turning to social platforms to highlight regional traditions. Mouni's photograph served as a graceful tribute to the values of unity, prosperity, and joy that Onam embodies.

Prajakta Koli's Festive Selfie With Husband Vrishank Khanal Is Too Cute. Not Our Words



From vibrant sarees to laid-back gym looks, Prajakta Koli's latest post gives fans a candid peek into her colourful and cosy week at home.

Content creator and actress Prajakta Koli, popularly known as MostlySane, has once again set social media abuzz with her recent Instagram post. Last Friday, she uploaded a carousel of unposed moments that captured a blend of fashion, fun, fitness, and snug corner, all strung together with the tongue-in-cheek caption: "The week of yellow sarees and dirty books." The post, which contains several snapshots of Koli in different moods and situations, has already collected hundreds of thousands of likes in hours, demonstrating her ongoing relatability and popularity among fans.

A Fusion of Fashion, Fitness and Home Vibes

In the photo series, Koli is caught, hugged by a bright yellow saree in one pic, exuding old-world charm, while snuggling up with her husband in another. In another, she is captured sporting a yellow face mask, showing off her self-care regimen, and in another, she is hugging a black gym outfit, exuding post-workout vibes.

From makeup-free moments to glammed-up shots, each photo offers a slice-of-life glimpse into the creator's week. The inclusion of books, casual reading scenes and cosy corners gave fans a peek into Koli's downtime, making the post both aspirational and relatable.

Fans Celebrate Her Realness and Humour

Prajakta's witty caption, "yellow sarees and dirty books," had her fans chuckling and commenting in droves. Known for blending humour with honesty, the caption instantly resonated, sparking admiration and affectionate teasing from her 35.4 million Instagram followers.

"Why is this the most aesthetic chaos I've seen today?" commented one fan. Another added, "From desi girl to gym babe to skincare queen—you're everything!"

Prajakta's Consistent Influence Across Platforms

Koli, who has made a name for herself in both the film and digital spaces, remains true to balancing influencer persona with genuineness. Her new post isn't merely a style moment; it's an expression of her changing, multi-faceted self.

After Ex-Husband Raqesh Bapat's Birthday Bash

Ridhi Dogra

Leaves For Saudi Holiday



National Geographic, the world's premier storyteller in science, exploration, and culture, is set to captivate audiences with its newest travel series, Postcards From Saudi Arabia. Premiering September 6, 2025, the four-part series shows Saudi Arabia's rich cultural, historical, and natural landscapes. And guess what? Acclaimed actor and television presenter Ridhi Dogra is hosting the series. In the series, Ridhi embarks on a breathtaking journey through three of Saudi Arabia's eight UNESCO World Heritage sites. From the majestic ruins of AlUla's Hegra and the vibrant city life of Riyadh to the cultural heartbeat of Jeddah and the pristine beauty of the Red Sea, Postcards From Saudi Arabia reveals something extraordinary about them. Each episode explores a different side of Saudi Arabia.

What will Ridhi Dogra explore in AlUla?

The series takes viewers through beautiful landscapes and historical richness. You will see everything from the ancient marvels of Hegra and the iconic Elephant Rock to the lively Old Town. Local crafts, music, and contemporary desert luxury combine to reveal a dynamic culture heavily influenced by history and storytelling.

Saudi Arabia's capital

At the heart of Saudi Arabia lies its capital, Riyadh. This is a city where the past and future walk side by side. The series will show Ridhi Dogra exploring Al Diriyah, where mudbrick walls and distinct triangle windows echo the nation's beginnings, and move into galleries where calligraphy transforms into vibrant modern art. As night falls, Riyadh finds a new beat, with neon streets, dancing fountains, and a vibrant nightlife scene.

Next Destination is Jeddah

Here, the episode will show how tradition and modernity harmoniously intertwine. Ridhi Dogra explores the narrow alleyways and historic souks of Al-Balad before shifting to the city's vivid street art, delicious local cuisine and the mesmerising sunsets over Saudi's Red Sea. Ridhi Dogra will also dive in the Red Sea's coral reefs and sail over crystal-clear waters. The series also uncovers luxury experiences that reflect Saudi's blend of modern opulence and deep-rooted heritage.

Ridhi Dogra was moved and inspired on this journey

Speaking about the experience, the Jawan actress was quoted as saying by The Daily Jagaran, "Hosting Postcards From Saudi Arabia has been nothing short of eye-opening. As a woman travelling through the location, I felt an unexpected sense of freedom, warmth, and welcome. The people, the culture, the stories – they left me moved and inspired."



Restaurant review: Moonshine Café & Bar

Wondering how the concept of Moonshine and a cafe-bar could go together? This place truly resonates the American concept of distilling liquor at night "by the light of the moon,"



A venture by five friends - Kabeer Marwaha, Anuj Pawra, Nitin Chaudhary, Ankit Dayal, Amit Saxena kicked off pretty well. Surprisingly none of the group members come from a hotel management background but have crafted a good way to attract the customers. The Moonshine Cafe & Bar occupies largely young adults, where the big space transforms into a dancing floor in no time. Decor & Music Located at Hauz Khas Village, Moonshine Cafe & Bar seamlessly divides the interiors into sections which play different genres of music suiting your aural senses. American pop-culture is the core of the theme: Chicago's skyline on the walls, posters (ad or film??), in the backdrop of an industrial design, softened with dim-lighting. The place is furnished with tall wooden tables and chairs and long couches. The music stays the focal element of Moonshine Cafe & Bar: Wednesdays are Sufi

men u are, midori illusion, Irish passion and Charlie Chaplin. Food/snacks And to complement your cocktail, Cheese and Jalapeno croquettes would be good - these barrel shaped deep fried fritters are served with barbeque sauce and house salad; thinly sliced jalapenos, beetroot and tomatoes give you a perfect taste. For the non-veggies, Beer Batter Fish served with tartar sauce and french fries, is a fine choice. The upper crust of deep fried fish is crispy and melts down with the tangy sauce within). Apart from the regular chart, Moonshine burgers are worth a try. These small-sized burgers could be eaten in one go and act like a topping. Enjoy these burgers with your personalised drink. However, you feel there are lesser options for the mains, apart from Thai green curry, fajitas, keema pao and few more dishes; the menu could be pushed further to choose from a varied range. People looking for a party place with friends/colleagues and even family, Moonshine Cafe & Bar could be a good option, not certainly you should wait for the weekend to move to this place.

nig hts; the cafe also has live performances and the performers do play music on demand. While electronic, house, classic rock and popular jazz are regular on cafe's playlist, series of medley keeps the sensation at the top of barometer. Cocktails Try the Refresh Cooler (a blend of white rum, old monk, fresh pineapple juice, orange juice and grenadine syrup), because when you are having a grilled platter the ingredients of refresh cooler do quench the thirst better than others. You get a refreshing kick back of your mind. People looking for something in-house can try the Moonshine Caprioska (a mixture of orange juice, vodka, orange chunks, chat masala topped with soda). Caprioska describes the taste of an ardent cocktail admirer, the spice of chat masala lingers on your tongue. Try for a fine balance of tanginess and masala. A few other good options from the bar



Despite her busy schedule, the beautiful actress never misses a date with her first love—cooking It was a foregone conclusion at her para in Jalpaiguri that one day she would become a chef or open her own restaurant, but Mimi Chakraborty ended up entertaining her neighbours and other Bengal residents alike as an actress. That, of course, didn't mean a premature end to her love affair with all things culinary. "As it is said, you shouldn't marry your best friend. Likewise, I believe not every passion should be transformed into a profession. Cooking is my stress-buster, my hobby, my love," said the actress with a twinkle in her eye. "Not many know that I go shopping for various spices ahead of Puja to rustle up special dishes during the festival," said the actress, who is busy adding to her sari collection for Puja. "I love experimenting with spices and coming up with exotic dishes. After all, proper seasoning is crucial. I once made brinjal curry with thyme leaf paste and my friends said that it tasted like heaven. Why, one day, I might even mix oregano in gourd curry!" laughed Mimi, who can cook for at least 50 people without aid. "On Saptami, at least 30 of us go pandal hopping all night long and the meeting place is my house. So, dinner is on me. My friends can digest anything under the sun; so, the best thing to cook for them is khichuri! But then again, they hate veg khichuri. So, this year, I'm cooking keema khichuri for them. But that's not enough for my friends, who are always dying of hunger! Some of them want kebabs to go with the khichuri," the actress said, her glowing face showing how much she loved to cook for her friends. Mimi was always keen about cooking and used to help out her ma and kakima to prepare items for their food stall near their neighbourhood Durga Puja pandal in Jalpaiguri. "Ma is an awesome cook and the egg devils and fish chops used to sell like hot cakes from our stall. I wish to write a cook book some day," smiled the actress, before sharing her own keema khichuri recipe with us. "I've altered the traditional khichuri recipe handed down to me by ma to

Mimi's kitchen Escapades



Bay leaves: 2 Red chillies: 2 Garam masala (whole): 1 tbsp Garam masala (powder): 1 tsp Turmeric powder: 1 tbsp Olive oil: 3 tbsp Salt: to taste Method Wash the mutton keema, mix with salt and keep aside for an hour. Soak the rice and dal separately in water. Heat two-three tablespoons of olive oil in a pressure cooker and once it's

make it tasty yet healthy. And it takes just 30 minutes to cook! After all, during Puja, the priority is to look my best. So, cooking any dish that takes too much time is a no-no," she said. Keema Khichuri (serves 4) Ingredients: Mutton keema: 250 gm Rice: 2 cups Moong dal: ¼ cup Masoor dal: ¼ cup Onion: 3 (chopped) Ginger paste: 3 tsp Garlic paste: 3 tsp Tomato: 1 (chopped)

hot, add the bay leaves, red chillies, whole garam masala, garlic paste, ginger paste, chopped tomato, onion slices and salt. Stir fry for a while. Add a little water and let it boil on a medium flame for a while. Add the keema and cook for five-seven minutes. Strain the soaked rice and dal and add to the keema mixture. Add water and turmeric powder and stir for a few minutes. Pressure cook till three to four whistles. Once done, add garam masala powder and stir the khichuri for three-four minutes. Garnish with fried onions and serve hot.

Taking the place of My Humble House, it uses all the possible scientific methods to not just infuse taste but also enhance the flavours of ingredients. You not only watch the drama unfold at this grand five star eatery right in front of you on your table, but also participate in this stimulating dining. Name the technique, and chef Vikramjit Roy has used it. Cooking the meats sous vide, using dehydrated fruits and veggie slices to having soups ooze out of an infuser—there's no trick in the book that Vikramjit has not tried. It is no wonder that it is being hailed as a 'game-changer.' Be prepared to enjoy a Thai dish with lemongrass smoke to awaken your olfactory system or tickle your taste buds with frozen fruits used as dry ice. One has to give it to chef though that despite using all the avant garde cooking techniques, he has kept the fare familiar. It's a lot of fun on every plate. The menu also steers clear of regular nomenclature and terms starters as 'The curtain raiser' with lamb satay and Thai fish cakes with peppery condiments while soups are named 'The prelude' featuring purity of earth soup high on dehydrated sliced carrots and mushrooms with an infuser pouring the stock! The main course dishes are named 'Star cast' featuring herbed John Dory served with garlic spinach and kabocha (Korean squash) mash and duck red curry (their very own version of Thai red curry) made sous vide in a coconut shell. The staff has been trained to inform each diner about the ingredients and process of preparing each dish. The

Restaurant Review: Tian

Tian calls itself 'Asian cuisine studio.' It could well call itself a food lab too. For a meal at this new restaurant is nothing short of delectable experiment.



While each dish is a star in its own right, the real star of the dining experience remains the 'eat off your table' dessert. Frozen chocolates here, nitrogen cooled ingredients there and you have special sweet treat on your table. That may be part of chef's special menu only though. It's a five star treat you mustn't miss. Try it for novelty sake and we bet you can't have it just once. Must Try: Red duck curry, purity of earth soup, lamb satay, Thai fish cake with spicy mango

relish Where: ITC Maurya, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi Meal for two: Rs 5,000 approx; Timings: 7-11.30 pm

Recipe: Mutton Curry in mustard oil



Cooking mutton curry in pressure cooker involves a few easy steps Ingredients: One kg mutton, salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil, ginger garlic paste, dahi, garam masala, potatoes, four or five big onions, green chillies, one big tomato.

Method: Lightly wash the mutton pieces, remove water and keep in mixing bowl. Do not over wash mutton. Sprinkle salt, turmeric powder, mustard oil and a little bit of ginger garlic paste, and let it marinate for a while. You can add a spoon of dahi too. The onions need to be thinly sliced. In a

pressure cooker, heat mustard oil till it starts smoking and add all the Bengali garam masalas (cloves, cardamom, cinnamon and tej patta) and green chillies according to your taste. When they start spluttering, add the chopped onions and saute till they are almost red. Now add the ginger garlic paste and stir well. Add tomato and fry till oil separates, then add turmeric powder, dhaniya and jeera powder. Stir well and cook for about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the mutton pieces and stir well. Cook for at least 15-20 minutes by stirring occasionally. This is a crucial step. Next, taste and fix the salt. You can add a little bit of garam masala and pepper powder according to your preference. Add warm water to get the gravy. Now, add the potatoes. Generally, a big one is sliced into halves. You can fry the potatoes at the onset and leave them aside, before adding them at this point. Cover and cook on high flame till you get about 5 or 6 whistles in pressure cooker. Now reduce the flame to check the seasoning and adjust salt. Add some ghee to it if you want it rich.