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**PUBLISHED FROM**  
Delhi, Haryana, Uttar  
Pradesh, Punjab,  
Chandigarh, Himachal  
and Jammu

# The Sikh Times

## National Daily

**VISIT:**  
[www.thesikhtimes.in](http://www.thesikhtimes.in)  
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Vol. 17 No. 114

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Tuesday, 9 September 2025

sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

9654077232

12 pages ₹ 3

## Making the Yamuna river clean & pure is our govt's commitment: CM Rekha Gupta

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

New Delhi, 8 September 2025

The Rekha Government of Delhi has launched yet another important initiative to truly transform the nation's capital into a "Viksit Delhi." To effectively resolve three major challenges of the city pollution in the Yamuna, the mounting waste hills, and air pollution the government will also involve the industry and corporate sector. The government believes that this initiative is in continuation of several successful efforts undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the context of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), encouraging partnership between government and industry. Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta stated that making the Yamuna River clean and pure is a firm commitment of her government.

To deliberate on this crucial subject, a programme titled "Revival of Yamuna and Delhi - A CSR Dialogue" was

organised yesterday at Raj Niwas. The dialogue was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Mr Vinay Kumar Saxena, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta, and Water Minister Mr Praveesh Sahib Singh.

In addition to senior government officials, representatives of leading industry associations, Indian corporates, and public sector heads also participated. The Delhi Jal Board presented a roadmap of areas where partnership could be established with the industry.

In the dialogue, Lieutenant Governor Mr V.K. Saxena observed that the three major problems inherited by the new government Yamuna river pollution, towering solid waste heaps, and air pollution were the chief challenges of Delhi, which have brought international disrepute to the national capital. He noted that the Delhi government has been making every possible effort to address these problems, with positive results already becoming visible. The Lieutenant Governor further emphasised that these efforts would only

succeed if all sections of society, particularly the corporate sector, play their role through CSR. Chief Minister also referred to the three



inherited challenges and said that the expected cooperation from the corporate sector must focus on technology for sewage treatment and the development of

such work-culture that could bring a permanent end to the pollution of the Yamuna. Mrs Rekha Gupta suggested that industries establish a "corpus fund" under their CSR initiatives. She assured that the Delhi Jal Board would provide industries with a list of projects where they could directly utilise their CSR funds. The Chief Minister was clear that keeping the Yamuna clean and pure is a top priority of her government. She added that her government intends to restore the river to its original pristine form, which the people of Delhi also long for.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta noted that Delhi's challenges are enormous, but any problem can be solved if government, industry, and society work together. She affirmed her government's wholehearted and sincere commitment to making Delhi clean, green, and pollution-free. She further emphasised the need to develop a work-culture in which projects continue to safeguard the environment for the next 50 years.

**Continued news page 2**

## Odisha Police seek financial details of RGF in case against Rahul Gandhi

**Agency JHARSUGUDA (Odisha).**

The Jharsuguda Police has issued a notice to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) seeking detailed records of foreign contributions and financial transactions, in connection with a case filed earlier this year against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his alleged "anti-national remarks." According to officials, the notice was issued under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, directing RGF Finance Director Sandeep Anand to appear before the investigating officer on November 4. In a letter to the RGF's director, Sandeep Anand, on September 3, Jharsuguda Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) and Investigation Officer in the case, Umashankar Singh, has sought a year-wise break-up of the foreign contribution received by the foundation since June 1991.

The notice said, "How much foreign contribution Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has received since its inception i.e. June 21, 1991. Provide the details in year wise till date. Provide the details of the bank accounts in which the foreign contributions are deposited." The foundation has been asked to provide year-wise foreign contribution details since 1991, bank account information, auditor names, its FCRA licence, and clarifications on alleged donations from Zakir Naik in 2011 and the Chinese government in 2005-06. The notice reads, "Provide the detailed name with alias and addresses (both Temp. and Permanent) with parentage, age, mobile number of the Authorized Signatory of those bank accounts. Provide the name/address/mobile number of Auditor of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Provide the true copy of license under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation."

## Delhi Govt to celebrate 'Phoolwalon Ki Sair' in a grand manner

**The Sikh Times**  
**Ashish Shukla**

New Delhi, 8 September 2025

The Delhi Government has taken steps to once again celebrate the festival 'Phoolwalon Ki Sair' in a grand manner, highlighting its historical and cultural significance.

In this regard, Kapil Mishra held a high-level meeting yesterday at the Delhi Secretariat with senior officials. Representatives from the Department of Art, Culture & Languages, Revenue Department, Delhi Waqf Board, and Anjuman Sair-e-Gul Faroshan Society also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, Kapil Mishra stated that 'Phoolwalon Ki Sair' is an identity of Delhi, and the Delhi Government is fully committed to reviving this

centuries-old tradition. This year, the festival will be celebrated in a grand way from 2nd November to 8th November.

He further directed that all departments must ensure their active participation in the week-long celebration and present concrete plans to make the program grand and historically significant.

'Phoolwalon Ki Sair' is a symbol of Delhi's Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb (composite culture). For centuries, both Hindu and Muslim communities have come together to offer floral sheets and fans as a mark of reverence. This festival has always symbolized brotherhood, cultural unity, and collective celebration.

This year, under the initiative of the Delhi Government, the 'Phoolwalon Ki Sair' Festival will feature vibrant



processions, cultural performances, qawwali, folk music, programs showcasing historical glimpses, and displays of traditional fans. Artists and social workers from different parts of Delhi will participate in the festivities. The objective of the Delhi

Government is to give this tradition international recognition and further strengthen Delhi's position as the "Cultural Capital." Special emphasis will be laid on promotion, publicity, and active participation of the local community.

## Government Keeping "Good Watch" On Exchange Rates: Nirmala Sitharaman

**"The rupee slide is largely against the dollar, not against any other currencies. That's also because of the way globally, the dollar has strengthened," she said when asked if the slide of rupee against greenback is a concern.**

**Agency New Delhi.**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the government is keeping a 'good watch' on exchange rates, stressing that besides rupee several other currencies have depreciated against the US dollar.

"The rupee slide is largely against the dollar, not against any other currencies. That's also because of the way globally, the dollar has strengthened," she said when asked if the slide of rupee against greenback is a concern. "This is not the case only with rupee versus dollar, it's the case with many other currencies versus the dollar. So we are keeping a good watch on this," she told PTI in an interview. The rupee plummeted to a record low and closed at 88.27 against dollar after touching an intra-day low of 88.38 on Friday. The fall came amid concerns over US tariffs, while intervention by the Reserve Bank of India through state-run banks helped limit further losses. The steep tariff of 50 per cent imposed by the US on Indian goods took effect on August 27. The tariffs - among the highest in the world - include a 25 per cent penalty for buying crude oil from Russia. On August 7, President Donald Trump

administration enforced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing India's persistent oil imports from Russia and long-standing trade barriers.

The sectors which are impacted due to high import duties include textiles/ clothing, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather and footwear, animal products, chemicals, and electrical and



mechanical machinery. Sectors such as pharma, energy products and electronic goods are out of the ambit of these sweeping duties. The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's USD 437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25. The US has been the largest trading partner of India since 2021-22.

## Sonia Gandhi slams centre's 'planned misadventure' in Great Nicobar, warns of ecological and tribal crisis

**Gandhi said the project would permanently displace the Nicobarese, whose ancestral villages lie in the proposed zone. They had hoped to return post-2004 tsunami.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has strongly criticised the Modi government over the Rs 72,000-crore 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar' project, calling it a "planned misadventure" that threatens both the island's fragile ecosystem and the survival of its indigenous tribes. In an article published in The Hindu titled "The making of an ecological disaster in the Nicobar", Gandhi accused the government of insensitively pushing the project through while bypassing constitutional, legal, and environmental safeguards.

"The collective conscience cannot, and must not, stay silent when the very survival of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes is at stake," she wrote, urging citizens to oppose what she described as a "travesty of justice" and a "betrayal of national values."

Gandhi highlighted that the project would permanently displace the Nicobarese, whose ancestral villages fall within the proposed development zone. These communities were earlier forced to relocate after the 2004 tsunami and had hoped to return. The Shompen, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, face an even greater existential threat, she said.

"The project denotifies a significant part of the Shompen tribal reserve, destroys forest ecosystems where they live, and invites a massive influx of outsiders, isolating the tribe from its ancestral land." Despite policies that require prioritising tribal welfare in such cases, the government has proceeded without consulting the Shompen or the local Tribal Council, she alleged. Ecologically, Gandhi warned that the project would lead to large-scale deforestation, estimating the loss of between 8.5 lakh to as many as 58 lakh trees.



## From PM Modi's Birthday To Gandhi Jayanti, Nation To Observe 'Seva Paksha': Minister

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said that from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 to Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2, the country and the BJP will observe 'Seva Paksha' (Service Fortnight), reflecting the Prime Minister's vision of service and nation-building. He was speaking at the launch of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's (BJYM) Namo Yuva Run campaign at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi. Mr Mandaviya said, "In PM Modi's 11 years as Prime Minister, he has given a lot to the country through his ideas and actions. Today, the nation is progressing, moving

forward, and building a new India." Highlighting recent reforms, he added, "Just three days ago, PM Modi simplified GST, reducing it to primarily 5 per cent and 18 per cent slabs. This morning, I joined 'Sunday on Cycle,' a fitness movement that has now spread across 8,000 locations with over 50 MPs participating."

To mark the Prime Minister's 75th birthday, BJYM will organise Namo Yuva Runs in 75 cities across India. Each run will see the participation of 10,000-15,000 youth, totalling nearly 1 million young people running simultaneously — a feat that BJYM President and MP

Tejasvi Surya said would be recorded as the country's biggest and most



participative run. The campaign aims to promote fitness, de-addiction, and the spirit of

Swadeshi. Extending the initiative globally, the Indian diaspora will also host Yuva Runs in 75 international cities, said the Union Minister. "On his birthday, when the nation wishes to gift him something, PM Modi instead asks citizens to take a vow to fulfil their duties towards the country. The Namo Yuva Run is our contribution towards his vision," he added.

Actor and fitness icon Milind Soman, brand ambassador of the campaign, expressed happiness over the initiative. "I hope more such efforts are undertaken to strengthen the youth and promote fitness," he said.

## Tamil Nadu signs MoUs worth Rs 15,514 crore, MK Stalin defends Europe trip

**Tamil Nadu.(Agency)**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced that the state has signed investment Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 15,514 crore, with the potential to create 17,613 jobs during his Europe tour.

Speaking about the investments, Stalin said 10 new companies have shown interest in Tamil Nadu, while 17 existing companies have agreed to expand operations within the state instead of moving to other regions.

Responding to criticism of his overseas tours, Stalin said the trips were aimed at attracting investors to Tamil Nadu.

"Some are questioning why such trips are necessary. But when I spoke about Tamil

Nadu during the investors' meet in Germany, several participants said it



encouraged them to come here," he stated. The Chief Minister described Tamil Nadu as the "Germany of India," drawing parallels between the state's industrial strength and Germany's global reputation. He

highlighted Tamil Nadu's role as India's second-largest economy, its double-digit growth in manufacturing, and its 54 lakh MSMEs.

The Chief Minister also countered AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami's allegations that the tours were linked to his family's business interests. "I have only invested in self-respect policies and Periyar's thoughts in their land," Stalin said.

During the Europe trip, Stalin unveiled a portrait of social reformer EV Ramasamy Periyar at Oxford University, calling it the "greatest honour" of his life. He said the recognition showed the global relevance of Periyar's philosophy of self-respect, rationalism, and social justice.

## Front continued news

## Making the Yamuna river clean & pure is our govt's commitment: CM Rekha Gupta

The meeting also appealed to industry to adopt drains and establish small sewage treatment plants along their banks, which would significantly reduce the pollution entering the Yamuna.

Referring to the recently developed green areas in the Yamuna floodplains such as Baansera, Asita, and Vatika, the Chief Minister highlighted that "where there is a will, there is a way." She assured that her government has already begun taking every possible step to solve the capital's problems. She also urged industries to take up tree plantation under their CSR programmes so as to strengthen Delhi's environment. Water Minister Mr Pravesh Verma remarked that no matter how difficult the task, the government will ensure Yamuna's cleaning within the stipulated timeframe, expressing confidence that, for the first time in decades, Yamuna cleaning would not become a political issue in the forthcoming elections.

## News box

## Broken roads to outages: Congress accuses BJP govt of stalling Pataudi's progress in Haryana

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Congress on Sunday charged BJP govt with neglecting Pataudi constituency and pushing the region "11 years backwards." "For 11 years, development has been on hold. Pataudi deserves better," rural district president Vardhan Yadav said as the party intensified its attack on BJP govt, citing broken roads and erratic electricity and water supply "amid hardships for farmers and traders".

At a workers' meeting held at Jatoli Mandi's Peeli Dharamshala, Yadav was welcomed with a turban ceremony by hundreds of supporters, signalling renewed energy within the party's local cadre.

## IMT Manesar murder: Ugandan woman's body found on Delhi-Jaipur highway; sexual assault suspected

Gurgaon. (Agency) (Agency)

Two suspects were detained hours after the body of a Ugandan woman was found near IMT Manesar Chowk on Sunday. Police said the body of the woman, believed to be in her 30s, was found in a pool of blood near a slip road on the Delhi-Jaipur highway around 5:30am. Investigators suspect sexual assault preceded the murder.

A forensics team examined the crime scene before the body was sent for postmortem to determine the exact cause of death. Police are examining whether the woman was pushed from a moving vehicle or thrown from the flyover. "Further details will be ascertained after the postmortem examination regarding the nature of injuries and the sequence of events," a senior police officer said on Sunday. CCTV footage from the highway and



adjoining areas near IMT Chowk is being analysed to reconstruct the woman's final movements. "The suspects are being questioned in detail. At this point, we are not ruling out any angle, including sexual assault, robbery, or a dispute with acquaintances. The exact motive will be established once the investigation progresses," the officer added. Investigators are also working to trace the woman's associates in nearby areas to understand her activities in the days leading to her death.

## Pataudi Road riddled with deep craters, commute a nightmare

Noida. (Agency)

Daily commuters are facing severe inconvenience due to deep potholes and craters along Pataudi Road, especially near Sector 89, which has become increasingly difficult to navigate. Although the stretch was resurfaced just last year, heavy truck movement combined with recent rains has left it battered, causing traffic snarls during peak hours. Residents said that despite the road deteriorating further after the monsoon, no repairs have been undertaken. Vehicles are forced to crawl and jostle for space, with damage even seen along the central verge in certain areas. The manhole near Shiv Temple in Harsaru village poses a serious safety hazard as it frequently caves in, increasing the risk of accidents.

Highlighting the poor road quality and lack of drainage planning, residents said the issues were recurring across the city. "The condition is terrible and driving is difficult. The rains only made it worse, and there is no sign of timely repairs. If a road built just last year can deteriorate this badly, it shows how poorly it was executed in the first place," said Rohit Malik, a commuter from Sector 88A. Ratan Lal, a shopkeeper on Pataudi Road, said, "The bottlenecks created by potholes slow down traffic to a crawl. Trucks and trolleys take up most of the road, and smaller vehicles often get stuck in craters. We have seen two-wheelers losing balance while dodging craters." Meanwhile, officials have promised swift action. Nijesh Kumar, executive engineer of MCM, acknowledged the damage and said,

# Homes to offices: New Gurgaon metro project set to boost realty market

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Friday's groundbreaking ceremony for the Millennium City Centre-Cyber City metro line has already spurred buyer interest in residential and commercial projects along the corridor and will boost growth of the real estate sector in the city, industry experts said on Friday.

Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar and chief minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the 28.5km metro line, which will connect Millennium City Centre with Cyber City and extend to Dwarka Expressway through 27 stations.

The new line will link old and new Gurgaon with key commercial hubs, including Subhash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk and Udyog Vihar. Properties along this route are likely to see a steady increase in capital value and rental yields. "Metro connectivity has always been the single-biggest catalyst for property growth in NCR. This corridor will unlock tremendous value in micro-markets like



Dwarka Expressway, Palam Vihar and Old Gurgaon, while further strengthening Cyber City and Udyog Vihar as commercial hubs," said Vijay Harsh Jha, founder and CEO of VS Realtors, a city-based property consultancy. Pradeep

Aggarwal, founder and chairman of Signature Global (India) Ltd, said buyer demand for mid-income and premium housing projects will go up.

"Integrated townships and residential projects along Dwarka Expressway and

near Hero Honda Chowk are already seeing a rise in enquiries. Over the next three to four years, demand could increase by 20-25%," he said. The commercial real estate sector stands to gain substantially, others said. Vimal Nadar, national director and head of research at Colliers India which offers commercial real estate investment services, predicted that Grad. A (premium) office space uptake will accelerate along Sohna Road, Southern Peripheral Road, Golf Course Extension Road and Dwarka Expressway.

"Average rentals in key micro-market could rise by 5-10% annually, while investor appetite in properties near upcoming metro stations is likely to strengthen," he said. Scheduled for completion within four years, the entire metro corridor will feature app-based feeder services and dedicated parking facilities to ensure seamless last-mile connectivity. These measures are expected to improve liveability and reduce dependence on private vehicles.

## Laid just a year ago, internal roads crumble in Gurgaon's Sector 45, no repairs yet

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Hardly one year after internal roads were laid in Sector 45, they have started falling apart. With asphalt peeling off, potholes and craters have appeared on the lanes of 18m roads, and no repairs have been carried out. Residents say poor quality of construction material and a complete lack of accountability have left the stretches in shambles. "Re-surfacing was done in Oct last year, and within months, the asphalt started to come off. Motorists struggle to commute every day, and even pedestrians struggle to walk on the roads safely. Moreover, there is no thermoplastic paint or any kind of marking on speed breakers, making it even more dangerous," said OP Yadav, RWA president of the sector.



Even eight years after the 10m and 12m-wide stretches were laid, their repaving is still due. Residents pointed out that while the municipal corporation has

prepared an estimate for the repaving, it is still stuck in paperwork. "If the work is not taken up on priority, it will be pushed further once GRAP restrictions kick in, followed by winter. That means another year of living with broken roads," said Puneet Pahwa, general secretary of the RWA. Residents said that they are resorting to stopgap arrangements by filling potholes with debris. "This is not a permanent solution. Every morning, it takes us twice the usual time to get out of the sector because of the potholes. We have been flagging the issue, but there is no accountability. This is nothing but a waste of public money," Pahwa added.

## Gurgaon govt schools set to transform education with AI curriculum rollout

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Govt schools in Haryana are set to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as part of the regular curriculum from the upcoming academic session. The initiative, led by Haryana education department, will be implemented in phases, starting with Class 9 students and gradually extending to Classes 10, 11, and 12. According to officials, the AI syllabus will consist of 40 to 45-minute sessions integrated across five subjects. The curriculum is designed to enhance students' creativity, problem-solving abilities, and proficiency with digital tools, preparing them for higher education and future employment in a technology-driven world. Until now, digital education in state-run schools has largely been limited to basic computer skills such as writing emails, sending messages, and downloading files. With the introduction of AI modules, students will be exposed to more advanced topics,

including practical applications of AI, data handling, prompt engineering, and foundational coding concepts.

"This is a huge leap from what we've been learning so far," said Sakshi Verma, a Class 10 student from a government school in

connected to the real world."

To facilitate the transition, state council of educational research and training (SCERT) has developed a five-day training module for teachers. Around one lakh teachers will undergo training in

phases, covering AI fundamentals, classroom integration, question paper design, and evaluation methods. Two master trainers from each district have been trained and will now train others at the local level. The programme also includes modules on creating slides, graphics, tables, and notes, helping teachers become more adept in digital pedagogy. Officials confirmed that the curriculum aligns with the national education policy (NEP) 2020, which prioritises the integration of technology in education. "This step ensures our students are not just consumers of technology but active creators," said a senior SCERT official.



Gurgaon. "AI sounded like something only tech experts used. Now we'll get to learn it in our own classroom!" Mohit Kumar, a Class 12 student, said, "This will help those of us aiming for engineering or data science careers. It makes school feel more

# Ganga silt or broken pumps Water trickles from taps in many Noida sectors

Noida. (Agency)

Despite Noida Authority's announcement of Ganga water supply to sectors 119 and 120 from Sunday and to 7x sectors from Dec, many residents in sectors 71, 52, 119, and 120 faced water shortages. While water tankers were deployed in some areas, the stored water depleted over time.

Officials from the water department said the supply of Ganga water from Haridwar had been inconsistent due to heavy silt, but residents claimed the issue was due to broken water pumps. "There was no water supply in our sector today. People are yearning for every drop of water; this is the condition of Noida currently. About 10,000 people are troubled by water in the area, as 80% of the pumps installed around us

do not have anyone to maintain or take care of them. If they were regularly maintained, the water problem would be solved. We had to call tankers for our daily chores, as Sunday, being a holiday, had a majority of people at home," said Sanjay Shukla, RWA general secretary of Shiv Shakti Apts Sector 71. Misha Singh, RWA general secretary of Shatabdi Vihar, Sector 52, also complained of similar problems in the sector. "We too faced a major water issue in E-3 Shatabdi Vihar, Sector 52. There was merely 15-20 minutes of water supply on Sunday, which was grossly insufficient. The water department itself is unaware of when the supply will be normal. On requesting them to send a tanker, the water department official says, 'We

don't have the facility; you can get a private tanker.' Nor are they giving any time limit for the supply to resume smoothly. How can we be left like this with no accountability from the water department? Where will RWAs have to look.

## THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009  
Printed at Quami Patrika Printing  
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City  
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)  
Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, TPO, New Delhi  
Editor-in-Chief  
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465



## BALKAN OPEN Classic and Equipped (Bench Press/Squat/ Deadlift) - 06th-07th September 2025, Belgrade, Serbia.

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

Dronacharya Bhpender Dhawan's disciple, Gurdit Singh, once again created history by becoming the Best Lifter at the BALKAN OPEN Classic and Equipped (Bench Press / Squat / Deadlift) Championship. Earlier, in 2024, he had also won the Best Lifter title at the English Open in England. Gurdit claimed the Best Lifter award in the Junior 110+ KG category, while Sumit Das won Gold in the Senior 110 KG category, and Jagdish Singh Jassa secured Gold in the Senior

100 KG category. At the Balkan Open Powerlifting Championship held on 06th-07th September 2025



in Belgrade, Serbia. India's Gurdit Singh earned the Best Lifter

(Junior Category) title with a total lift of 667.5 KG (Classic Raw). Sumit Das and Jagdish Singh

ry. IPL India President, Mr. Om Prakash Angrish, congratulated the disciples of Indian Team Coach Dronacharya Bhpender Dhawan and wished them all the best for their future endeavors. The entire Indian team expressed their gratitude to their coach, Dronacharya Bhpender Dhawan, as well as to IPL India and Sheru Classic World, stating: "We have achieved this success with the support of all of you. We dedicate all the credit to the Khelo India - Fit India Movement initiated by our country's Hon'ble Prime Minister."

### BJP MP's sister filmed by in-laws while bathing, assaulted after objection

Etah (UP): BJP MP from Farrukhabad, Mukesh Rajput's sister, has filed a police complaint accusing her in-laws of assault, officials said on Sunday. According to the complaint, Reena Singh alleged that her father-in-law, Laxman Singh, and brothers-in-law, Rajesh and Girish, attacked her and threatened to kill her. She claims that on Sunday afternoon, while she was bathing in the bathroom, her brother-in-law, Girish, and father-in-law, Laxman Singh, attempted to record a video of her through the window. When she objected, she was allegedly verbally abused and physically assaulted, Singh said in her complaint. Singh claims that her father-in-law took out a licensed rifle and threatened her, saying, "I will shoot you." She further alleged that her brother-in-law, Rajesh, attacked her with a sharp knife, causing an injury to her hand, while Girish also attacked her with an iron rod. In her written complaint to the police,

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Rajni Sharma W/O Devender Sharma R/O JJ Colony House-F-235, F-Block, F-216 To 468, Shakur Pur Saraswati Vihar Saraswati Vihar North West Delhi Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJNEESH KUMARI.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Kritika Rathore D/O Ram Ratan, R/O B-113, Resettlement Colony, Gautam Colony, Narela, P.O. Narela, DIST. North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aarti.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Sangeeta James S/O Srinath James, R/O Q No.-107, Type-2, Ground floor, Sector-9, R K Puram, R K Puram Sector-9, South West Delhi - 110022, have changed the name of my Minor son namely Dhruv aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as Dhruv James

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Aastha D/O Davinder Kumar R/O C-97 Dayanand Colony Near Sapna Cinema, Lajpat Nagar-4, South East Delhi 110024 Have Changed My Name to Aastha Kureja for All Future Purposes.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Bismilla W/O Abdul Raheem R/O House No.787, Meher Park, Malab, Mewat, Haryana-122107, have changed my name to Bismillah.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, KAPIL PRAKASH JOSHI S/O SHRI PREM PRAKASH SHARMA Residing at B 60,3RD FLOOR, K D NO. 11n-15, OLD PALAM ROAD SARAJI VIHAR NEAR NEW ARYA PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAKROLA, SOUTH WEST DELHI 110078 have changed the name of my minor son namely BHAVIN JOSHI aged 05 years and he shall hereafter be known as DHARSH JOSHI

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hitherto Known as SURENDR KUMAR alias SURENDR KUMAR VATS, S/O-Laxmi Narain, R/O 221, Bank Wali Gali, Nawada, Uttar Nagar, P.O. D K Mohan Garden, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi-110059 Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter be Known as SURENDR KUMAR VATS.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mrs. **Shiv Shankar Pandit** who is purchasing the First Floor and Second Floor with roof rights of Property Municipal bearing No. D-21, Old Plot No. 16, measuring 25 sq. yds. (133.78 Sq. Mtrs.) Part of Kharsa no. 39, situated at in the abadi of Gali No. 22, Vijay Park Moujib in the estate of Village Moujib and ilaga Shahdara Delhi-110053 by Gift Deed dated 16.10.2008 which was registered as Doc no. 797, Book no. 1, Vol. no. 4175, Page no. 63-69, dated 17.09.2008 SR V Seelampur and intend to mortgage the said property with **J&K Bank Ltd.** If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINA W/O MD. RAJAK R/O Near Sarpanch House, Sofla (1), Palwal, Haryana, have changed my name to RAVINA BEGAM permanently

#### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD RAJAK S/O AHMED ALI R/O Near Sarpanch House, Sofla (1), Palwal, Haryana, have changed my name to MD RAJAK permanently

#### NAME CHANGE

I, ENNAR BEGUM W/O MOHD SADIQ R/O H.NO. B-11, 3 RD FLOOR KH NO - 136/1 KALI NO-9 NEAR AMINA MASJID WAZIRABAD DELHI- 110084, I have changed my name to ENNAR

#### NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR S/O DHARAM PAL R/O SOLDAHA(62) PO. SOLDAHA DIST:HAJAJUR HARYANA-124507 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

I, VIREN S/O ASWIN VISWANATHAN R/O J-1003, MAHINDRAAUR, SECTOR-110A, NEW LAXMI VIHAR, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIREN VISWANATHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR S/O DHARAM PAL R/O SOLDAHA(62) PO. SOLDAHA DIST:HAJAJUR HARYANA-124507 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

I, VIREN S/O ASWIN VISWANATHAN R/O J-1003, MAHINDRAAUR, SECTOR-110A, NEW LAXMI VIHAR, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIREN VISWANATHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR S/O DHARAM PAL R/O SOLDAHA(62) PO. SOLDAHA DIST:HAJAJUR HARYANA-124507 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

## Ramlila, Durga Puja committees to get 1,200 units of free electricity

New Delhi: As the festival season nears, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday announced that the government will provide free 1,200 units of electricity to every Ramilila and Durga Puja committee. The committees will only have to pay 25 per cent of the earlier security deposit for power connections. The CM further announced that during the festivities, a day will be dedicated to honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as part of the Seva Pakhwada beginning on September 17 (PM Modi's 75th birthday) and continuing till October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti). Moreover, no objection certificates (NOCs) required from departments such as the DDA, MCD, Delhi Jal Board, Fire Services and others will now be given through a single-window system. "With the Navratri beginning on September 22, large-scale Ramilila performances will be held across Delhi. This reform ensures that all formalities will now be resolved at the district level through the District Magistrate's office," she said. She also directed officials that during Navratri, as part of the Seva Pakhwada being run by the Delhi Government, activities such as medical camps, cleanliness drives and awareness programmes should be organised at Ramilila venues. Notably, preparations for both Durga Puja and Ramilila have already begun in the city. "Messages on environmental issues and appeals in the interest of the nation should be conveyed before or after performances so that people take home a positive message," she said.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, KOMAL KUMAR S/O Dashrath Kumar R/O WARD NO 3 Hodal palwal Haryana have changed my name to KOMAL DUDEJA FOR ALL PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Jai Prakash Moya S/O Shobha ram Moya R/O C-723 New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Delhi - 110025 have changed my name to Jai Prakash "Maurya" for all future purposes

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Balvinder Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh R/O B-2, Tagore Garden Extn, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Baljinder Kaur for all future purposes.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Jai Prakash Moya S/O Shobha ram Moya R/O C-723 New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Delhi - 110025 have changed my name to Jai Prakash "Maurya" for all future purposes

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Balvinder Kaur W/o Manjeet Singh R/O B-2, Tagore Garden Extn, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Baljinder Kaur for all future purposes.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, Sarita W/O KRISHAN KUMAR R/O 221, Garhi Jagjira Road Gandhi Nagar, Gansar P.O. Gansar, District Sonapat, Haryana - 131101, have changed the name of my minor daughter ANSHU alias HRSAMIN CSEYGH aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as HRSAMIN CSEYGH.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, SARITAW/O KRISHAN KUMAR R/O 221, Garhi Jagjira Road Gandhi Nagar, Gansar P.O. Gansar, District Sonapat, Haryana - 131101, have changed the name of my minor daughter ANSHU alias HRSAMIN CSEYGH aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as HRSAMIN CSEYGH.

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#### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 14876801M Rank-HAV Name- RAMKESH Presently residing at VILL-SARAY KA PURA, PO- NAYAKPURA, TEH-DIST-MORENA, MADHYA PRADESH-476001, have changed my wife's name from MANISHA TO MANISHA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES vide Affidavit dated 08/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, ANJALI RENJITH wife of No.-14671358W, Rank-NK, Name-RENJITH KR residing at VILL-KANNAMANGALAM, P.O-KARAIKAL, TEHSIL-MAVELIKARA, DIST-MALAPPUZHA, KERALA-690103, have changed my name from ANJALI RENJITH to ANJALI UDAYAPPAN for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, VIJAY KUMAR DWIVEDI S/O SHRI VIDYA CHARAN DWIVEDI R/O VILLAGE NEPURA, DISTRICT SIWAN, BIHAR-841435, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM NSHREYA DIVIVEDI TO "SHREYA" FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Nareesh Kumar S/O Zile Singh, R/O House no. 317, Union Bank wali gali, Bankner, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 Declare That name of mine and my wife has been Wrongly written as Nareesh and Urmila in my Minor Daughter Name. I am aged 17 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents the actual name of mine and my wife is Nareesh Kumar and Urmila Devi

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Sahani Parveen W/o Mohd. Parvej Khan, R/o 105, BIW Colony, near N.T.P.C. BTPS Jaipur, Badapur Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi - 110044, Declare that name of mine and my Husband wrongly written as Sahani Khan and Parvej Khan in my Minor son namely Mohd Adyan Khan aged 9 years in his School Records the actual name of mine and my Husband is Sahani Parveen and Mohd Parvej Khan

#### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED SHAHID S/O MOHAMMED SHAFI, residing at H.NO. 44, STREET-TAWLI-1, MUZAFFAR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-251001, have changed my name to MOHD SHAHID for all future purposes

#### NAME CHANGE

I, ROBIN KUMAR S/O Tarsem Chand R/O H.No.13, UGF, C-Block, Indrapuri, Delhi-110012, have changed my name to ROBIN SINGLA permanently

#### NAME CHANGE

I, No. 16114378P Rank-HAV Name-B NARENDAR REDDY Father of BEEREDDY VEDANTH REDDY Residing at ANANTHAPUR, YEDULA, DIST-MAHABUBNAGAR-TELANGANA-509206, have changed my minor son's name from BEEREDDY VEDANTH REDDY to B VEDANTH REDDY for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Manoj Kumar, residing at Village Kailash Nagar, Gali No. 12, Pargana Loni, Tehsil Ghaziabad, Dist. Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name from Manoj Kumar to Manoj Singh (Son) is the only legal heir of Late Mr. Chetram and there is no other legal heir except above mentioned and same to be finance & mortgage by Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., having its Branch at Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi-110017, the requirements of BANK/NBFC, which use this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, failing which, I will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

That, Mrs. Chitra Devi w/o Mr. Mukesh Kumar seeking a loan from Mrs. Can Fin Home Ltd. for the House Area Measuring 78 Sq. Yards (24.3 Ft. x 30 Ft.), Comprised in Khewat/Khata No. 121/123 Mustaki No. 18 Killa No. 162(40), 17(8-0), 23(8-0), 24(8-0) and Mustaki No. 17 Killa No. 31(6-12), 41(1-13), Situated at Bawana, Mauja Gadoli Khurd, in the colony known as Saraswati Enclave, Tehsil Kadipur and Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana; hereinafter referred to as "said property"; That Mrs. Chitra Devi has made the stand that M/s K.B. Builders and Developers Pvt. Ltd. executed Board Resolution in favour of Mr. Kailash Chand Bansal and Mr. Ved Prakash has lost somewhere, which are not traceable or cannot be found. If anybody or any person got or having any claim against on the said above documents by way of legal heirs, Mortgage, Gift, Lease, Inheritance, Lien or otherwise or any objection with said above documents is hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing, Delhi office address given below within 7 days from the date of publication these above documents should be declared null & void to such claims & the same if any shall be consideration as waived and failing which, I will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

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NEWS BOX

Trump signals tougher stance on Moscow, says ready to launch 'second

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON . (Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he is ready to impose the “second phase” of sanctions against Russia.“Yeah, I am,” Trump said outside the White House in response to a question if he was prepared to impose additional sanctions on Russia.

Trump’s comment came shortly after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the Russian economy will “collapse” if Washington and the European Union impose more secondary sanctions on countries that buy crude oil from Moscow.Bessent, in an interview to NBC News, said that President Trump and Vice President J D Vance had a very productive call with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who followed up with a call with him on Friday and they discussed what the US and European Union (EU) could do to put more pressure on Russia.The Trump administration has imposed an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for its purchases of Russian oil on top of the 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs announced earlier, bringing the total duties imposed on New Delhi to 50 per cent, with effect from August 27.

Last week, Trump said he put secondary sanctions on India for its purchases of Russian oil, “the largest purchaser outside of China”, and indicated that he hasn’t done “phase two or phase three yet”.

Several of the Trump administration’s officials, including Bessent and trade advisor Peter Navarro, have said that India’s purchases of Russian oil are financing the Russian war effort in Ukraine.

India has called the tariffs imposed by the US “unjustified and unreasonable”.Defending its purchase of Russian crude oil, India has been maintaining that its energy procurement is driven by national interest and market dynamics.

No Bar Can Hold Russia: Defying US Sanctions, Moscow Now Extracts LNG From Arctic And Ships To China

Moscow.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping has begun to show results. Moscow has pushed ahead with gas supplies from its heavily sanctioned Arctic LNG 2 project, and the second shipment of liquefied natural gas has now reached Beijing. The delivery came just days after both leaders met recently during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

The latest shipment was confirmed through data seen on Sunday. According to the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), which provides detailed shipping, trade and energy flow data through its subsidiary Refinitiv, the Russian vessel Voshkod LNG dropped anchor at the LNG terminal in Tieshan Port in Guangxi, southwest China, before heading south. The tanker was loaded with nearly 150,000 cubic metres of LNG, lifted in July from the Arctic LNG 2 facility located in Gyda, northern Siberia.This delivery marks the second consignment of sanctioned LNG from the project to reach Chinese ports. At the end of August, the tanker Arctic Mulan docked at Beihai LNG terminal, making it the first restricted cargo from Arctic LNG 2 to arrive for end users in China.

The project only began production in December 2023, but supplies have struggled to keep pace due to shortages of ice-class carriers and heavy Western sanctions linked to the war in Ukraine.

Putin’s Visit Sets The Stage

The timing of the shipment has drawn attention. Putin’s visit to China included SCO engagements and celebrations of wartime victory, highlighting the political weight of the energy partnership.

Arctic LNG 2 is majority-owned by Russia’s Novatek, holding 60 percent. It was designed to be one of Russia’s largest LNG ventures, with a planned output of 19.8 million metric tonnes per year. Sanctions, however, have cast uncertainty over those ambitions.

Australia's Mushroom Killer Jailed For Life. Can Get Parole After 33 Years

Australia. (Agency)

An Australian judge sentenced convicted killer Erin Patterson on Monday to life in prison with parole after 33 years for killing three people with toxic mushrooms, capping a trial that sparked a global media frenzy.Patterson, 50, was convicted in July of triple murder for serving a poisonous meal to her estranged husband's parents, aunt and uncle during a sumptuous beef Wellington lunch at her home in 2023.Her trial drew podcasters, film crews and true crime fans to a courthouse in the rural town of Morwell, a sedate hamlet in Victoria better known for its prize-winning roses.Audiences from New York to New Delhi followed every twist of what many now simply call the "mushroom murders".The motive of the murders remains a mystery.Patterson was sentenced on Monday morning in Melbourne where Supreme Court Justice Christopher Beale said she had inflicted "trauma" on her victims and their families."Your failure to exhibit any remorse pours salt into all the victims' wounds," he said."The gravity of your offending warrants the imposition of the maximum penalties for your crimes," he said.He sentenced her to life in prison but said she would be eligible for parole after 33 years, when she will be 83 years old.Her legal team had argued she should be given the chance of release after 30 years because the notoriety of her case would mean she will spend most of her prison sentence in isolation.She now has 28 days to appeal both her convictions and her sentence.The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Patterson wore a paisley shirt as the sentence was read out, with her hair tied back.Speaking after the sentence was handed down, Pastor Ian Wilkinson -- the only guest to survive the toxic mushroom lunch -- thanked those who had supported the family in the aftermath of the murders.

In rare ruling, Israeli Supreme Court says Israel deprives Palestinian prisoners of food

Though the Supreme Court advises on policy legality, Israel's judiciary has rarely challenged government actions during the 23-month Israel-Hamas war.

TEL AVIV. (Agency)

In a highly rare exercise of wartime legal restraint, Israel’s Supreme Court ruled Sunday that the Israeli government has deprived Palestinian detainees of even a minimum subsistence diet and ordered authorities to increase the amount and improve the quality of food served to deprived Palestinian inmates.

Although it’s the job of the Supreme Court to advise the government of the legality of its policies, the Israeli judiciary has seldom taken issue with its actions in the 23-month Israel-Hamas war.Since Hamas’ Oct. 7,

2023, attack on southern Israel that killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, Israel has largely rejected growing international criticism of its conduct by arguing that it was doing what was necessary to defeat Hamas.The Israeli army has detained large numbers of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank on suspicion of militant ties. Thousands have been released from months of detention in camps and jails without charge to tell of brutal conditions, including overcrowding, scant food supplies, inadequate medical attention and scabies outbreaks.As Israel’s highest tier of accountability, the Supreme Court hears complaints from individuals and organizations against Israeli government actions, such as its practice of restricting food and medical supplies to Gaza or, in this case, what two Israeli human rights groups described in their complaint as the security establishment's “systemic policy” of depriving Palestinian prisoners of food. The three-judge panel ruled unanimously that the Israeli government had a legal duty to provide Palestinian prisoners with three

meals a day to ensure “a basic level of existence” and ordered authorities to fulfill that obligation.In an unexpected 2-1 decision, the court furthermore accepted



the petition filed last year by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, or ACRI, and the Israeli rights group Gisha, siding with their allegations that the government's deliberate restriction of prisoners' food in Israeli detention facilities has caused Palestinians to suffer malnutrition and starvation during the Israel-Hamas war.“We are not speaking

here of comfortable living or luxury, but of the basic conditions of survival as required by law,” the ruling said. “Let us not share in the ways of our worst enemies.”Palestinian authorities have recorded the deaths at least 61 Palestinians in Israeli custody since the war started. In March, a 17-year-old Palestinian in Israel prison died of what doctors said was likely starvation.Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the prison system, boasted last year that he degraded the conditions of security prisoners to the bare minimum required by Israeli law.Ben-Gvir, who leads a small far-right ultranationalist party, lashed out at the court ruling Sunday.“Are you from Israel?” he asked the judges, arguing that while Israeli hostages in Gaza have no one to help them, Israel's Supreme Court defends Hamas “to our disgrace.” He vowed the policy of providing prisoners with “the most minimal conditions stipulated by law” would continue unchanged.ACRI called on authorities to implement the verdict immediately.

Australian judge sentences Erin Patterson to life in prison for poisoning relatives with mushrooms

MELBOURNE. (Agency)

An Australian judge on Monday sentenced triple-murderer Erin Patterson to life in prison with a non-parole period of 33 years for poisoning four of her estranged husband’s relatives with death cap mushrooms.

Justice Christopher Beale told the Victoria state Supreme Court that Patterson’s crimes involved an enormous betrayal of trust.Patterson was convicted in July of murdering Don and Gail Patterson and Gail’s sister, Heather Wilkinson, with a lunch of beef Wellington pastries laced with foraged death cap mushrooms.

Patterson was also convicted of attempting to murder Heather’s husband Ian Wilkinson, who spent weeks in a hospital.Patterson’s estranged husband, Simon Patterson, was invited but did not attend the July 2023 lunch served to her parents-in-law and her estranged husband’s aunt and uncle at her home.

Murderer robbed her children of their grandparents“Your victims were all your relatives by marriage. More than that, they had all been good to you and your children over many years, as you acknowledged in your testimony,” Beale said.“Not only did you cut short three lives and cause lasting damage to

Ian Wilkinson’s health, thereby devastating extended Patterson and Wilkinson families, you inflicted untold suffering on your own children, whom you robbed of their beloved grandparents,” he added.



Both prosecution and defense lawyers had agreed that a life sentence was an appropriate punishment for the 50-year-old on three counts of murder and one of attempted murder.But defense lawyers had asked for Patterson to become eligible for parole after serving 30 years. Prosecutors had argued she should never be considered for parole because she did not deserve the court’s mercy.

Survivor calls for kindness

Ian Wilkinson did not comment on the sentence but thanked police. prosecutors and health services he'd encountered since the poisonings.

She Built A Life In US In 8 Years, Lost It In 60 Days: American Scientist Slams ‘Senseless’ H-1B Rule After Indian Friend Forced Out

New York City. (Agency)

Washington, DC: The debate around America’s H-1B visa system has once again come under focus, but this time the demand for reform is not from immigrants. It comes from an American citizen whose close friend, an Indian professional, had to leave the country after eight years due to the rigid rules of the programme.

Nathan Platter, a data scientist based in Minneapolis, turned to LinkedIn to share his frustration with the current policy. His post has gone viral, sparking discussion across professional networks and within immigrant communities.Platter’s friend came to the United States for higher education and spent years building her life there. She first

completed her bachelor’s degree in four years and then pursued a master’s



degree over the next two years. For the last two years, she worked in the United States under an H-1B visa.

Recently, she lost her job. Under current rules, H-1B workers are given only a 60-day grace period to secure another employer willing to sponsor their visa.

She could not find one in time. As a result, she was forced to pack her life in Austin, Texas, and return to India.

Platter described the situation with raw emotion. “We let her study here. We let her work here. We let her pay taxes here. And now we are sending her back. After eight years in this country, she is being forced to leave only because she could not find another sponsor within 60 days,” he wrote.The data scientist recounted how his friend was dedicated to her work, often spending up to 14 hours a day at her job. She contributed significantly to her team and to her community. Still, she had to abandon her career, her home and her friends in Austin.“She had to leave her life in Austin.

How Donald Trump is weaponizing the government to settle personal scores and pursue his agenda

Washington . (Agency)

President Donald Trump, once a casino owner and always a man in search of his next deal, is fond of a poker analogy when sizing up partners and adversaries.

“We have much bigger and better cards than they do,” he said of China last month. Compared with Canada, he said in June, “we have all the cards. We have every single one.” And most famously, he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their Oval Office confrontation earlier this year: “You don’t have the cards.”The phrase offers a window into the worldview of Trump, who has spent his second stint in the White House amassing cards to deploy in pursuit of his interests.Seven months into his second term, he has accumulated presidential power that he has used against universities, media companies, law firms, and individuals he dislikes. A man who ran for president as an angry victim of a weaponized “deep state” is, in some ways, supercharging government power and training it on his opponents.And the supporters who responded to his complaints about overzealous Democrats aren’t recoiling. They’re egging him on.

“Weaponizing the state to win the culture war has been essential to their agenda,” said David N. Smith, a University of Kansas sociologist who has extensively researched the motivations of Trump voters. “They didn’t like it when the state was mobilized to restrain Trump, but they’re happy to see the state acting to fight the culture war on their behalf.”How Trump has weaponized the government

Trump began putting the federal government to work for him within hours of taking office in January, and he’s been collecting and using power in novel ways ever since. It's a high-velocity push to carry out his political agendas and grudges.This past month, hundreds of federal agents and National Guard troops fanned out across Washington after Trump drew on a never-used law that allows him to take control of law enforcement in the nation’s capital. He’s threatened similar deployments in other cities run by Democrats, including Baltimore, Chicago, New York and New Orleans.

He also fired a Federal Reserve governor, pointing to unproven claims of mortgage fraud.Trump, his aides and allies throughout the executive branch have trained the government, or threatened to, on a dizzying array of targets:He threatened to block a stadium plan for the Washington Commanders football team unless it readopted the racial slur it used as a moniker until 2020.He revoked security clearances and tried to block access to government facilities for attorneys at law firms he disfavors.

A decades-long peace vigil outside the White House is dismantled after Trump's order

Washington . (Agency)

Law enforcement officials on Sunday removed a peace vigil that had stood outside the White House for more than four decades after President Donald Trump ordered it to be taken down as part of the clearing of homeless encampments in the nation’s capital.Philipos Melaku-Bello, a volunteer who has manned the vigil for years, told The Associated Press that the Park Police removed it early Sunday morning. He said officials justified the removal by mislabeling the memorial as a shelter.“The difference between an encampment and a vigil is that an encampment is where homeless people live,” Melaku-Bello said. “As you can see, I don't have a bed. I have signs and it is covered by the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression.”The White House confirmed the removal, telling AP in a statement that the vigil was a “hazard to those visiting the White House and the surrounding areas.”

Taking down the vigil is the latest in a series



of actions the Trump administration has ordered as part of its federal takeover of policing in the city, which began last month. The White House has defended the intervention as needed to fulfill Trump’s executive order on the “beautification” of D.C.Melaku-Bello said he's in touch with attorneys about what he sees as a civil

rights violation. “They’re choosing to call a place that is not an encampment an encampment just to fit what is in Trump’s agenda of removing the encampments,” he said.The vigil was started in 1981 by activist William Thomas to promote nuclear disarmament and an end to global conflicts. It is believed to be the longest

continuous anti-war protest in U.S. history. When Thomas died in 2009, other protesters like Melaku-Bello manned the tiny tent and the banner, which read “Live by the bomb, die by the bomb,” around the clock to avoid it being dismantled by authorities.The small but persistent act of protest was brought to Trump’s attention during an event at the White House on Friday.Brian Glenn, a correspondent for the conservative network Real America’s Voice, told Trump the blue tent was an “eyesore” for those who come to the White House.“Just out front of the White House is a blue tent that originally was put there to be an anti-nuclear tent for nuclear arms,” Glenn said. “It’s kind of morphed into more of an anti-American, sometimes anti-Trump at many times.”Trump, who said he was not aware of it, told his staff: “Take it down. Take it down today, right now.”Melaku-Bello said that Glenn spread misinformation when he told the president that the tent had rats and “could be a national security risk.

## Man allegedly hacks son to death during drunken brawl

**Thiruvananthapuram . (Agency)**

A drunken argument between a man and his son ended with the father allegedly hacking the youth to death at their house near Ulloorkonam in Thiruvananthapuram last week.

As per the Pothencode police, the incident took place around noon on Thiruvonam day, Friday, but came to light only on Sunday. They said Unnikrishnan confessed to hacking his son Ullas, 35, to death at his house in Navodaya Nagar close to Karyavattom Greenfield Stadium. He is being interrogated in detail, said an officer.

The police said Unnikrishnan, 60, went to a neighbour's house around 6 am on Sunday and told them that his son had injured his head and was bleeding. He sought the neighbour's help to take him to the hospital. However, when the neighbour and others reached the house, they found Ullas dead, and immediately alerted the police.

An officer said the incident appeared to have taken place around noon on Friday. They suspect that a drunken argument between the father and son escalated into violence.

## Homestay fraud: Minister Sivankutty assures swift action

**Thiruvananthapuram.** Upon receiving a complaint about a homestay fraud allegation at the Gandhari Amman Kovil road, Education Minister V Sivankutty on Sunday visited the site and ensured immediate police action in the issue.

The minister, who was accompanied by Civil Supplies Minister G R Anil and MLA I B Sathesh, acted upon a complaint filed by Nedumangad natives Naseera Beevi and her daughter Nevin Sulthana.

According to Naseera, they entered into an agreement to run a homestay in the city with Shaiju Abbas and paid an advance sum of Rs 5 lakh. But issues worsened when Shaiju left the work incomplete and the building's electricity and water connection payments were irregular.

When repeated requests to him, including the return of their advance, went in vain, the victims approached the minister at his residence in Rose House here. During his visit, minister Sivankutty also instructed CPI(M) Thampanoor local committee to provide food and other requirements to the family.

## Gujarat Confidential: In remembrance

Assembly sources said that the discussion on the obituary references is going to see participation by a large number of members of the House because of the popularity of Rupani

**Ahmedabad . (Agency)**

As Gujarat Assembly will convene for a brief monsoon session of three days from Monday, the first day will see obituary references of six leaders who had been members of the House in the past. The most prominent name in the list is that of former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani who was killed in the June 12 airplane crash in Ahmedabad. Assembly sources said that the discussion on the obituary references is going to see participation by a large number of members of the House because of the popularity of Rupani and the manner in which he died.

### No Seat Sharing

Convener of Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) Alpesh Katheriya recently got embroiled in a controversy involving the organiser of a

Ganesh Pandal, allegedly over the issue of not being provided with a place to sit on the dais erected near the Pandal. Sources said that at the event on Wednesday, while senior Surat BJP leaders occupied the seats, Katheriya was left with none. Irked with this, Katheriya had allegedly threatened the organiser of the pandal, the sources added. Sources said that later in the evening, Katheriya and some of his supporters came back to the pandal, resulting in an altercation with the organisers. According

to the sources, as the issue reached Utran police station, a few influential Patidar community leaders also arrived. Eventually, the issue was stated to be settled without any police complaint being filed. Katheriya could not be reached for his comments over the issue.



**Ahmedabad . (Agency)**

Following a red alert, districts in north Gujarat, including Banaskantha, Patan, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad, along with southern districts of Tapi, Valsad and Navsari received heavy rainfall on Sunday. Significant rainfall has been recorded in 221 talukas of the state in 12 hours — from 6 am till 6 pm — on Sunday.

Owing to an active Southwest monsoon over Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning for fishermen against venturing into the sea till September 10.

On Sunday, with 102.89%, Gujarat also crossed 100% of average rainfall in the current season. Among regions, 107.34% average rainfall was noted in East Central Gujarat region, 107.99% in South region, 106.50% in the North region followed by 91.29% in the Saurashtra region.

Highest rainfall was recorded in Suigam, Vav, Bhabhar and Tharad talukas of Banaskantha

district with 303 mm, 127 mm, 117 mm and 100 mm rainfall, respectively.

Tapi and Vyara in Valsad received 112 mm and 100 mm rainfall, respectively.



Patan's Santalpur and Radhanpur recorded 89 mm and 68 mm, respectively, while Dehgam in Gandhinagar saw 87 mm rainfall till Sunday 6 pm. In the last 24 hours, till Sunday 5 pm, as per State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC), Gandhinagar, 243 talukas across 33 districts received an average of 35.57 mm rainfall. 10.51

## Horse dies after being hit by car; case registered against handler

The absence of streetlights in the area prevented both the driver and the horse handler from spotting each other in time, leading to the collision, said a source with the Kochi City police.

**Kochi. (Agency)**

A horse died after being hit by a car on Container Road in Kalamassery on Saturday night. The accident occurred around 9.30 pm near Manjummal Bridge, when Fathahudheen, a resident of Cheranalloor, was trying to cross the road with the horse after passing the median.

Joseph George of Pothanikkad, who was driving the car, was on his way back home after dropping his daughter off at the Kalamassery Junction. The absence of streetlights in the area prevented both the driver and the horse handler from spotting each other in time, leading to the collision, said a source with the Kochi City police.

The horse was owned by Nadheer, a Cheranalloor native and the cousin of the rider, he said. "Preliminary investigation

suggests that the accident occurred when the horse suddenly leapt across the five-foot-wide median onto the road, without noticing the approaching vehicle. Fortunately, both the rider and the car driver escaped without major injuries," said Sunil G, sub-inspector at Cheranalloor police station.

The horse, however, sustained severe injuries and was being rushed to the University Veterinary Hospital in Mannuthy, but it died en route near Angamaly, he said.

Meanwhile, based on Joseph's complaint, the police have registered a case against Fathahudheen under negligent conduct with

animals of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Kerala Police Act. Meanwhile, the carcass of the horse was handed over to the owner after postmortem procedures.



# Railway cops extorting passengers in Mumbai, 13 suspended in 5 months

Of the 13 personnel suspended, action against seven, including the Senior Inspector, was taken after GRP Commissioner Rakesh Kalasagar took charge in May.

**Mumbai . (Agency)**

Over the past five months, 13 Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel, including a Senior Inspector, have been suspended on charges of extorting money from passengers at railway stations across Mumbai in what officers say is an "unprecedented" crackdown against an "organised racket".

Sources told that the racket was found to be operating at railway stations in and around Mumbai, especially those that cater to long-distance trains, such as Mumbai Central, Dadar, Kurla, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Thane, Kalyan and Panvel. "The targets are mostly long-distance passengers carrying valuables who prefer to avoid registering a complaint," an officer said.

Detailing the modus operandi, sources said the victims are usually passengers found carrying cash or valuables at luggage checking points. "They are told to meet a

senior officer and taken to GRP rooms on platforms that don't have CCTV cameras. There, the passengers are told to prove that the cash or jewellery actually belongs to them," the officer said.

"Then, these passengers are threatened that their valuables would be seized and they would be thrown behind bars. In some cases, they are assaulted, too. The only way out for them is to pay money to these personnel," the officer said.

Of the 13 personnel suspended, action against seven, including the Senior Inspector, was taken after GRP Commissioner Rakesh Kalasagar took charge in May. When contacted by The Indian Express, Kalasagar said, "Strict action will be taken against those indulging in such activities and this menace will not be tolerated. We appeal to citizens to only allow



checking of bags by senior officers in uniform and under CCTV camera surveillance."

In one such case last month, a Rajasthan-based complainant, travelling with his daughter, was allegedly forced to pay Rs 30,000 from the Rs 31,000 inside his bag at Mumbai Central Railway Station. After reaching

Rajasthan, the victim filed a complaint following which an FIR was registered and transferred to Mumbai, leading to the suspension of three constables who are now on the run.

Railway activists like Sameer Zaveri have also provided details of vulnerable spots without CCTV coverage, including at the Mumbai Central station and others at Dadar and Borivali.

"If passengers are found carrying cash, jewellery, gutkha, lighters or wine bottles (from Goa where prices are cheaper), they are escorted into rooms without CCTV where the extortion is carried out," Zaveri told.

According to officers, such corruption is also facilitated by using "zero police" to collect money from passengers.

## KCBT-Chettipunniyam 18-km elevated stretch to ease congestion on GST road

**Chennai . (Agency)**

The Tamil Nadu government's approval of the Airport-Kilambakkam metro line last week has cleared the way for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to commence construction of the long-pending six-lane elevated corridor on the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road.

The 18.4 km elevated stretch, extending from the Kilambakkam bus terminus (KCBT) to Chettipunniyam near the Mahindra City junction, will be built erecting pillars in the central median of GST road. The stretch will include entry and exit ramps at three locations. The project cost is estimated to cost Rs 3,200 crore.

The Tambaram-Chengalpattu section of GST remains one of the busiest highways in the country throughout the year. During festival days and extended holidays, the section witnesses huge pile-ups stretching up to 3-4 km in both directions. In 2018, the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry proposed a 30km elevated road from Tambaram to Chengalpattu. However, due to feasibility, traffic, and alignment issues, the project was scaled down to 18.4 km.

Official sources said NHAI finalised the detailed project report (DPR) a few months back, but has not yet called for tenders, as the proposed metro line between the airport and Kilambakkam has to be integrated with the entry and exit ramps of the corridor.

Last week, the state government gave its final nod for extending the metro line from Chennai Airport to KCBT. To facilitate construction on the busy stretch, NHAI widened an 18.5 km stretch of the four-lane GST road into an eight-lane highway from Vandalur to Chettipunniyam in 2024. The width of the GST road ranges from 35-45m. As per the official documents, the section carries over 75,000 passenger cars per day.

"For construction purposes, one lane on either side will be utilised, but commuters will still have a six-lane carriageway for smooth traffic flow," said an official.

# Despite early start, Ganesh Visarjan in Pune ends after 34 hours

**Pune . (Agency)**

LIKE every year, the Ganesh immersion procession in Pune city dragged on for hours, this time creating a new record of 34 hours after it took off around 9.30am on Saturday on Anant Chaturdashi—the final day of the 10-day Ganeshotsav.

The grand colourful procession came to end with the immersion of Amarjyot Mitra Mandal's idol around 8.15pm on Sunday, said Pune Fire Brigade officials.

However, the Pune police said the immersion procession went on for 32 hours and 26 minutes and concluded around 6pm on Sunday. The procession was held peacefully barring a few exceptions, said the city police.

The time taken by the procession was more than last year's when the immersion procession lasted 28 hours and 45 minutes. In 2023, the Ganesh immersion procession went on for 30 hours and 25 minutes while it concluded after 31 hours in 2022.

As per tradition, the immersion procession started with the rituals of the first manache (prominent) Ganpati—the Kasba Ganpati Ganesh Mandal— around 9.30am on

Saturday, about 45 minutes earlier than last year. A dispute erupted this year after some Ganesh mandals in the city insisted that they would start the immersion procession at 7am, before the five 'Manache Ganpati' (the five prominent ones). These mandals had claimed that major delays are caused by the immersion procession of the five prominent mandals, forcing them to wait on the procession routes till late night.

But with the intervention of Pune MP and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, BJP MLA Hemant Rasane and police authorities, the dispute was resolved and it was decided that Kasba Ganpati Mandal would start the Ganesh immersion procession.

According to police, the Kasba Ganpati's procession started at 9.34am on Laxmi Road—the main route for immersion procession in the city. Subsequently, the other four Manache Ganpati also joined the procession on Laxmi Road.

Police said the idol of Kasba Ganpati mandal was immersed at Nateshwar ghat at 3.47pm, the Tambdi Jogeshwari mandal (second prominent one) at 4.10pm, Guruji

Talim Mandal at 4.34pm, Tulshibaug Ganpati Mandal at 4.58pm and Kesari Wada Ganpati at 5.38pm at Panchaleshwar Ghat. Last year, the "Manache Ganpati" immersion procession lasted till 7.38 pm.

A live performance of Varaha Avatar (third incarnation of the Hindu deity Lord Vishnu) killing the demon Hiranyaksha by Taal Vadya Pathak at Tambdi Jogeshwari mandal was a major attraction of the procession this year. Besides, the thrilling 'Mallakhamb' performance by 'Swa' - roopwardhinee at Tulsibaug Ganpati Mandal drew big applause from the crowd.

Like every year, activists of Guruji Talim Mandal spilled huge amounts of Gulal (pink coloured powder) during the immersion procession. Several dhol tasha pathaks dished out energetic beats on different immersion routes in the city.

While the five "Manache Ganpati" have both ceremonial and historic importance, they

also are also thronged by a huge crowds of devotees. The procession of the famous Shrimant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganesh Mandal began at 3.45pm on Saturday and concluded at 9.23 pm at Panchaleshwar



Ghat the same day. The immersion procession of Hutatma Babu Genu Mandal concluded at Nateshwar Ghat at 2.25am, Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganpati Mandal at 2.40am, Akhil Mandai Mandal at 3.28am, and Shri Jilbya

Maruti Mandal Trust at 3.47am at the Panchaleshwar ghat on Sunday.

There were a few incidents of arguments between the Ganesh Mandal office bearers and the police authorities. Police were seen struggling to push the Ganesh mandals workers and dhol tasha pathaks to move faster on the immersion routes.

About the delay in completing the Ganesh immersion procession, Commissioner of Pune Police Amitesh Kumar said, "It was never our priority to finish the immersion procession earlier than last year. Our basic objective was maintaining law and order and ensuring that the procession ends peacefully."

Kumar appreciated the work done by the police force throughout the Ganesh festival. He said along with a huge deployment, mobile surveillance vehicles, CCTVs, and modern equipment were used for security arrangements during the festival.

Why Gopichand stands out

In a world of ambiguous scruples and blurring lines between what is wrong and right, talking about ethics and its moral compass may seem like lighting a candle in front of the sun or playing a trumpet to the deaf. Yet, talk we must, especially in the framework of sports and the belief that fair play is its essence and winning or losing are two sides of the same coin. Even if it may be a self-defeating illusion to divest sports from the larger reality of this world, there is no harm in reminding the vast mass of sports followers in India that we should admire, love and appreciate a role model who follows the principle that the “means used to achieve an end are more important than the end itself”.Remember Pullেলা Gopichand? The former All-England badminton champion, only the second Indian to achieve this feat after Prakash Padukone, has been the torchbearer of the badminton revolution in India, whose coaching academy in Bengaluru has changed the face of the sport and made India its thriving hub. I remember him for something else, an act that in today’s world seems impossible. It is a world where sportspersons (read cricketers) endorse any brand — good, bad, ugly — as long as the money earned from advertising it is substantial. At his peak, when he was dominating the international circuit before an injury affected his summit march, he had declined to promote a cola product. We don’t know its financial implications but suffice it to say that the money offered must have been tempting, as badminton is no cricket and even its champion players are not pampered with money like cricketers are.Gopi, as he is fondly called, had created a fund of goodwill in the sporting world by an act which in today’s ecosystem would be considered vacuous, if not downright stupid. Lost to the world would have been Gopi’s strong, sincere intentions of not wanting to wrongly promote a sugar-sweetened drink as bringing health benefits to budding sportspersons.What does Gopi think today of what he did more than two decades ago? He sent this recorded message when I reached out to him: “For me, I just took a stand because it was very personal. I did not drink cola for a very long time. And for me to endorse something which I don’t do myself, I felt was not right. It is a very personal decision and it is a very subjective decision... and each one has their own reasons for doing things or not doing something, I don’t want to get into that. As far as I am concerned, it is something I just didn’t do. I didn’t endorse it.”Gopi, it should be obvious, felt strongly not to promote something which he believed didn’t serve the larger cause of promoting the sport he played, unlike a vast majority of top-notch cricket stars who probably did not even bat an eyelid before endorsing Fantasy leagues and online apps like Dream XI and MyCircle XI.A few years before these “dreams” were to be sold in India, a game called 6UP was launched. All you had to do was predict the score off each ball of an over and if done correctly, you could win double or even triple the amount of money you had bet on it. It caused a debate in the media and in a very critical piece, I highlighted the gambling nature of the so-called “skill” game. This 6UP was being promoted by former Australian captain Steve Waugh, who invited me for lunch at one of Delhi’s expensive hotels, The Imperial. For about an hour, Waugh tried to persuade me to change my mind and convince me that predicting the result of a six-ball over is a skill, and not gambling. Waugh was to fund his charity which he launched in Kolkata from the profits to be made from this game, but due to the strong legal challenge and the sports ministry’s opposition, 6UP never took off.While 6UP failed, a decade later, the fantasy leagues succeeded in establishing themselves. To circumvent the ban on betting in India, they masqueraded their products as a game of skills. The courts accepted their arguments. A vast army of young and old across India, rural or urban, were now hooked to their mobiles, making their own teams, betting on them, especially during the Indian Premier League, and suffering financial ruin and developing disastrous symptoms of addiction.

Floods in Punjab wreak havoc, Modi-XI meet in Tianjin ushers hope

While achievements like India being ready with its indigenously developed Vikram 3201 microchip brought in positivity, denial of bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi 2020 riots after spending 5 years in jail raised viable questions about UAPA

After Himachal and Jammu and Kashmir, the rain gods continued to wreak havoc in the villages and towns of Punjab. The incessant flooding obliterated familiar markers on the Radcliffe Line in Ferozepur where parts of the border fencing that divides India from Pakistan have been submerged. It’s as if geography is taking its revenge on history, writes Agency in her edit Water will find a way, in India & Pak. The Bhakra dam has never been desilted since it was built in 1963. She has many formidable questions for which people need answers — If this is true about the Bhakra Nangal on the Sutlej, could it also be true about the Pong dam and the Ranjit Sagar dam? Does it follow that the 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? If these dams had been desilted over the years, would they have been capable of carrying much more water?In their Op-ed piece Floodwaters expose cracks in Punjab’s governance, JNU professor Seema Bathla and Ravi Kiran, Assistant Professor, Government College, Sri Muktsar Sahib, underline the need for a proactive, long-term strategy that addresses the fundamental causes of floods and the need for coordinated efforts between neighbouring states. A review of dam management protocols, a state-wide project for desiltation and a robust farmer-centric crop insurance policy is what they recommend.

In yet another informative article, science commentator Dinesh C Sharma explains in his edit piece Wake-up call on the climate front that the changing monsoon patterns are linked to larger patterns of climate change. Enumerating the solutions, he writes we need to make all our public policies compliant with climate change, review the Environmental Impact Assessment regime and conduct a ‘climate audit’ of all existing infrastructure — hydel projects, national highways, road and railway bridges, airports — not from a financial perspective but to check if it is climate-resilient.With the SCO meet held in Tianjin earlier this week, among India, China and Russia, the weakest link in this chain is the India-China relationship, says former Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale in his Op-ed piece Beyond photo-ops: Realities of India-China ties. The outstanding boundary question imposes limitations on how much India-China relations can improve, he writes. It is time for quiet backroom discussions and negotiations between India



and China.Amid the changing geopolitics induced by Trump 2.0, there are some good vibes coming in from Europe. Germany’s partnership with India will weather the current storms that are shaking up the international order, writes Germany’s Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann in his Op-ed piece Berlin bets on Indian talent for stronger ties. Many German companies have made Bengaluru a cornerstone of their R&D strategies and many Indian students trust the quality of German public universities and are placing their future on Germany.A fallout of Trump’s tariff plan, the Centre announced the removal of 11 per cent import duty on cotton. That it has come at the time of harvest is a recipe for disaster, writes Sukhpal Singh, Chairman, Punjab State Farmers’ and Farm Workers’ Commission in his Oped Cotton imports spell disaster for farmers. The irony is that this decision came days after PM Modi assured the farmers that the government would not compromise on their interest at any cost. Supporting the cause of the farmers is another Op-ed piece Why India needs an agricultural policy where Kirti Kisan Union general secretary Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala writes that the pressure of corporate and imperialistic countries has been deciding the fate of our food and farmers. A policy that is advantageous to the farmers, not corporate giants, is

needed, he writes. The Delhi High Court refused bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi 2020 riots. By declaring their involvement "graver" without showing how, the court avoids the hard question of equality before law, says Supreme Court senior advocate Sanjay Hegde in his Op-ed piece Burying justice in the Umar Khalid trial. This case is not just about Khalid or Imam, it is about the space for dissent in India. Five years in jail without trial for words and protests is not proportionate; it is punishment without conviction, he notes.

In a positive development, the ISRO presented the indigenously developed Vikram 3201 microchip at the Semicon conference marking a huge milestone in the nation’s self-reliance in the semiconductor technology. ‘Vikram’ is expected to find valuable applications in strategic and industrial sectors, besides playing a major role in space missions, explains IISER Mohali’s visiting Professor TV Venkateswaran in his Op-ed piece Why ISRO’s Vikram 3201 is a game-changer. The work on semiconductor technology was driven by necessity as ISRO heavily relied on imported processors earlier. Sanctions imposed after the 1998 Pokhran tests sharply highlighted the importance of developing home-grown strategic technology, he explains further.

Kavitha's exit could weaken BRS, benefit BJP

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

The exit of Kalvakuntla Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana chief minister and BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, from the party could not have come at a worse time for the ageing patriarch.Having lost the assembly and Lok Sabha elections, KCR has confined himself to his farmhouse, leaving his son K T Rama Rao and nephew Harish Rao to take on the ruling Congress. However, increasing attacks from the Congress, including the latest government move to order a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram irrigation project, have put the BRS in a spot of bother. It is under these circumstances that Kavitha’s dissenting voice crossed a red line.The immediate trigger for KCR to suspend his daughter was her public outburst against Harish, whom she accused of playing a major role in Kaleshwaram and dragging her father into a CBI probe. Her remarks indirectly endorsed the Congress’s allegations.But his action made her double down and resign from both the party and the legislative council, and going so far as to accuse Harish of seeking to take over the party.ensational as her allegations are, the episode is



essentially a family feud. It is a truism that all family-run parties face internal power struggles at some point. Kavitha’s ambitions were thwarted, in contrast to her brother’s fortunes. While KTR was made the party’s

working president, she remained a member of the council with no position in the party.The Delhi liquor scam, in which she was jailed, did not help her cause. Following her release, she was not, in her words, allowed to take an active role. The stifling atmosphere and dwindling political capital perhaps turned her into a rebel. In reality, her words and actions are aimed as much against her father, for it is he who is the deciding authority.What could be the political fallout of Kavitha’s exit? She is no mass leader to split the party. Floating a new outfit is easier said than done, which leaves her with the option of joining the Congress or the BJP. The danger for BRS is that she could dent its prospects.The more the BRS is weakened, the stronger will be the other opposition party, the BJP—and therein lies the real fallout. KCR could have avoided this, but then, a patriarchal mindset seems to have made it inevitable.

Neighbour’s envy, owner’s pride

The curated lives of others are constantly on display, leaving us exposed to the dangerous illusion that everyone else is happier, more successful, more fulfilled



Watching an Argentinian show, Envidiosa, I found myself uncomfortably confronted by its protagonist Vicky, a 40-year-old woman whose decade-long relationship crumbles, leaving her desperate for love, self-acceptance, and conventional markers of happiness that elude her grasp. The show is positioned as a funny romantic comedy. But what struck me was how accurately it reflects our own capacity for corrosive envy. Vicky longs for marriage, children, and the family she’s dreamed of since her father left in childhood. As her friends reach the milestones she craves, she cannot rejoice, her envy rooted in old wounds more than malice. Despite being surrounded by loving family and friends, she is unable to transcend her myopic self-absorption or toxic behaviour. The

show’s genius lies in its unflinching portrayal of how envy can transform us into creatures we barely recognise. There exists a Vicky within each of us. Mercifully, most of us manage to keep our impulses in check. Anyone claiming immunity from envy’s sting would be lying or lacking in self-awareness.

The theme of envy has always haunted art and literature. From Shakespeare’s tormented Othello to Euripides’ vengeful Medea, from Daphne du Maurier’s Rebecca to Edvard Munch’s lesser-known painting Jealousy—which depicted his friend against an Adam and Eve backdrop, allegedly inspired by Munch’s affair with the man’s wife—art has consistently explored this destructive emotion. Louisa May Alcott’s

domestic classic Little Women features Amy burning her sister Jo’s manuscript, demonstrating that envy need not be romantic to be devastating. Experts draw a distinction between envy and jealousy. Envy arises when someone else possesses something we lack yet desire. It is dyadic: between the self and the other. Jealousy, on the other hand, is triangular. It involves the fear of losing something we believe to be rightfully ours, such as a partner’s affection, to a rival. But whether we name them envy or jealousy, I think of them as close cousins.In our hyper-connected digital age, envy has only intensified. The curated lives of others are constantly on display, leaving us exposed to the dangerous illusion that everyone else is happier, more successful, more fulfilled.

Yet envy isn’t inherently destructive. Like anger or sadness, it serves as emotional data, revealing our deepest desires and insecurities. But we must learn to manage it. Left unchecked, envy destroys relationships, blinds us to our own blessings, leaving us perpetually dissatisfied.

The antidote requires conscious effort: cultivating gratitude, staying mindful of our emotional responses, and developing genuine empathy for others’ journeys. Though clichéd, consistently acknowledging and focusing on what we already have restores perspective, reminding us of the abundance in our lives.If we fail to do so, we risk ending up like Vicky, unhappy, dissatisfied, and derailed. Envy will always be with us. What matters is what we let it make of us.

The UGC and a uniform curriculum

Oxford University, Cambridge University and the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, are in close geographical proximity to each other. Yet, each one of them teaches different things in mathematics at the undergraduate level. Also, the emphasis on topics and themes varies from year to year. This allows a great flowering of ideas and activities. Similarly, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University are in close proximity to each other and yet again the emphasis on what they teach and how they teach undergraduate mathematics differs in content, emphasis and flavour. This makes one wonder why the UGC has chosen to micromanage the design of

the mathematics undergraduate curriculum? The UGC would perhaps be better served if it stepped back a little instead of its often well-intentioned but ill-conceived attempts to help bolster academic standards through a sort of prescriptive micromanagement. It seems that the UGC is prescribing a common syllabus for the study of undergraduate level mathematics for the entire nation. This has been necessitated by the fact that so many of our universities have abysmally low standards. However, this way of tackling the problem has the grave danger of proving to be counterproductive. All undergraduate institutions would end up teaching the same things in the same manner.

# Women lead in Punjab flood relief: Embankments to camps & supplies

**Across Punjab's flood-hit districts, thousands of women endure similar conditions but have still stepped out of their homes to help.**

**Srihargobindpur (gurudasgur).** (Agency) On the bridge over the Beas connecting Hoshiarpur and Tanda, 32-year-old Harmel Kaur has been living in a makeshift camp for 20 days, turning a trolley into a cramped room and kitchen for her three children, after floodwaters submerged her home and fields. "The morning and evening meals come from the gurdwara. I still make tea, wash clothes and do all the chores, even though there is no toilet here. We have to go out in the open," she says, boiling milk on a small gas stove. Then, Harmel pauses and adds, "For women, this is much harder than for men. But this is a calamity, and we have to bear it."

Across Punjab's flood-hit districts, thousands of women endure similar conditions but have still stepped out of their homes to help. They are the unseen volunteers ferrying medicines to marooned hamlets, setting up kitchens in trolleys, and working shoulder to shoulder with men to hold the flood at bay. They are also the hygiene warriors. "We formed a small team, raised everything through

donations from Chandigarh and Mohali, and took relief to the Ramdas-Ajnala belt," says Harpuneet Kaur, a law student at Panjab University. "Sanitary pads are the most basic



need. Many families didn't even have undergarments. This is causing UTI issues. Women with severe period pain are unable to manage without hot water or home care." Her team now focuses on medical support and cleanliness drives. "Because of waterlogging, fungal infections and allergies are common," she says, as volunteer doctors consult on the spot. "Rations are reaching big hubs, what's

missing is hygiene. That's what we're prioritising now," says Harpuneet. The massive floods that hit Punjab in mid-August, fuelled by heavy rains and water release from dams upstream, have claimed 48 lives and displaced over 3.54 lakh people, with 21,000 evacuated to relief camps. More than 1,900 villages across all 23 districts have been inundated, submerging 3.71 lakh acres of farmland.

With some respite from rains expected from Monday, the Punjab government has ordered schools across the state, which have remained shut since August 27, to reopen from Tuesday after inspection.

Mansa-based kabaddi player Pittu Kotra started "with just a bag of clothes" and is now leading a convoy of volunteers, taking medicines by boat to homes cut off in Sultanpur Lodhi. "We cannot give up. Punjab lives in the heart, we must come together," she says.

Singer Baani Sandhu has issued an Instagram appeal for tailors around Mohali to stitch 1,000 salwar suits for displaced women, focusing on dignity and comfort for pregnant women.

## Governor to flag off procession to mark Onam fete conclusion on Tuesday

**Thiruvananthapuram .** (Agency) Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar will flag off the closing procession of the Onam celebration at Manaveeyam Veedhi in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, state ministers, and cultural icons are expected to participate in the event, General Education Minister V Sivankutty said in a press conference on Sunday.

The procession from Vellayambalam to East Fort will start by 4 pm and feature nearly 1,000 artists performing 91 art forms. Reflecting the theme 'unity in diversity', the procession will exhibit various art forms from Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. The Indian army's band team will also be part of the event.

It will also see 59 floats, under themes of Kerala's culture, tradition, cinema, literature, women's safety, empowerment, science, and technology. Additional 60 floats, depicting the state government's developmental activities, will also be there. All the floats have been prepared by adhering to the green protocol, Sivankutty said.

He also urged the public to follow the instructions given to them. Traffic regulations will be imposed from

Kowdiar to Eanchakkal from 2 pm on the day of procession. Vehicle parking will not be allowed along the roads through which the procession will pass, City Police Commissioner Thomson Jose said. Parking grounds have, however, been arranged in different schools and colleges of the city. Diversions from key roads will also be arranged for other travellers, as other key roads will also fall under regulations. Ambulances, fire services,



etc will be deployed as part of safety precautions, tourism director Shikha Surendran said.

Drinking water facilities will be set up for people to avoid the use of plastic bottles. Schools and government institutions in the city will not be functioning in the afternoon.

### Four men held for two separate house break-ins

*Three sovereigns and two pairs of silver anklets were recovered. Manikandan is a known history-sheeter, the police said.*

**Chennai.** (Agency)

Four men, who operated in separate two-member gangs, were arrested in separate house break-ins in Perungudi.

The Thoraipakkam police recovered about four sovereigns of gold ornaments and three pairs of silver anklets.

In the first case, the police nabbed Ashwin (19) of Thiruvalluvar Nagar and Ayyanar (20) of Perungudi for a burglary at Kamatchi's house in Perungudi. Kamatchi (38), a domestic help, returned from work on February 24 to find the door broken and three sovereigns of jewellery and a pair of silver anklets stolen, the police said. The duo were arrested with part of the



loot -- one sovereign and one pair of silver anklets. The police said Ashwin already faces two cases,

while Ayyanar has one.

In the second case, the police arrested Prakash (19) of Perungudi and Manikandan (35) of Thiruvalluvar Nagar for breaking into painter Devanathan's house on August 8 and stealing five sovereigns. Three sovereigns and two pairs of silver anklets were recovered. Manikandan is a known history-sheeter, the police said.

### Vizhinjam port sets new benchmark by handling vessel with 16.95 m draft

**Following the handling of nearly 5,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of cargo, the draft increased to 16.95 metres, marking a new record for the port.**

**Thiruvananthapuram.** (Agency)

The Vizhinjam International Seaport has set a new operational benchmark by handling MSC Virginia, a container vessel with a draft of 16.95 metres – the second-highest draft ever handled in India.

The ship departed for Spain on Sunday morning after completing cargo operations at the port. MSC Virginia had arrived at Vizhinjam from



A d a n i M u n d r a Port with a draft of 16 metres. Following the handling of nearly 5,000 TEUs

(twenty-foot equivalent units) of cargo, the draft increased to 16.95 metres, marking a new record for the port.

A ship's draft refers to the vertical distance between the waterline and the lowest point of the hull (the keel). It essentially indicates how deep the vessel sits in the water, which in turn determines the minimum depth of water a port must have to safely accommodate the ship.

Prior to this, the highest recorded draft at Vizhinjam was 16.8 metres. So far, 17 vessels with drafts exceeding 16.5 metres have been received at the port. Vizhinjam's natural depth of 18 to 20 metres is considered a major advantage, and this development further underscores its capability to handle some of the largest container vessels in global maritime trade.

# Punjab floods: Sukhbir seeks Rs 20,000 crore relief package, complete loan waiver for farmers

**He also accused the AAP AAP government of failing to provide compensation despite farmers suffering crop losses for three consecutive years**

**Jalandhar .** (Agency)

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal Sunday demanded a Rs 20,000 crore package for flood relief and rehabilitation in Punjab, along with a complete waiver of farm loans—including those taken from banks and cooperative societies—for farmers and farm labourers.

Speaking to reporters ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to the state, Badal said, "The nation owes it to the brave farmers of Punjab who ushered in the Green Revolution and made the state the food basket of the country. A Rs 20,000 crore package is necessary to compensate farmers for loss of crops and

houses, as well as for relaying damaged roads and power infrastructure."

He also accused the AAP AAP government of failing to provide compensation despite farmers suffering crop losses for three consecutive years. "The current damage has broken their back. They should be given a comprehensive loan waiver," he said.

The SAD chief also announced that the party will hold an emergency meeting Monday to draw up a plan for clearing sand deposits from



agricultural fields in flood-hit areas.

## Punjab: Backbone of defence against flood, MGNREGA workers say pay pending

**Jalandhar .** (Agency)

As Punjab reels under heavy rainfall and flooding, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers have emerged as the backbone of the state's flood defense.

While embankments (Dhussi bundh) on the Beas, Ravi and Ghaggar rivers have breached at several points, the Sutlej's bandh has held firm so far — thanks largely to the relentless efforts of farmers, villagers and particularly MGNREGA workers. In Ludhiana's Sasrali, where erosion threatens the Sutlej's bandh, strengthening work is underway. However, the irony — while MGNREGA workers stand as shield against

the floods, payments worth nearly Rs 7 crore are pending in Jalandhar district alone — Rs 1.25 crore in Mehatpur, Rs 94 lakh in Phillaur, Rs 42 lakh in Nurmahal, Rs 33 lakh in Shahkot,



Rs 50 lakh in Lohian and Rs 69 lakh in Rurka Kalan among others. The payments of these workers are pending in across several districts of the state.

Thousands of MGNREGA workers

across the state are filling lakhs of sandbags daily, either to reinforce existing embankments or to keep them ready for emergencies.

According to the Rural Development and Panchayat Department, 7.18 lakh households were engaged in MGNREGA work between April and early September this year. In comparison, 8.34 lakh households worked in 2024 and 8.49 lakh households in 2023.

While hundreds of workers are working in every district, officials said, Jalandhar alone has employed around 700 for filling the sandbags.

"More than 35,000 sandbags have been filled in the past couple of days," said ADC (Development) Jalandhar, Vivek Modi.

# Punjab floods | Against their capacity, state's rivers ran heavy: Ravi, Beas bore the brunt this season

**It was the Ravi that emerged as the epicentre of this year's devastation. At Madhopur, the river touched 2.22 lakh cusecs—nearly double its maximum carrying capacity of one lakh cusecs**

**Jalandhar .** (Agency)

Punjab's flood fury this season once again underlines the stark gap between the carrying capacity of its rivers and the actual volumes of water that coursed through them in the last week of August and first week of September. While the Sutlej and Beas systems managed heavy inflows, the Ravi river in particular ran beyond its safe limits—triggering widespread flooding in Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Amritsar and adjoining low-lying areas.

**The designed capacity vs the reality**

According to a Punjab government report on river de-silting prepared after the 2019 floods, the Sutlej river, which flows for 416 km across the state with an average width of around 1,500 metres, has a designed carrying capacity of two to three lakh cusecs. The Beas, running 136 km with a width of 1,000 metres, also has a capacity in the same range of two to three lakh cusecs. The Ravi, however, is much more modest in scale—222

km long and about 500 metres wide, it can safely handle only 60,000 to one lakh cusecs. Among the smaller systems, the Ghaggar stretches for 165 km with an average width of 150 metres and a capacity of just 31,500 to 42,000 cusecs, while the Chakki rivulet, though only 35 km long and 125 metres wide, is volatile and can take up to 50,000 cusecs.

**What happened this season**

Data from August-end to September 2025, shows that at Hussainiwalah headworks, the Sutlej was carrying around 2.8 to upto 3- lakh cusecs at its peak while before Harike, which is the confluence point of Sutlej and Beas rivers, its maximum flow was 1.64 lakh cusecs in Yusufpur (Gidderpindi) in Jalandhar. Though this was technically within its upper limit, it exerted tremendous pressure on embankments

downstream because of the accumulation of silts and sediments but no breach at its Dhussi bandhs except an erosion in Ludhiana could



take place this season. The Beas at Shah Nehar downstream recorded flows of around 68,000 cusecs, which was manageable, but its tributary Chakki rivulet swelled to 14,000 to

around 20,000 cusecs, causing flash flooding in Pathankot's Chakki bank region, and then other local seasonal chokes also added water into which led its flow upto 2.35 lakh cusecs in Beas near Dhillwa this season. There was a breach on Beas in Hoshiarpur's Mukerian division but in Kapurthala district no breach was reported on Dhussi bandh. It was the Ravi that emerged as the epicentre of this year's devastation. At Madhopur, the river touched 2.22 lakh cusecs—nearly double its maximum carrying capacity of one lakh cusecs.

The Ujh river inflows compounded the situation even upto 3 lakh cusecs in Gurdaspur on August 26. This unprecedented discharge overwhelmed the Ravi's tolerance level, resulting in flooding of fields, villages and road infrastructure in Pathankot, Gurdaspur, and Amritsar and this water has yet to recede even after passive over 10 days.

# Doctors to bat for Healthcare League cancer awareness

►Modelled on the IPL format, the Indian Healthcare League (IHL) will feature teams from leading hospitals.

**Agency New Delhi.**  
: In a unique initiative to promote cancer awareness, doctors, including former Director General of ICMR Prof Balram Bhargava, will swap their stethoscopes for cricket bats. Modelled on the IPL format, the Indian Healthcare League (IHL) will feature teams from leading hospitals such as AIIMS, Max, and Fortis, competing across six regional squads representing

Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The tournament seeks to combine sportsmanship with healthcare advocacy. “More than a wellness initiative, the league positions itself as a powerful movement with a dual purpose—placing the spotlight on cancer awareness as its primary mission and championing the mental well-being of healthcare professionals as its secondary objective,” a statement issued by the Indian Healthcare League read. The inaugural season of the IHL features six dynamic franchises: Delhi Aavataars, Gujarat Lionhearts, Rajasthan Lake-city Warriors, Maharashtra Med Titans, Haryana Juggernauts, and Uttar Pradesh Super Kings. These teams will compete in a spirit of camaraderie and

sportsmanship, demonstrating how healthcare providers can balance professional commitments with fitness, teamwork, and community engagement. The league was launched by Indian cricketer



Cheteshwar Pujara. Speaking at the event, Pujara said, “The Indian Healthcare League is a truly unique initiative that celebrates the wellness of those who dedicate their

lives to keeping us healthy. Its mission of spreading cancer awareness and strengthening mental well-being among doctors makes it far more than a sporting event—it is a movement for change. I believe this league has the potential to grow into India’s second biggest” Nishant Mehta, CEO of IHL, added, “Doctors spend their lives taking care of others, but rarely get the time to care for themselves. With the Indian Healthcare League, we are not only helping doctors focus on their own wellness but also using sport as a platform to highlight cancer awareness and mental health. This dual mission ensures that the league impacts both the medical community and society, ultimately leading to healthier doctors, stronger awareness, and better patient outcomes.”

## Delhi Police bust child trafficking gang, 6 babies under a year old rescued



**Agency New Delhi.**  
In a major crackdown, the Delhi Police has busted an interstate child trafficking gang involved in the buying and selling of newborn children. Ten people linked to the racket have been arrested, and six children, each less than a year old, have been rescued safely. According to officials, the gang operated across Delhi and neighbouring states, targeting vulnerable parents, particularly from poor families and hospital settings. The group would steal or purchase newborns, often exploiting families in desperate situations. One of the infants, a six-month-old child, was successfully rescued within 48 hours of being reported missing. Investigation has revealed that this racket has been operating for a significant period, and has a well-organised and extensive network. Police have launched a deeper investigation to uncover the full scale of the operation.

## Study links capital’s rising heat stress to thousands of unrecognised deaths



**Agency New Delhi.**  
A new study by Greenpeace India has revealed a troubling link between Delhi’s intensifying heat stress and thousands of unrecognised deaths, particularly among the homeless and outdoor workers. The report, “Death and Degree: Establishing a Relationship of Death and Heat in Scorched Delhi,” uses the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) to show how extreme heat has become a silent public health crisis. According to the findings, monsoon months that once brought relief now register dangerously high humidity and temperature levels. Between 2015 and 2024, June, July, and August consistently recorded UTCI values above 31.5 degrees Celsius, with July 2019 peaking at 34.4 degrees—conditions previously linked only to peak summer. The report highlights a sharp seasonal rise in stress, with March-to-April UTCI levels spiking by over 30 per cent, marking the onset of extreme summer danger. This rise has coincided with a surge in deaths. In 2019 alone, 5,341 unidentified deaths were recorded during months of record heat. From 2022 to 2024, Delhi reported 11,819 such deaths, the highest three-year toll on record. June has emerged as the deadliest month, with 657 deaths in June 2019 at a UTCI of 34.2 degrees. The homeless have been worst hit: in June 2024, 192 homeless people died within just nine days, while July 2024 recorded 401 deaths—the highest monthly toll in two decades. “Our analysis shows Delhi’s heat crisis is extending well beyond summer into the monsoon, creating a prolonged season of danger. Unless urgent measures are taken to recognise heat as a disaster and safeguard at-risk communities, Delhi will continue to lose lives in silence,” said Selomi Garnaik of Greenpeace India.

## Exclusive: Amid Bihar SIR row, ex-poll officers back idea but question 'timing'

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Three former Chief Election Commissioners on Monday defended the concept of a Systematic Investigation of Rolls (SIR) but expressed concern over its timing and implementation in Bihar, saying voter lists are “bound to have errors” and should not become a flashpoint just ahead of polls. Speaking at the India Today South Conclave, SY Quraishi, OP Rawat, and Ashok Lavasa addressed the opposition’s allegations of “vote chori” (vote theft) and claims that the Election Commission was colluding with the BJP to manipulate voter rolls. ‘VOTER LISTS NEVER PERFECT’ The former poll officers underlined that

no electoral roll is flawless and discrepancies are inevitable. “Voters’ lists are never perfect. They are bound to have errors, and this has been the case throughout history,” one



of the commissioners said, adding that such imperfections do not amount to fraud. SIR MAKES SENSE, BUT TIMING OFF While backing the principle behind

SIR, meant to systematically investigate and clean up voter rolls, the former ECs questioned why the exercise was launched in Bihar at this time. “The concept is good, but the timing and choice of state raise questions. Bihar is flood-hit, and the state is heading into elections. Initiating such an exercise now can create unnecessary controversy,” one of them noted. ‘VOTE CHORI’ CLAIMS POLITICAL RHETORIC Rejecting the narrative of large-scale electoral fraud, the former ECs said Indian elections are broadly free and fair, and charges of “vote chori” were part of political rhetoric that surfaces in every election season. “Allegations of fraud are more political than factual. These claims are akin to routine accusations raised during elections,” they remarked.

## Delhi Photography Club Celebrates 15 Years

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Delhi Photography Club (DPC) is marking its 15th year with 'Light and Life: A Quiet Poetry of Light', an annual members' exhibition that brings together the creative visions of its vibrant community. The exhibition opened on Saturday at the India Habitat Centre's Open Palm Court Gallery, showcasing the interplay between light, lens, and life in photography. “The idea of light and life is because you see only because of light. You see because you are alive. Everything comes alive when you have light and when you have life. Light is something that gives you a feeling that life is vibrant, life is kicking and going. Every year we keep a different feel, and this year we wanted something to be more vibrant,” says Virendra Shekhawat, president of DPC, adding that this year’s show

focuses on colour photography. “We wanted people to come and see the pictures and fall in love with colour photography again.”

From luminous dawns and colourful festive celebrations to intimate portraits and sweeping landscapes, the



exhibition features over 60 photographs at the gallery, alongside a digital display of 250 works by 12 members: Avانش Dureha, Dr. Amish

Bhutani, Gaurav Govil, Pranav Kukreti, Rajeshwari Hariharan, Rakesh Jagtiani, Santosh Kaushik, Sushant Kulshrestha, Uma Maheshhwari, Uma Sharma, Veni Singhal, and VV SSSarma. The show reflects the power of photography to capture both the extraordinary and the everyday. Delhi Photography Club (DPC) is a creative community where enthusiasts, hobbyists, and professionals come together to learn, share, and celebrate the art of photography. Through exhibitions, workshops, heritage photo walks, and collaborative projects, DPC has become a platform that nurtures visual storytelling and connects people across cultures and experiences. With inclusivity at its heart, the club continues to inspire thousands to discover the joy of seeing the world through a lens.

## Kalkaji-Like cases leave devotees distraught

### The victim, Yogendra Singh, was beaten to death about 10 days ago after an argument with the accused over distribution of offerings (prasad).

**Agency New Delhi.**  
In the deluge caused by incessant rain and rising levels of Yamuna water an alarming story got drowned – the lynching of a Sewadar at the iconic Kalkaji temple. Such stories would have immediately raised suspicions about a communal angle. It was not so, the sewadar was killed by fellow Hindu devotees, or this is the wrong word to use. According to newspaper reports, nine people have been arrested so far in connection with the brutal killing of a 35-year-old sewadar at Kalkaji temple. The victim, Yogendra Singh, was beaten to death about 10 days ago after an argument with the accused over distribution of offerings (prasad). The accused have been identified as Kuldeep Bidhuri (20), Sandeep Bidhuri (33), Monu Kangar (31), Rohit Bidhuri (24), and Mohan Bidhuri alias Bhura (19), all residents of Tughlakabad; Atul Pandey (30) of Dakshinpuri; and Nitin Pandey (27) of Govindpuri. Anil Kumar

(55), father of accused Nitin Pandey, and Babu (40) of Tughlakabad have also been arrested for harbouring the criminals and criminal conspiracy. This is not an isolated incident but a fallout of a very “aggressively followed Hinduism” in the past few years. In these columns a few weeks back we had talked about stress put on the security and the civic agencies to maintain peace during the Kawad Yatra. This year there were reports of Kawadiyas smashing down hotels and shops run by the Hindus along the Yatra route. Somewhere unfortunately the culture of licensed hooliganism in the name of religion has come to pervade. This weekend amidst the traffic jams caused by roads broken in rains, the poor car users had their windows shuddering by the high voltage music played by the DJ carts accompanying Ganpati Visarjan Yatra. Ganpati Visarjan is meant to symbolise joy and submission to divinity, is now

accompanied by deafening DJs, street blockages, and open flouting of civic norms. In such circumstances, the quiet devotee seeking spiritual solace is drowned out, both literally and metaphorically.



Think of the frustration and how much shaken the car users, the majority of them being Hindus, would have been first stuck up in the rain battered roads getting battered by the high voltage

sound. Who are these devotees, what “sanskar” do they bring to value add to the ancient sanatani religion. For the god-fearing Hindu, the challenges are practical as well as spiritual. Attending a temple during peak festivities often means getting pushed by unruly crowds, tolerating deafening music, or even facing physical risk. Blocked roads, traffic snarls, and vandalism, further add to the frustration. Instead of spiritual upliftment, the devout often return with exhaustion or even fear. Over time, this discourages participation, leaving the field open to those who treat festivals as occasions of power play rather than devotion. Religious festivals that once encouraged collective discipline and harmony have increasingly turned into platforms of unruly display, where devotion is measured by noise, numbers, and muscle power rather than inner piousness.

## Gupta flags off 52 trucks carrying relief materials

**Agency New Delhi.**  
CM Rekha Gupta on Sunday flagged off 52 trucks carrying relief materials to Punjab and said that Delhi stands shoulder to shoulder with the state during the ongoing flood crisis. Speaking at the event, Gupta said 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 all possible assistance,” she said. She informed that the trucks are carrying 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 material on a war footing so that aid could reach the affected areas at the earliest, the chief minister added. The CM further said that apart from relief material, the government has contributed ‘5 crore to the Punjab CM’s Relief Fund. She also spoke with her Punjab counterpart and assured him of Delhi’s support until the situation stabilises, as per an official statement. “At this time, when natural calamities have caused distress and hardship in the country and in Punjab, we must hold one another’s hands and stand united. From our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have learnt how to stand with any nation in the world when it faces adversity,” Gupta said. Punjab is facing one of its worst floods in decades. The death toll from the devastating floods has risen to 46 as of Saturday, while crops spread over 1.75 lakh hectares have been damaged in the deluge, the officials said.

## Tender process for AIIMS’ radiotherapy machine cancelled for 4th time in a row

**Agency New Delhi.**  
For the fourth consecutive time, the tendering process for procuring a linear accelerator machine for radiotherapy at AIIMS’ cancer institute has been cancelled, leaving cancer patients who depend on advanced treatment to confront yet another setback. The procurement process was called off due to technical reasons, officials said. The AIIMS administration has now restarted the tender process. However, it may take several months before the machines are installed and



operational.

The latest tender, floated on September 1 this year, aims to procure two linear accelerator machines at an estimated cost of Rs 70 crore. If the process is completed in the coming months, patients would still face a prolonged wait before they benefit from the new equipment, owing to the extensive safety checks and radiation shielding required before the machines can be made functional. “Setting up and commissioning such equipment takes time because of strict safety protocols. Even after the process is completed, there will be additional delays before patients can access treatment,” a senior doctor at the institute said. The procurement effort is not new. AIIMS first initiated the purchase of such a machine in March 2022, but acquisition could not be completed. Subsequent tenders were issued in January 2024, July 2024 and May 2025, all for the procurement of two machines each.

NEWS BOX

Asia Cup 2025: What to expect from Oman, UAE and Hong Kong

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Asia Cup 2025 is just two days away as Afghanistan and Hong Kong will get the tournament underway in the curtain raiser fixture on Tuesday, September 9 in Abu Dhabi. The eight-team event will feature the usual big sides from Asia, namely India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. However, apart from them, three more teams will also set out to make a mark against the big five. Oman will make their debut at the mega event in the main stages while Hong Kong and UAE are set for their fifth and fourth appearance respectively. UAE earned their spot in the continental tournament after emerging victorious in the ACC Men's Premier Cup 2024 by beating Oman by 55 runs in the final. They're coming into the event from tri series against Pakistan and Afghanistan, losing all four of their matches. Captain Muhammad Waseem will have the burden of leading his team against the likes of India and Pakistan in Group A. On the other hand, Hong Kong sealed their spot in the Asia Cup after winning the third-place playoff against Nepal in the ACC Men's Premier Cup 2024. They're coming into the



tournament after losing against Malaysia in the Asia Pacific Cricket Champions Trophy 2025. They've been placed in Group B alongside Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Oman are coming into the tournament having last played in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 2023/24-2027. A runner-up finish at the ACC Men's Premier Cup 2024 sealed their spot in the Asia Cup. They're placed in Group A alongside India, Pakistan and the UAE.

How Alcaraz devised masterplan to dethrone Sinner after Wimbledon heartbreak

New Delhi. (Agency)

Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz was crowned the World No.1 in men's singles after beating Jannik Sinner in the US Open final on Sunday, September 7. Alcaraz took apart Sinner at the Arthur Ashe Stadium and finished the game in 4 sets, in a battle that lasted 2 hours and 42 minutes. Speaking after the game, Alcaraz explained how he turned the tables on Sinner, who beat him at the last Grand Slam of the year, Wimbledon. Alcaraz was on song on Sunday, serving emphatically throughout the match. The Spaniard did not commit a single double fault in the entirety of the match, while Sinner fumbled four times. Speaking to the press after the game, Alcaraz revealed that the Wimbledon final is where he decided he



needed to better his game if he is to beat Sinner. Alcaraz said that he took a week off after the Wimbledon final loss and then dedicated two weeks specifically to work on things that would make him better than Sinner. "Right after. Right after the match (Wimbledon Final). I thought that I need to prove some things if I want to beat him after the Wimbledon final. I took a week for myself after that. But after that I practised on the specific things that I need to improve to beat Jannik. So two weeks before Cincinnati, I only worked on things that I needed to beat Jannik," Alcaraz said in the post-match press conference. Sinner rued after the match that his game became too predictable against Alcaraz in the US Open final. However, the Spaniard countered that opinion and said that he simply loves watching Sinner play, and came into the game after watching a lot of his matches. "I wouldn't say I read his game, that he was predictable... I watch a lot of his matches. First of all, because I love watching him play. I think it is unbelievable what he's doing..." Alcaraz said.

Asia Cup conquered: India's transitioning side ready to chase World Cup glory

India have finally slayed the dragon and secured their first Asia Cup title in 8 years with a thumping win in Rajgir. Now with continental success and momentum, the young and transitioning Indian team get ready for the big mission in 2026, the World Cup.

New Delhi. (Agency)

"It's relief in a way in a sense, because we've been on the road for 2 months, and it's nice to walk away from here, being champions." These were the words of India coach Craig Fulton right after the Asia Cup 2025 final win in Rajgir on Sunday, September 7. You can't blame the coach for feeling relieved — his side has endured a roller-coaster ride in 2025 following a fruitful period last year. India won the bronze medal at the Paris Olympics and then went on to claim the Asian

Champions Trophy title. But 2025 turned into a major reality check. India entered the European leg of the Hockey Pro League sitting third in the standings but went on to lose seven of their eight games against Australia, the Netherlands, Argentina and Belgium. That run saw them finish seventh and lose their chance at direct World Cup qualification. This meant the Asia Cup was their last hope. If they failed, the high-pressure qualifiers awaited. Criticism about Fulton's tactics and India's inconsistency grew louder after the opener against China. Despite a 4-3 win, rust was visible in India's game and the heavy reliance on captain Harmanpreet Singh to score goals was evident. Wins against Japan and Kazakhstan gave the side momentum heading into the Super 4s. But then came the draw with Korea, where India lacked consistency and even failed to execute basic plays. The response was emphatic. India clicked in the final three matches of the tournament, showcasing why they are still the best in Asia and ultimately securing the title. It was hard-earned, but this transitioning side

once again showed why they belong in the conversation among the best teams in world hockey. Mindset of Champions For any team to succeed in tournaments like this, mindset matters as much as skill. Mental



conditioning coach Paddy Upton said during the tournament that he believed the group had it in them to win major trophies like the World Cup and Olympics. Vice-captain Hardik Singh echoed that belief after the final, saying the mindset from the

start was to dominate Asia and secure World Cup passage. He also pointed out how the team managed to find the finishing touch in the latter stages, which proved decisive. "Our mindset was that from here we have to qualify for World Cup and we have to dominate in Asia, so that was our message before this tournament." "And the way team has performed, after the match against Korea which was a draw, we made sure this time the finishing touch which was missing in that match will be completed. And how it went, I think we knew that we can beat any team here but our final had to be good and we worked on that," said Hardik. Hardik also highlighted the presence of multiple leaders within the group, which helped the team cross the finish line. Former captain Manpreet Singh, still one of the fittest players in world hockey despite playing over 400 matches, continues to set the tone. Add in the experience of Amit Rohidas and Harmanpreet, and the leadership core is strong.

Even Shubman Gill will find it tough to displace Samson as opener: Ravi Shastri

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has urged the team management to let Sanju Samson play as an opener in the upcoming Asia Cup T20, while fielding vice-captain Shubman Gill at a different batting position. The Asia Cup T20 will kick off on September 9, with India set to begin their campaign against hosts UAE in Dubai on September 10. Sanju Samson has been in impressive form as an opener since taking over the role in 2024, amassing 861 runs in 41 T20Is. The Indian wicketkeeper has scored three T20I hundreds in just 12 innings, maintaining a strike rate of 152.38. However, his performance drops significantly when batting in other positions, with a highest score of only 29 in nine innings. Meanwhile, Indian selectors have confirmed the return of Test skipper Shubman Gill to T20Is after more than a year, raising questions about whether he will resume his preferred role alongside Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order. "He [Samson] is most dangerous in the top three. That's where he wins you matches. He should be left there. It [replacing Samson for Gill] won't be that easy. Samson has a strong record for India at the top in T20s. Even Gill will find it tough to displace him. Gill may come in for someone else, but Samson should be left alone as opener," Shastri, who coached India from 2017 to 2021, said during a media interaction recently. "Samson should continue playing the way he has for India in T20s. He has been consistent at the top with big runs and hundreds," Shastri added. Shastri, speaking on the bowling department, said he believes spin will play a crucial role in the upcoming tournament. "Given the conditions in Dubai and the heat, spin will definitely be the flavour of the month. Teams like Afghanistan might even play four spinners. Whether it's two or three, it depends on balance, but spinners will certainly be in big demand in Dubai. You need both finger spin and wrist spin. India has that luxury, and they'll all come into play depending on conditions," the former spin-bowling all-rounder said.



Satwik-Chirag to lead Indian challenge at Hong Kong Super 500

JHONG KONG. (Agency)

Fresh from their World Championships bronze medal, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will once again spearhead India's challenge at the Hong Kong Super 500 badminton tournament, beginning here on Tuesday. The world No. 3 duo, who produced a superlative show in Paris to clinch their second World Championships bronze, have been India's most consistent performers this season with several semifinal finishes on the BWF Tour, including events in India, Malaysia, China, and Singapore. The eighth seeds will open their campaign against Chinese Taipei's Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, who showed glimpses of her prime form at the Worlds with a demolition of China's Wang Zhi Yi before falling in the quarterfinals, will look to build on that performance when she faces Denmark's Line Christophersen in the opener. US Open champion Ayush Shetty, one of the rising stars this year, has a

tough first-round clash against China's Lu Guang Zu. Former world No. 6 Lakshya Sen, still searching for rhythm after his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics, will look to regain confidence when he



takes on Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei. The 24-year-old has been plagued by narrow losses and niggles, and suffered a first-round exit at the Worlds against top seed Shi Yu Qi. HS Prannoy, who went down fighting against Denmark's Anders

Antonsen in Paris, faces another stiff challenge against Japan's fifth seed Kodai Naraoka in the first round. Among doubles, the men's pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi and the women's duo of Rutaparna and Swetaparna Panda will be in action. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, quarterfinalists at the Worlds, face Chinese Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Hsu Yin-Hui, while Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani take on second seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China. The qualifiers feature an all-Indian clash between former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth and Tharun Mannepilli. In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya meets fourth seed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, while Rakshitha Ramraj runs into Thailand's former world champion and fifth seed Ratchanok Intanon.

Asia Cup: Spin-powered Afghanistan are no longer just challengers, but contenders

Rajgir. (Agency)

After a semi-final finish at the 2024 T20 World Cup and an impressive run in the 2023 ODI World Cup, Afghanistan are ready to script the next chapter in their success story. Over the last decade, India have dominated world cricket and cemented its position as Asia's top team. While India remain the continent's undisputed number one, Afghanistan have quietly risen to second place—leapfrogging Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Their rise has been swifter than Pakistan's erratic progress, more consistent than Sri Lanka's one-off Asia Cup triumph, and far more promising than Bangladesh's fading challenge. Afghanistan now boasts some of the finest T20 specialists in the game, with their bowling attack standing out as their biggest weapon. Their world-class spin unit remains the

centerpiece, while the top order carries the talent and firepower to test any opposition. Captain Rashid Khan will be counting on his team to play with freedom, showcase their fearless brand of cricket, and make a strong statement on the big stage. Building on their 2024 T20 World Cup semi-final run—where they stunned New Zealand and Australia before bowing out—Afghanistan now have their sights firmly set on the next edition. SPIN-POWERED BUT BALANCED SQUAD A spin-heavy 17-member squad, led by the experienced Rashid Khan, combines seasoned campaigners with exciting young talent. Afghanistan, drawn in Group B alongside Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, will open their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong. Veterans Mohammad Nabi, Karim Janat, and Gulbadin Naib provide leadership

and composure, while explosive openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran have been consistent in setting strong platforms. They are joined by in-form



domestic performers such as Sediqullah Atal and Azmatullah Omarzai, while 16-year-old Allah Ghazanfar—already with two ODI five-wicket hauls and IPL exposure—adds a fresh dimension to the bowling group. Naveen-ul-Haq's return after stepping away from ODIs strengthens the pace attack, though he will

miss the T20I tri-series preceding the Asia Cup, with Abdullah Ahmadzai filling in. Ghazanfar also re-enters the setup following an injury layoff. Apart from these changes, the tri-series squad mirrors the Asia Cup contingent. Spin remains Afghanistan's most lethal weapon. Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Nabi, and Noor Ahmad headline a world-class unit, with Sharafuddin Ashraf and Ghazanfar providing further options. Their extensive T20 league experience, particularly in UAE conditions, makes them a nightmare for opposition batters. The pace battery, led by Fazalhaq Farooqi and supported by Omarzai, Naveen, and Naib, adds variety and depth. With Farooqi's left-arm angle complementing the spinners, Afghanistan's bowling attack has both balance and bite.

Banks closed for a few days this week in different states: See the list

**MUMBAL(Agency)**  
Kolkata: The week beginning on September 8 and ending on September 13, 2025, will witness banks being closed in a few states. The central bank of the country, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has declared several holidays. This is due to a few festivals and observances. Check in which states will banks be closed and why. Though online and digital banking have proliferated, many still — especially the elderly — prefer to visit branches of banks to get various tasks done. The point to note is that the closure dates are different in different states since different says are observed in different days. So, check your state and whether banks will be closed this week. Bank holidays this week  
Monday, September 8: Banks, both private and public banks, will be closed in the country’s financial capital of Mumbai as well as the entire state. Maharashtra government has decided to observe of Eid-e-Milad. However, it was celebrated on September in some states.Friday, September 12: Bank branches will be shut for business in Jammu and Srinagar. This will be done to observe Eid-i-Milad-ul-Nabi.  
Saturday, September 13: According to the Negotiable Instruments Act, banks will be closed all over the country since it will be the second Saturday of the month. All bank branches in the country are closed on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.The RBI prepares tyhe list of holidays for banks in the country. This is done under the Negotiable Instruments Act. It deals with issuance of cheques and promissory notes. On the days which are listed as holidays for bank branches, no transactions are possible involving cheques and promissory notes.

Home-Cooked Thalís Get 7-8% Cheaper In August Over Benign Commodity Prices

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
The price of home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis declined 7 per cent and 8 per cent in August (year-on-year), respectively, amid benign commodity prices in India, a report showed on Monday. The decline in the cost of vegetarian thali was led by a sharp drop in prices of onion, potato and pulses, according to Crisil Intelligence.Prices of potato and onion declined 31 per cent and 37 per cent on-year, respectively, on a high base. In the year-ago period, potato production had shrunk 5-7 per cent due to blight infestation and weather changes, pushing up the prices.This year, the production is estimated to be 3-5 per cent higher. For onion, an 18-20 per cent rise in annual production has led to a fall in prices this year.Prices of pulses decline 14 per cent on-year



driven by higher production and stock levels compared with the year-ago period, the report mentioned.  
“For potato and onion, the fall in prices was on a high base, while prices of pulses moderated amid higher production. However, an increase in tomato and vegetable oil prices limited the extent of the overall decline in thali costs,” said Pushan Sharma, Director, Crisil Intelligence.In the near term, thali prices are likely to remain lower on-year, aided by the high base of vegetables and pulses. The government’s decision to allow free imports of yellow pea and black gram is expected to exert downward pressure on pulse prices, Sharma added.The decline in the cost of non-vegetarian thali was driven by 10 per cent on-year drop in broiler prices, which make up about 50 per cent of the cost. Lower vegetable and pulses prices also supported.

ITR Filing 2025: Taxpayers Urged To File ITRs As September 15 Deadline Nears

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
With the Sept 15 deadline for filing Income Tax Returns for individuals approaching, over 4.56 crore people have filed their ITRs, while the submission of returns is accelerating as the last date nears. Senior Income Tax Dept. officials are of the view that taxpayers "should not wait till the last-minute" to file their returns, as it leads to inconvenience.The filing of tax returns has been made easy, and the simple process for individuals to file their own returns is as follows:The Income Tax Department notifies different ITR forms each year to suit various categories of taxpayers. Selecting the correct form is essential, as filing in an incorrect form may render the return defective. For FY 2024–25 (AY 2025–26), the following forms are applicable to non-audit taxpayers, including individuals and small entities:ITR-1 (Sahaj) – For Salaried Individuals  
A salaried individual, as per the Income Tax Department, is a taxpayer whose income is earned from an employer in the form of salary, wages, allowances, perquisites, or pension and is chargeable under the head "Income from Salary".  
ITR-2 – For Individuals/HUFs (No Business/Profession Income)Individuals are natural persons who earn income from salary, pension, house property, capital gains.

UPS to NPS: Government fixes September 30 deadline, here's what it means

**The government has given central employees under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) a one-time chance to shift back to the National Pension System (NPS), with 30 September 2025 set as the deadline.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
The Finance Ministry has introduced a one-time option for central government employees in the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to shift back to the National Pension System (NPS). The Finance Ministry has set September 30, 2025 as the deadline for exercising this option, reported The Times of India.The



ministry clarified that this switch is single-use and permanent. Once an employee moves back to NPS, they cannot return to UPS later. Similarly, those who remain in NPS by the deadline will not be able to shift to UPS in the future.  
**STRICT RULES FOR SWITCHING**  
The switch can only be used once and is allowed either a year before retirement or three months before taking voluntary retirement.Employees facing dismissal, compulsory retirement as punishment, or those under disciplinary action will not be eligible. Anyone who does not act within the given time will automatically remain

under UPS.  
**FEATURES OF THE UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME**  
The Unified Pension Scheme, which came into effect on April 1, 2025, was introduced as an alternative to NPS with assured retirement benefits.  
It guarantees a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month for employees completing at least 10 years of service, provided contributions are regular and no premature withdrawals are made.  
In case of the pensioner’s death after retirement, the legally wedded spouse will receive 60% of the last payout.  
The benefit is not available if the employee resigns, is dismissed, or retires before completing 10 years of service.  
**WHY THIS MATTERS**  
The option gives employees and retirees greater clarity on their pension choices. Many staff members had raised concerns over being locked into UPS without flexibility. The one-time switch now allows them to review their long-term needs and make a final decision.

Audi India cuts prices by up to Rs 7.8 lakh following GST reforms

**CHENNAL(Agency)**  
Audi India has announced significant price reductions across its model range, effective from September 22, 2025. These cuts, ranging from Rs 2.6 lakh to over Rs 7.8 lakh, are aimed at passing on the benefits of the recently implemented Goods and Services Tax (GST) 2.0 reforms directly to customers. The move is seen as an effort to make luxury vehicles more accessible to a wider group of Indian consumers.Under the new pricing structure, the entry-level Audi Q3 will now start at Rs 43.07 lakh, reduced from Rs 46.14 lakh, reflecting a price cut of Rs 3.07 lakh. The mid-range Q5 sees a reduction of Rs 4.55 lakh, now priced at Rs 63.75 lakh compared to Rs 68.30 lakh earlier. The larger Q7 SUV has its price cut by Rs 6.15 lakh, bringing the new price to Rs 86.14 lakh from Rs 92.29 lakh. The flagship Q8 SUV has seen the most significant reduction of Rs 7.8 lakh, now available at Rs 1.09 crore instead of the earlier Rs 1.17 crore. Sedan models have also benefited, with the A4 now priced at Rs 46.25 lakh, down from Rs 48.89 lakh, and the A6 available at Rs 63.74 lakh,



additional cess. The new regulation applies a uniform 40% GST slab, effectively lowering the tax burden for high-end vehicles and aligning them more closely with mid-sized mass-market cars. The decision by Audi India comes at a strategic time ahead of the festive season, a traditionally strong sales period for the automobile industry in India. By lowering prices,

Audi aims to attract more customers and boost sales during this high-demand phase. The company believes that the revised pricing will make its luxury offerings more competitive and accessible in an increasingly price-sensitive market.Audi is not alone in this move; other luxury car manufacturers such as Mercedes-Benz and BMW have also announced similar price cuts in response to the GST overhaul. These industry-wide reductions are expected to intensify competition in the luxury segment and provide customers with a broader range of affordable options.Customers interested in the updated pricing can visit Audi India’s official website or authorized dealerships. The new prices will be applicable for purchases and deliveries from September 22 onwards.This pricing adjustment reinforces Audi India’s strategy of offering premium vehicles while responding to regulatory changes and market dynamics, positioning itself strongly in the growing Indian luxury automobile market.

GST cuts elude detergents, cosmetics; could be inadvertent say analysts, FMCG cos

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
Keeping detergents and cosmetics under 18 per cent tax rate with zero savings on these daily-use items for households under the government’s sweeping GST restructuring move is surprising, say industry players and analysts. The all-powerful GST Council last week decided to reduce taxes on most of the common-use goods as part of the government’s measure to boost consumer spending. The new structure of goods and services tax (GST), which comes into effect on September 22, will have two slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent instead of the current four slabs of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) products such as hair oil, soap, face powders,

shampoos, toothbrushes, and toothpaste have come under the lower slab of 5 per cent from 18 per cent.However along with detergents and cosmetics, duty on several items such as hair dye and household insecticides has not been reduced. FMCG companies say they are ready to pass on the benefits of the duty cuts to consumers, even though they will have to face challenges on the existing stock at retail stores.Industry players as well as experts have also expressed concern over the GST Council’s decision not to reduce the duty on essential items such as detergents, which are available in bar, powder and liquid format. Harpreet Singh, Partner, Deloitte India, told PTI that detergents,

an equally essential item in every household, appears to have been inadvertently left out.“As a basic necessity for hygiene, their continued higher taxation may stand out as an anomaly. A rate cut for detergents can provide meaningful relief to households, particularly for lower- and middle-income families, as detergent purchases are a recurring monthly expense” he said. It remains to be seen whether the government will extend the reduction to detergents in the final notification, he added.Grant Thornton Bharat Partner and Consumer Leader Naveen Malpani said Indian beauty and personal care market is growing at a healthy annual rate of 10–11 per cent.

Good news for Amazon sellers: Fee reductions and new AI tools ahead of festive rush

**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.**

**CHENNAL(Agency)**  
Amazon India has announced significant changes aimed at supporting its network of 1.7 million sellers ahead of the 2025 festive shopping season. The company has cut seller fees across multiple product categories and introduced advanced AI-powered tools to help sellers improve efficiency and scale operations during this high-demand period. These initiatives come as festive sales in India are expected to grow by 27 percent this year, reaching



an estimated Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Under the new structure, Amazon India has lowered referral fees for a range of products. For example, the referral fee for apparel priced between Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 has been reduced from 15 percent to 11 percent. Similarly, fees for prescription drugs have been cut from 11 percent to 7 percent. In addition to these category-specific reductions, Amazon India has introduced a new program called "Sell More Save More." This scheme offers

additional fee cuts to sellers as they increase their overall sales volume, encouraging them to grow their business on the platform. To further assist sellers in managing operations more efficiently, Amazon India has rolled out AI-powered listing tools. These tools help sellers create product listings up to 70 percent faster than before by automating parts of the catalog creation process. This enhancement allows sellers to quickly upload and

manage their product offerings, which is especially important as the festive season approaches and consumer demand surges. Along with fee cuts and new tools, Amazon India is strengthening its logistics network and providing additional GST support across various states. These improvements aim to simplify compliance processes and speed up deliveries, enabling sellers to serve customers more reliably during the busy shopping season. The company’s focus on supporting small and medium-sized sellers, particularly those based in tier-II and tier-III cities, reflects its broader strategy of democratizing access to the e-commerce ecosystem. By lowering costs and providing advanced technology tools, Amazon India hopes to enhance seller competitiveness and drive sustained growth, not just during the festive season, but throughout the year.According to industry analysts these changes could help Amazon sellers navigate market challenges and capitalize on the significant sales opportunities presented by India’s growing online shopping market.



# Sai Pallavi

## Touches Kamal Haasan's Feet, Pays Respect At SIIMA 2025

The South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2025 turned into a star-studded affair as some of the biggest names in the industry graced the red carpet. Among the many viral moments from the event, one gesture stood out and won hearts on social media. Actress Sai Pallavi, known for her humility and grace, was seen traditionally greeting veteran actor Kamal Haasan – by touching his feet. In a video doing the rounds online, Sai Pallavi approached Kamal Haasan with folded hands before bending down to touch his feet, seeking his blessings. The legendary actor, visibly moved by her gesture, blessed her and exchanged a warm smile. Fans praised Sai Pallavi’s display of respect, calling it a reminder of the deep-rooted traditions of the South film industry. Social media was quick to react, with many users lauding the actress for her simplicity despite her fame. Watch the video here:

### Sai Pallavi won big in SIIMA 2025

South Indian International Movie Awards 2025 (SIIMA) awards were announced in Dubai on September 6. Sai Pallavi won big in the Tamil belt, winning the Best Actress award for Amaran. In the Telugu and Kannada-speaking regions, Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna picked up top acting honours, while Kalki 2898 AD and Gowri scored big in multiple technical and acting slots.

### Sai Pallavi plays Sita in Ramayana

Sai Pallavi is all set to make her Bollywood debut as Sita in Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana. Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Ram in the film and Yash has been roped in to play Ravana.

Eminent teams from both Bollywood and Hollywood have collaborated for the film. Hollywood’s top stunt directors — Terry Notary (Avengers, Planet of the Apes) and Guy Norris (Mad Max: Fury Road, Furiosa) — are choreographing the epic battles between gods and demons. The visual splendour of ancient India is being reimaged by renowned production designers Ravi Bansal (Dune 2, Aladdin, etc) and Ramsey Avery (Captain America, Tomorrowland, etc), delivering an immersive cinematic experience on an unprecedented scale. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra’s Prime Focus Studios along with the 8-time Oscar-winning VFX studio DNEG, in association with Yash’s Monster Mind Creations, Ramayana is being filmed for IMAX and will be released worldwide: Part 1 in Diwali 2026 and Part 2 in Diwali 2027.



## Varun Dhawan’s New Dance Partner Is Too Cute To Miss, Janhvi Kapoor Reacts



Varun Dhawan is currently enjoying massive fan love for his energetic dance number Bijuria from the upcoming film Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari. He recently shared an adorable moment with his pet that instantly went viral. The actor took to Instagram to post a video where he can be seen grooving with his furry friend, whom he lovingly introduced as his “best dance partner.” Taking to his Instagram handle, Varun Dhawan shared a video in which he is seen dancing with his pet on the song Bijuria from the film Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari. Immediately, Janhvi Kapoor reacted and wrote, “Ok but u have a problem with ur cap.” Maniesh Paul also commented, “haahahahahhaa superb.” Fans also showered love on him. Recently, Varun Dhawan also visited Lalbaugcha Raja. The actor was photographed offering prayers at the revered Ganpati pandal. Dressed in a simple yellow kurta, Varun Dhawan kept his look traditional as he folded his hands in devotion. Taking to the caption, he wrote, “Ganpati Bappa Morya” in Hindi.

### Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari teaser

The teaser of Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari begins with Varun Dhawan channelling his inner Amarendra Baahubali, originally portrayed by Prabhas in the SS Rajamouli film. His enthusiasm is soon let down by Varun’s friend, who says: “Ranveer Singh ki dhoti mein Prabhas ka paudha lag raha hai”. The teaser introduces all the leading characters of the film, including Janhvi, Sanya and Rohit. It further takes the audience inside the drama, dance, colour and romance that is in store for the audience. But one thing is for certain: the teaser will remind you of Varun’s Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania days. “Quick intro: Four people. Two heartbreakers. One wedding,” read Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari’s logline on YouTube.

### What is the plot of Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari?

As per IMDb, the film’s plot follows “two former lovers in Delhi who attempt to reignite their romance, only to stumble into a series of comic mix-ups and deceptions. Amid the chaos, an unexpected love story begins to blossom.

## Gauahar Khan, Zaid Darbar Did THIS Moments Before Welcoming Their Second Child



Actress Gauahar Khan and her husband Zaid Darbar embraced parenthood for the second time on the 1st of September this year. Recently, Zaid Darbar gave a cute sneak peek into what went into the hospital room, right before the then mommy-to-be Gauahar “popped”. Gauahar, in her hospital outfit along with the father-to-be, Zaid, was seen dancing her heart out. The couple danced to the hit song “Don’t you wish your girlfriend was hot like me” by The Pussycat Dolls.

Gauahar Khan and Zaid Darbar, who have become parents for the second time, shared the happy news with a joint post on social media. The post read, “Zehaan is overjoyed to graciously share his kingdom with his new baby brother born on September 1, 2025. Seeking everyone’s continued love and blessings for our elated family. Grateful and giggling partners, Zaid and Gauahar.” A few weeks ago, Gauahar Khan celebrated a beautiful yet intimate baby shower and shared glimpses from the happy celebration over social media.

The actress was seen dressed in a shimmering yellow-golden gown and looked breathtaking as usual. She kept her hair open and teamed up her look with bold red lips and opted for minimal makeup, adding a delicately crafted necklace and a single bangle that perfectly complemented her attire.

Khan’s social media was flooded with clips of her baby shower event, especially with some fun snippets from inside the celebration. In one of the videos, Gauahar and Zaid were seen cutting a two-tier cake decorated with pastel flowers, capturing the happiness of the occasion. For the uninitiated, Gauahar and Zaid got engaged in November 2020 and tied the knot in December. In December 2022, the actress announced her first pregnancy and welcomed her firstborn, a baby boy, Zehaan, in May 2023.

In April 2025, the actress revealed her second pregnancy with a happy dance video set to Jessie J’s hit Price Tag, where she proudly flaunted her baby bump. She captioned the cute dance video as, “Bismillah!! Need your prayers and love. Make the world dance by spreading love #GazaBaby2 #allahummabaarikfiihi.”



# Disha Patani

## Sets The Internet On Fire, Flaunts Cleavage In New Viral Photos

Disha Patani has once again taken social media by storm with her latest pictures that highlight her bold and glamorous side. Known for her impeccable fashion sense and effortless charm, the actress shared a series of stunning photos that instantly went viral, leaving fans swooning. Taking to her Instagram stories, Disha Patani shared photos in which she is seen flaunting her cleavage. She opted for a strapless top and shimmery makeup. The actress did not write anything for caption. But her photos have surely set the internet on fire.

### Disha Patani Turns Up The Heat In Bold Red Cut-Out Dress

Disha Patani sizzles in a daring red cut-out dress. Her latest appearance in a bold cut-out red dress is a celebration of fearless femininity, sultry elegance, and a masterful understanding of how to turn a simple silhouette into a high-impact style statement. Disha’s form-fitting scarlet dress is an ode to daring glamour. The strategically placed cut-outs not only highlight her sculpted physique but also add a modern edge to the romantic hue. A delicate ruffled trim traces the asymmetric cut-out, lending a touch of softness to the otherwise daring design. The slim spaghetti straps and fitted bodice elongate her frame, while the figure-hugging skirt flows with a minimal slit, allowing the color and construction to command attention without distraction. Red, universally recognized as a color of passion and power takes on an even more magnetic quality in this look, amplifying Disha’s confident aura.

### The Overall Mood: Sensual Confidence

This is not just a red dress moment, it’s a masterclass in embodying a look. From the fearless cut-outs to the ruffled detailing, from the luminous skin to the unbridled waves, every element works together to tell a story of a woman unafraid to be seen. Disha Patani, in this fiery ensemble, isn’t just wearing



fashion, she’s living it, breathing it, and owning every inch of its unapologetic glamour.

### Recent posts:

Meanwhile, just a few days ago, Disha shared a video, in which she was seen trying chair dance for the first time. Needless to say, she aced it! She was seen dancing to the song Jiya Jale from Shah Rukh Khan starrer Dil Se, and her sizzling moves have sent fans into a meltdown. She gave a fresh spin to the iconic song, and her fluid, bold dance moves left fans in awe. Her performance was equal parts graceful and fiery, and fans couldn’t stop praising her.



Here's how to create a

# Positive image at Work

Adopting the right approach towards your work life such as paying attention to your attitude, dressing style and your approach towards work can help attract a number of positive benefits. These can pave the way for building a solid professional life by helping you attract your superiors' attention, maintaining a healthy relationship with your immediate colleagues and coming across as a dependable employee. Here are a few things you should incorporate in your daily work life to create a positive image at your workplace.

**Fit in**

Every organisation has a different work culture. When you join a firm, try and understand its work culture and priorities. It is equally important to understand your job profile and what the organisation expects from you. "It is a good idea to be cautious of the conversation that you make with your co-workers. Do not intrude into your colleague's personal space. Compliment your colleagues and team mates for their achievements. Refrain from gossiping at

work, it will most likely back fire someday. Avoid using a commanding tone while you communicate. Instead of commanding while you manage a team, ask your peers for their opinion on a particular subject. This goes a long way in building a strong team," says Sheena Agarwal, Director, Urbanista Image Consulting LLP.

**Dress well**

It is essential to pay attention to how you dress at work. Groom yourself and

maintain a neat appearance keeping your job profile in mind. While dressing up casually at work may be acceptable at times, one needs to understand that they cannot dress casually while attending a meeting or presenting to a client. Another thing to keep in mind is that you are comfortable in the clothes you wear. This will help avoid distractions. "Grooming is important to the extent of being neat, tidy and professional. One doesn't need to wear expensive clothes, perfumes, makeup, etc, to be well groomed.

**Presenting yourself well at the workplace can help you boost your career.**

At the same time, one cannot sport an unkempt, dishevelled look or that which is unbecoming of the workplace culture," says Saba Adil, Head, HR, AEGON Life Insurance.

**Pay attention to your body language**

While we don't pay attention to our posture at work, it is important to understand that a professional's posture says a lot about his attitude. A professional with a straight posture suggests that they are attentive and enthusiastic about their work. On the other hand, being sloppy or sitting with your hands crossed suggests that you are rigid and are not open to suggestions.

**Value time**

Whether it means meeting deadlines or reaching on time at work, being punctual is crucial. Making sure that you meet your deadlines will not only help you develop a stress-free work atmosphere, but also displays your commitment towards your work. Additionally, maintaining a record of

the assignments you have completed will make you look organised.

"Everyone likes employees who complete their assignments on time. Maintaining a punctual work schedule helps the team coordinate better and meet deadlines. Focusing on the projects at hand will also ensure that you don't get involved in office politics and gossips, thus keeping you at bay from a negative work environment," says Arun Bala, COO of Invenio Business Solutions.

**Be open to criticism**

Everything that your colleagues say is not always negative or to pull you down. At times, your peers' advice can be beneficial to you. Do not take every critical evaluation personally. Instead, trust that your colleagues have the intent of helping you execute and accomplish your tasks better. Be respectful, approachable and focused while at work. Bear in mind your organisation's expectations from you and conduct yourself accordingly.

## What to do when you have more than one boss

**Sometimes, circumstances conspire to turn you into a 'shared resource' where you have to dance to the tunes of not one, but two or more bosses!**

So how do you walk the tight rope and emerge victorious? Dealing with one boss can be a challenge. But imagine dealing with two bosses, neither of whom is willing to cut you some slack in view of your multiple duties. You confront conflicting deadlines, confused priorities and dual expectations. In all the chaos, it seems impossible for you to ever take a break or get a breather. But it is possible to navigate this quagmire and many have done it before with success. Anil Salvi, group head, HR, JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd was placed in such a dilemma early on in his career. "At my first job itself, I was a shared resource between two bosses and had faced a lot of challenges as both bosses used to wonder for whom I was working more. Since I was a beginner, one of the ways that I used to adopt was to be brutally honest about my challenges with both of them and most of the times, they understood. And



there was the first lesson of the career that honesty works and it works well. Till date after 25 years of my career, that stint remains the most cherished one," he says. If your strategy is to let both your bosses remain in blissful ignorance about the other, you may be charting dangerous territory. It may not be pleasant to turn down a plum opportunity, but if it clashes with a commitment you've already made to your other boss, honesty really would be the best policy. Being extremely organised is your bet as a shared resource. "It is the toughest position to be in since every manager wants full attention and contribution from the individual. The best thing for the individual to do is to set the objectives and role expectations with every manager they report to. Maintain a list of things to do and follow up whenever required. Let the other managers know if there are any priorities that you are working on, which could potentially delay theirs. It is key that a constant review and discussion is done with all managers to course correct if there are any gaps in their expectations," advises Mukund Menon, director HR and communications, HR and communications, International Paper India. Salvi warns against showing one boss in bad light to the other in order to gain sympathy, "Being very honest is the most critical part as that would give you credibility. Being solution-oriented would be the next thing as at the end of the day, you are responsible for yourself, so you would need to take that initiative. Third, never ever play one boss against another as remember that they are

your bosses and you never know when they would share notes and also simply, it is not a right thing to do. Fourth, when you can't find a solution pertaining to the bosses, don't be ashamed to approach them and seek their help in finding one." Of course, the above tips assume that all managers concerned are willing to make allowances for the employee. In some cases, bosses behave as though the other boss doesn't exist at all and all 8.5 hours of the employee are theirs to command. Menon agrees, "Most of the bosses are not empathetic. Everyone has their own priorities and there is competition for attention as people suffer from the 'first service syndrome'. The best thing is to let the other bosses know on a constant basis how you are managing the issues and deliverables and build rapport and trust. It is mutual respect and honesty that brings it together. The key is to manage each person's ego. Additionally, having an informal chat will also help." A Thiru, president corporate HR, JK Organisation lays the onus of empathy at the bosses' doors, "Bosses are expected to be empathetic in such a situation. If they are not, it is their problem and not that of the shared resource as long as the shared resource does his/her best under the prevailing situation and stays tuned to the purpose (serving the external customer better/faster) than responding (wasting time) based on organisational hierarchy." As Salvi says, continue to work hard and smart for the bosses as you are learning twice as much, compared to others who have a single boss.

