

"Nationalistic Ideology" Overall Winner: Veep-Elect's Jibe At Opposition

"The other side (the Opposition) said it is an ideological fight but from the voting pattern we can understand that the nationalistic ideology is overall victorious," he told reporters.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Vice President-elect CP Radhakrishnan said this evening that the elections for the post conducted earlier today made it clear that "nationalistic ideology" is the overall winner. "The other side (the Opposition) said it is an ideological fight but from the

voting pattern we can understand that the nationalistic ideology is overall victorious," he told reporters. The Opposition, despite not having the numbers, had forced the election, pitching it as an ideological battle. Mr Radhakrishnan had sailed through the election, scooping up 452 first preference votes. Opposition candidate and retired Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy got only 300-15 less than the number the Congress claimed it had. The NDA, delighted at the cross-voting, jeered at the Opposition, calling it a proof of their inner rift despite the public attempt at keeping up a united front. The extra boost was the timing - just ahead of a series of state election, one of them in Tamil Nadu, the home state of Mr Radhakrishnan.

One of the party's tallest leaders in Tamil Nadu, Mr Radhakrishnan was chosen

with an eye on the BJP's expansion plans in the South - an area where, barring Karnataka, the party has been unable to find a foothold. Mr Radhakrishnan, though, was seen as making an attempt to



assuage opposition concern about the functioning of the Rajya Sabha.

After the exit of Jagdeep Dhankhar, known for his face-offs with the Opposition, Mr Radhakrishnan was picked as a signal

that Rajya Sabha needs balance, not aggression. The 68-year-old also has links with the BJP's ideological mentor, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS, and the BJP's predecessor Jan Sangh from a young age.

"In a democracy, both the ruling party and the opposition are important. It is the two sides of the same coin. The interest of the democracy will be taken into account," Mr Radhakrishnan said.

Regarding the responsibilities of the office, he said, "Every post is important, and every post has its own limitations. We have to understand that we have to work within that framework".

His 150-vote margin, however, is one of the lowest in the Vice-Presidential polls. In 2022, Jagdeep Dhankhar had beaten Opposition candidate Margaret Alva with the highest margin in the six last Vice Presidential elections. He secured 528 votes to her tally of 182.

Volunteer sends legal notice to Priyank Kharge for comments against RSS

Agency Mumbai.

A Thane-based volunteer of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has issued a legal notice to Congress leader Priyank Kharge, over comments he made about the organisation nearly two months ago. Kharge, Karnataka's Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, had allegedly described the RSS as holding 'extreme views' and being 'anti-Constitution' during an interview with a news agency. The RSS volunteer has challenged these claims, labelling them defamatory and baseless.



The legal notice alleges that Kharge's remarks stemmed from 'wild imagination or deliberate untruth' and demands an unconditional apology within 15 days. Failure to comply, the notice warns, will result in civil and criminal proceedings at Kharge's cost and risk.

The notice was sent by Vivek Champanerkar, a resident of Thane, who has previously filed similar legal actions against prominent Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Digvijay Singh, and Bollywood lyricist Javed Akhtar for comments made about the RSS or its affiliates. These cases remain pending in the Thane Magistrate Court.

Issued through advocate Aditya Mishra, the notice accuses Kharge of orchestrating a 'great conspiracy' to tarnish the reputation of the RSS and its swayamsevaks (volunteers) in the public eye. It adds that Champanerkar and his associates suffer daily humiliation due to the defamatory statements.

Construction of new IHBAS building with large OPD to begin soon: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 10 September: Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday conducted a surprise inspection of the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) in Dilshad Garden and reviewed the hospital's facilities. Expressing displeasure at the prevailing conditions, she announced that construction of a new building would commence shortly. She assured that all medical and administrative shortcomings would be addressed within the current financial year. During her visit, she also interacted with patients and their families and listened to their grievances. She was shocked to learn that since 2012, IHBAS has lacked even a single MRI or CT scan machine, while X-ray and ultrasound facilities remain severely limited. She said this was highly unfortunate, as IHBAS is regarded not only as Delhi's but also as one of India's and North Asia's leading centres for neurological and mental health treat-



doctors and medical staff have been diligently fulfilling their responsibilities. She emphasised that in a sensitive field like mental health, doctors are compelled to work without essential machines such as an MRI. Even under such circumstances, attending to patients and addressing their problems is

a remarkable achievement. The issue, she said, lies not with the medical team but with the lack of governmental support the hospital has received so far. A reputed institute like IHBAS currently operates with only 317

beds. The Chief Minister announced that the decision to construct a new building for IHBAS would be initiated soon. The hospital has 111 acres of land, but only 20 percent of it is currently utilised. Along with a large, well-equipped OPD, the new complex will also include various other facilities. She further assured that during the current financial year, all gaps in facilities would be filled, including MRI, CT scan, X-ray, and ultrasound machines, as well as additional staffing.

The Chief Minister expressed regret that the previous government boasted of its so-called health model and made tall claims about constructing new hospitals, but left projects incomplete. Her government, she said, is now completing those unfinished hospitals on a priority basis. **Contd.....page 3**

Actor Vijay's party alleges Tamil Nadu cops creating hurdles for 2026 poll campaign

Actor Vijay's party alleges Trichy police are deliberately creating hurdles for Tamilaga Vettir Kazhagam's election campaign, say sources. Rallies face road restrictions, limited speech durations, and denied permissions. The party says it is leaving the ball in the police department's court.

Agency New Delhi.

Ahead of the 2026 assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Tamilaga Vettir Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay's campaign, running from



September 13 to December 20, is facing challenges as the party claims the Trichy police department is deliberately creating hurdles. Sources said the police have permitted rallies but with restrictions. Vijay's road show in Trichy should not go to Sellakku, and speeches are limited to 20-25 minutes. TVK sources also said the police department is

denying approved roads, declining road show permissions, and asking the party to "party spots," which is proving difficult. TVK says leaving the ball in the police department's court to chart out a campaign roadmap for them.

Vijay's campaign schedule over the next three months covers districts across Tamil Nadu. In September, rallies are planned in Trichy, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Mayiladuthurai, and North Chennai. October will see events in Coimbatore, Nilgiri, Tiruppur, Erode, Kanyakumari, Tirunalveli, Thoothukudi, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Ranipet, South Chennai, and Chengalpet. November campaigns are slated for Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tiruppur, Thiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Villupuram, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Sivaganga, and Ramanathapuram. The December schedule includes Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Salem, Namakkal, Karur, Dindigul, Theni, and Madurai.

Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa Gives Punjabi Twist To GST

When asked to give a full form of GST in Punjabi, Mr Sirsa said, "Pehli baat toh GST Punjabi mein koi dena kyu chahega?" (First of all, why would anyone give GST in Punjabi?)

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Delhi minister and National Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), gave a Punjabi twist to GST (Goods and Services Tax) during the NDTV Profit GST Conclave 2025 on Tuesday. When asked to give a full form of GST in Punjabi, Mr Sirsa said, "Pehli baat toh GST Punjabi mein koi dena kyu chahega?" (First of all, why would anyone give GST in Punjabi?)

He added, "Vo toh kahega bhaiya, Aisa hai ki gudd, shakkar aur chai pila do, aur hum chalte hain." Toh GST ki full form ho sakti hai - Gudd, Shakkar, and Tea." (He would say, Brother, just give me jaggery, sugar, and tea, and we'll be on our way! So the full form could be - Gudd, Shakkar, and Tea.) He added, "Tax dene ki baat hi nahi kar rahe, jab Punjabi baat karoge toh tax kaha se aa jaayegi beech mein?" (We are not even talking about paying tax here. If you are talking about Punjabi, where would the tax come in?)

The reporter then asked if Mr Sirsa moderates his consumption of Gudd, Shakkar, and Tea.

He candidly admitted, giving a tongue-in-cheek response, "Cut down toh karma padta hai. Jitna billing schedule mein rehte hain, utna karenge toh dikkar hogi. But haan, dete bhi hain, chodte bhi hain." (We do have to cut down. If we follow the billing schedule strictly, it would be tough. But yes, we give, and we also skip sometimes) The GST Conclave 2025 commenced with a panel discussion on "Matters of States," featuring prominent speakers from Punjab, Jharkhand, and Delhi. They discussed possible losses for states due to the reforms and whether the Centre should compensate states if they incur revenue losses. Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a big change in GST.



Will further prove 'vote theft' in more dramatic ways across country: Rahul Gandhi in Raebareli

LUCKNOW. (Agency)

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha and Congress' Rae Bareli MP Rahul Gandhi, launched a scathing attack on Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday by reiterating his accusation of 'vote theft'. Rahul Gandhi is on a two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency. Talking to reporters before entering an event venue, Gandhi said, "The main slogan is 'vote chor, gaddi chhod' and that is being proved across the country. We will prove it again and again in more and more dramatic ways."

While on the way to Rae Bareli, he stopped at an eatery and addressed the Congress workers, saying that earlier

people used to smell rat in the electoral process but did not have evidence.

"But now we have the evidence, and the vote theft is going on. We have to stop it," he exhorted the party workers.

He added that despite producing the evidence and protesting vote theft, the EC was acting in an autocratic manner. "Under such adverse conditions, you did not leave the hand of Congress, and that is commendable," said the Congress MP. Earlier, he faced opposition in Rae Bareli when Uttar Pradesh Horticulture Minister Dinesh Pratap Singh and his supporters staged a sit-in

chanting slogans like "go back Rahul Gandhi," on Wednesday. The minister and his supporters sat on a dharma on the highway at Kathwara while Rahul Gandhi was on his way to Harchandpur. The protest forced Gandhi's

convoy to stop nearly one kilometre from its destination. The minister was leading the protest over the use of abusive language against PM Modi and his mother at an election rally in Bihar recently.

The protesters were seeking an apology from Rahul Gandhi saying that Modi was the Prime Minister of the entire nation, including Rahul Gandhi. When police attempted to remove

Minister Dinesh Singh, a brief scuffle

ensued between his supporters and the authorities. The situation was eventually brought under control after police managed to convince the protesters to clear the road.



Such surrender in front of Trump an insult to Indians: Kejriwal on PM's 'India-US partnership' remarks

►Kejriwal's remarks came amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's X post on Wednesday, in which he described New Delhi and Washington as "natural partners" and said he was confident about the progress of the negotiations. The PM also expressed his willingness to speak to Trump. "India and the US are close friends and natural partners. I am confident that our trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India-US partnership.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he said that trade talks between India and the United States would help "unlock the limitless potential" of the partnership. Kejriwal said that to "please Trump," cotton farmers across the country were being put at stake. PM Modi's remarks came after US President Donald Trump called for addressing "trade barriers" between the two nations.

In a post shared on X, questioning the nature of the ongoing negotiations between India and the US, Kejriwal wrote, "What kind of negotiation is going

on between the two countries? Only one-sided talks? Keeping our farmers, traders, and the employment of youth on the line, the Indian market is being completely opened up for the Americans. If the entire Indian market comes under the control of the Americans, where will our people go?"

He further said that such remarks amount to

a "surrender" before the United States. "Such a surrender in front of Trump is not only fatal for the Indian economy but also an insult to 1.4 billion Indians," Kejriwal added. Kejriwal further urged the Prime Minister not to weaken and to protect the honour of the nation. Kejriwal's remarks came amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's X post on Wednesday, in which he described New Delhi and Washington as "natural partners" and said he was confident about the progress of the negotiations. The PM also expressed his willingness to speak to Trump. "India and the US are close friends and natural partners. I am confident that our trade negotiations will pave the way for unlocking the limitless potential of the India-US partnership.

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News box

5 months after repairs, water seepage again at eway underpasses in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Damp patches and water trickling down the walls have once again appeared in underpasses of sectors 102 and 102A on Dwarka Expressway. This comes just five months after seepage was reported in April, when NHAI asked the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) to carry out a structural audit. Based on its recommendations, the agency undertook repair work. Attributing the seepage to a high water table in the area, an NHAI official said, "The issue is due to the high water table. The agency has already initiated remedial measures." He also said that the issue is limited to leakage and does not compromise the structural integrity of the underpass. According to the official, "The agency will carry out grouting around the construction joints to plug seepage. The repair work will be completed in 7-10 days, or even earlier if there is no rainfall."

Built at a cost of Rs 24 crore, the underpass was intended to improve connectivity in the rapidly developing residential sectors along the expressway. But recurring seepage has left commuters questioning whether basic waterproofing and hydrology planning were factored in during design and execution. "Within just a few months, the same problem appears. If the water table was known, why wasn't it factored in while designing? This is a costly project, and commuters should not have to bear the brunt of poor planning," said Sunil Sareen, vice president of Imperial Gardens RWA in Sector 102.

The 585-metre-long four-lane structure lies beneath the Dwarka Expressway and provides direct access to Sectors 102 and 102A, with Sectors 101, 104, 9, 9A, 9B, 10, 10A, 37 and 37C with further connectivity to NH-8. Construction of the underpass began in 2019 but was marred by delays due to land acquisition hurdles.

Work came to a halt in Jan 2022 and resumed only after the Haryana Shahar Vikas Pradhikaran resolved the land issues in Sept 2023. The underpass was opened to traffic in June last year.

SUV catches fire & explodes on DME, just after its driver gets out

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

A fire broke out in an Ertiga on the DME on Monday evening. The driver, who jumped out moments before a reported explosion, did not sustain any injuries in the incident. According to police, Ashraf Khan, a businessman and resident of Etah, stopped his car on the DME near IPEM College when he noticed smoke emanating out of the vehicle. Seconds after he got out of the vehicle, the blaze broke out and the flames quickly surrounded the entire vehicle.

"There was a sudden explosion-like sound from the car, making it seem as if the CNG cylinder burst. In no time, the fire took on a fierce form," Khan said. According to chief fire officer (CFO) Rahul Pal, they received information about the fire around 8.20pm and a fire unit from Kotwali was sent to douse the flames. Firefighters had the blaze under control within 30 minutes. The cause of the fire has not been determined yet, the CFO added. Khan said that his car was only 13 months old, and he never imagined that such a sudden technical fault could occur. The accident happened so abruptly that if there was even a minute's delay, it could have cost him his life, he said.

On April 26, earlier this year, a fire broke out in the Toyota car showroom on Meerut Road in Ghaziabad. A total of five brand new cars were gutted in the incident.

On April 3, a truck carrying sanitary goods caught fire at a parking lot in Sahibabad. The flames quickly spread to five other vehicles in the area. The situation turned particularly precarious when LPG cylinders aboard one of the trucks began exploding, sending shockwaves through the neighbourhood. Fortunately, most of the cylinders were empty.

Firing inside hostel room leaves student dead, his 'close friend' critically injured

Noida. (Agency)

A 22-year-old student was found dead with a gunshot wound in the head while his close friend lay critically injured with a similar wound inside a private hostel room in Knowledge Park on Tuesday morning. Police are trying to piece together how the gunshots were fired and what led to the shooting as the two students were considered "inseparable" by friends and batchmates.

The incident occurred around 10.30am at RCI Vihar Vihar hostel in Knowledge Park-III. The two students — Deepak Kumar (22) from Andhra Pradesh and Devansh Chauhan (23) from Agra — were both enrolled in the PGDM programme at Birla Institute of Management Technology (Bimtech). They were, however, not roommates — Deepak's room is on the first floor and Devansh's on the ground floor. It was in Deepak's room where the shots were fired. Devansh is in Kailash Hospital. His condition is critical. Both bullets came from the same licensed revolver, which was fully loaded and belonged to Devansh's father Surender Singh Chauhan, who retired as a circle officer in UP STF on Aug 31. Devansh, who went home last Saturday to attend his father's farewell party, is believed to have sneaked the gun out when he left for his hostel on Tuesday morning itself. Devansh had reached the hostel barely a couple of hours before the incident. "He had come home on Saturday to attend our father's retirement party. On Tuesday morning, he returned to college. He left home around 5.30am and reached his hostel by 9am. It was around noon that we received a call from the college authorities about the firing incident," said Shivang Chaurasia, Devansh's brother who lives in Gurgaon. Surender Chauhan told TOI he kept the gun in a cupboard in his room. "It was only a few hours since Devansh left home. I didn't realise that the gun was missing too," he added. At Vidyavihar hostel, it was a guard who first sensed something amiss after hearing faint groans from the locked room. Unable to get any response, he alerted the hostel warden. After repeated attempts to open the door failed, some staff members climbed to the rear balcony with a ladder and peered inside.

Fraudulent misuse of insolvency law, NCLAT rules in Logix case

Noida.(Agency)

Calling it fraudulent misuse of insolvency law, appellate tribunal NCLAT has ruled there will be no bankruptcy proceedings against Logix Infrastructure, observing that the litigant, Experts Realty Professionals (ERP), and the Noida-based developer were actually "related parties" and moving the tribunal was nothing but "a guise" to shield Logix from financial liabilities. In doing so, NCLAT upheld National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) Feb 2025 order recalling corporate insolvency proceedings against Logix Infrastructure, developer of the troubled Blossom County housing project in Sector 137. Dismissing ERP's petition against the NCLT order, Justice N Seshasayee, member (judicial), and Arun Baraka, member (technical), of NCLAT's Delhi bench Monday ordered ERP to pay the Rs 55 lakh penalty imposed on it by NCLT to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, besides bearing costs of the corporate insolvency resolution process as a result of its litigation.

The case hinged on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on Oct 20, 2020, under which ERP agreed to invest Rs 15 crore in Logix's project for 1.4 lakh

sqft of space with a buyback arrangement. In a meeting on Dec 15, 2021, Logix formally acknowledged liability of about Rs 13 crore, promising repayment within one month, failing which interest at 18% per month would apply. However, neither the MoU nor the minutes of this meeting were executed on stamp paper, registered, or supported by collateral; the tribunal found. NCLAT observed that in any genuine financial transaction of this scale, safeguards, securities, and proper documentation are standard practice. The lack of such protections indicated the deal was not a bona fide investment or loan, but a paper arrangement designed to give ERP the appearance of a financial creditor, according to the tribunal.

It also scrutinised shifting roles of directors between the two companies. Hemant Sharma, director of Logix, was previously additional director in ERP. He resigned on Sept 5, 2020, and joined Logix as director just six days later, on Sept 11. ERP filed his resignation papers with the Registrar of Companies in April 2021, long after the MoU was executed. This meant that, on record, Sharma continued to be associated with both entities at the time of the MoU.

Besides, Sharma and ERP director Neeraj Gusain, signatories in the MoU, were



partners in another company, New Greens Landkart LLP. NCLAT concluded that these interconnections established the companies as "related parties" under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. By failing to disclose this, ERP attempted to secure voting rights in the committee of creditors (CoC) and influence the process. The tribunal held that this concealment of relationships was a strong indicator of fraud. "We find that the underlying loan agreement, commercial transaction, or financial debt was either fraudulent or malicious in nature. We find that there are clear fraudulent activities and collusion in the business transactions and (the NCLT)

order under Section 65 (of IBC) is maintainable," stated the tribunal order. "Furthermore, it is to be noted that Logix candidly admitted debt and default without raising any objection. In the above background, we are compelled to come to the conclusion that this is nothing else but collusion between Logix and Expert Realty," it added.

Financial records also came under scrutiny. ERP's 2021 balance sheet reflected its investment in Logix as "current investments", not a loan. By 2022, Logix's books showed its liability of Rs 21.16 crore towards ERP was reduced to nil, suggesting the debt was settled or extinguished. Despite this, ERP moved NCLT in 2023, claiming default. For NCLAT, this contradiction between financial statements and legal claims confirmed that the insolvency petition was a collusive tactic rather than a genuine claim of default.

Blossom County, which has 17 towers and 2,384 units, was originally scheduled for completion in 2013. More than a decade later, only 10 towers have received occupancy certificates, and around 500 homebuyers have been able to register their flats.

GMDA begins road repairs patchwork after commuter complaints

Gurgaon. (Agency)

GMDA has started patchwork and repairs on master roads which are riddled with potholes. The move comes after commuters complained of unsafe driving conditions and long traffic snarls caused by water-filled craters and broken stretches.

Officials said teams are using granular sub-base and bituminous material to fill potholes and restore stretches. "The measures are being implemented to maintain the motorable condition of the roads and to facilitate hassle-free movement of traffic across key stretches," a senior GMDA official said.

According to the GMDA, patchwork has been carried out on several major stretches, including MG Road, the Bus Stand–IFFCO Chowk stretch, Daulatabad Road, and Bhagat Singh Chowk, besides master roads in Sectors 8, 12, 14, 22, 23, 39, 46, 49, 65, 66, 69, 70, 81, 82, 83, 92, 93, 95, 99, and 102, among others. Fresh bituminous laying has also started on the Sector 92–95 master road and stretches in sectors 99 to 115. Also, the GMDA CEO has directed that repairs on Sheetla Mata Mandir Road be prioritised ahead of the upcoming Navratri mela, keeping in mind the heavy footfall of visitors during the festival. One of the most complained-about stretches, Basai Road, has also seen patchwork completed on one carriageway, while work on the opposite lane is expected to start this week. While blacktopping has come as a relief, residents, however, point out that the work remains incomplete. "They have finally repaired the road after four months, but without cleaning the drains, the work won't last long. Stormwater inlets along the stretch have not been cleaned, which means water will stagnate on the surface in the next spell of rain and erode the new layer. Moreover, safety is another concern. With no service roads along many master stretches, speeding vehicles, including heavy trucks and trolleys, pose a constant risk at the entry and exit points of residential societies. There is a need to install speed breakers to prevent accidents," said Praveen Malik, RWA president of Rising Home.



after the demolition drive began. A large crowd gathered and allegedly at the instigation of Manesar mayor's husband Rakesh Yadav hurled stones and bricks at the officials and also damaged the machinery. A bulldozer operator was seriously injured, while glass panes of demolition machinery were shattered.

The mob also scuffled with DTCP staffers and snatched a recording card from a video camera before officials managed to

flee. The drive was initiated after owners ignored show-cause notices issued in Feb and restoration orders passed by the department. Officials said the entire colony was developed without licences or approvals. Following a complaint by duty magistrate and ATP Rahul Dabra, an FIR was registered at Kherki Daula police station. The complaint also names Rakesh Yadav along with councillors from Bhangrola and Kakrola, for allegedly trying to obstruct the demolition and provoking residents. Sources said Kakrola and its neighbouring villages have seen a proliferation of unauthorised warehouses in recent years, driven by the proximity to Manesar industrial belt and expanding logistics demand in Gurgaon. While the authorities have been conducting drives against such illegal structures, resistance from locals has often posed challenges.

Waste disposal: Cops step up heat on violators in Gurgaon, 19 face FIRs

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Police have intensified the crackdown to curb illegal disposal of waste and release of wastewater into open areas in the city. In just three weeks, FIRs have been registered against 19 people for offences such as openly dumping garbage, setting waste on fire and discharging dirty water in public spaces. According to the police, a total of 17 FIRs have been filed across various stations, with many offenders apprehended during routine patrols. Cops said five of the 17 recent cases were related to garbage burning, for which six people were arrested and let off on bail. The other 12 cases involved waste dumping or discharge of dirty water, leading to the arrest of 13 more offenders. "All were caught in the act. We have asked our patrol teams to keep a strict watch on hotspots and register cases against violators without delay," a senior officer said. "Burning garbage, dumping

waste or releasing polluted water is not just a nuisance but a direct threat to public health. Such acts will not be tolerated and legal action is being taken in every case," the officer added. On Monday, a patrol team in Udyog Vihar phase 2 noticed smoke near Building No 495. They found a man setting fire to trash. Police said Arjun Kumar (40), from Hazaribagh (Jharkhand), runs a small stall in the area and lit the garbage to dispose of it quickly. A case was registered against him under Section 287 of BNS. A day earlier, police in Bajghera caught a 63-year-old

man dumping plastic and vegetable waste from his e-rickshaw on the roadside near Baba Brahma and Chowk. Sohanpal from Badaun district in UP told police he runs a vegetable shop and was throwing away stall waste. A case was registered under sections 272 and 280 of BNS. Officials said the new BNS provisions make it easier to take action. Section 272 is applied in cases where waste disposal poses a health risk, Section 280 is invoked when harmful or noxious substances are dumped carelessly and Section 287 is used against open burning of trash.

A resident of Sector 14 said, "In our colony, garbage is often dumped at corners and sometimes set on fire. The smoke makes it hard to breathe, especially for senior citizens. It's good to see police finally acting against such offenders." Police said the drive will continue and appealed



Design flaws, safety hazards & flooding at underpasses: What chokes Rajiv Chowk in Gurgaon

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Geometric design flaws, safety issues and crossing conflicts — Rajiv Chowk is faced with myriad bottlenecks. A major intersection for vehicular and pedestrian movement, Rajiv Chowk has witnessed around 15 deaths in road crashes since 2022 in approximately 25 accidents. High traffic volume and complex road geometry have often resulted in congestion, safety concerns and operational challenges at the junction. Waterlogged walking spaces have become swimming areas for children even as pedestrian infrastructure is in a mess. The traffic police conducted a study and prepared a detailed report on the engineering and geometrical issues, existing vehicular movement and conflict points. The study, conducted by traffic engineering centre of the police, finds that frequent violations by commuters — including wrong-side movement, parking at the junction, encroachment by vendors and vehicles, and boarding or alighting — are among the major causes of traffic congestion at Rajiv Chowk.

As there is no separate lane for autorickshaws to park or stop for boarding/alighting, the carriageway towards the mini-secretariat is congested and straight-moving traffic faces delays.

The report also highlights safety issues concerning pedestrians and road users. DCP (traffic) Rajesh Mohan said that several detailed meetings have been conducted with the administrative authorities and the concerned department regarding the issues at Rajiv Chowk and work for infrastructure improvement and work for infrastructure improvement and geometrical changes may start soon to ensure smooth traffic flow. Rajiv Chowk has a total of seven crossing conflicts, twelve merging conflicts and thirteen diverging conflicts, indicating complex and high-volume traffic movement. Crossing conflicts occur where vehicle paths intersect, increasing the risk of accidents. Merging and diverging conflicts happen where vehicles join or leave the main traffic flow, often causing delays and safety concerns. The large number of conflict points at the intersection underscores the need for improved junction design and better traffic management measures to ensure smoother and safer movement. According to traffic experts, drivers often become confused when entering Rajiv Chowk as too many signs make it hard to determine which one to follow, leading many drivers to ignore them. The signs are not placed according to the site's needs or standards. Several informative signs at

the junction are either missing, damaged or provide incorrect directions. Geometric design issues are a major concern at Rajiv Chowk, particularly related to traffic islands intended to guide and channelise traffic. Instead of improving flow, these islands are misused as waiting areas for buses. As a result, bus and auto-rickshaw drivers frequently stop near these islands to pick up and drop off passengers, causing congestion. This issue, along with sudden changes in carriageway width near the islands, disrupts traffic movement and creates unsafe conditions for all road users. The junction faces bottlenecks due to road width changes. Poorly designed islands reduce space for vehicles and complicate movement. While moving towards Sohna, the carriageway width reduces in stages, causing bottlenecks at merging points. Most of the traffic volume coming from Delhi commutes towards Sohna. These sudden reductions lead to congestion and unsafe merging. The bus stop at the junction is located at a distance of 420m and passengers do not walk this long distance to take the bus. Consequently, all buses stop at the islands on the junction, where passengers wait. This results in jams, queues, and congestion at the junction.

The pedestrian infrastructure around Rajiv Chowk is in very poor condition too. Traffic surveyors found that underpasses are unsafe, filled with trash and waterlogged, making them difficult to use. There is no lighting in underpasses and the footbridge (FOB) is damaged and currently not in use.

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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

3 booked for textile bizman's murder in Faridabad

The Sikh Times

Gurugram: A textile businessman died under suspicious circumstances in Faridabad's Ballabgarh area on Friday, with his family alleging that he was murdered by his business partners who poisoned him with a cold drink. An FIR of murder has been registered against three of his partners at Adarsh Nagar police station. According to the police, the deceased was identified as Sukhbir, a native of Janauli village in Palwal district. His brother Om Prakash lodged a complaint alleging that Sukhbir had started a cloth dyeing and printing factory, Jai Guru Enterprises, in May 2023 along with partners Sumit, Rajiv, Rahul, and Mukesh, all residents of Ballabgarh. Each was a 25 per cent partner in the firm. Om Prakash claimed that even

before the company was launched, Sukhbir had transferred Rs 56 lakh to Sumit's account and another Rs 15 lakh jointly

were ignored. Sumit allegedly ran the account in his own name and all the money deposited belonged to Sukhbir.

Prakash said, Sukhbir went to Sumit's house in Ballabgarh on the call of Sumit and Rajiv to settle accounts. "Around 11 am,

from Sahupura Jat Chowk to a private hospital. The doctors referred him to Delhi in a critical condition, but he died shortly after leaving the hospital," he alleged in the complaint. Inspector Nafe Singh, SHO of Adarsh Nagar police station, said

an FIR has been registered against three accused. "The body has been handed over to the family after post-mortem. We are awaiting the post-mortem report and action will be taken in accordance with the law," he said.

Pilot arrested for filming woman with spy camera

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have arrested a 31-year-old private airline pilot for allegedly attempting to secretly film a woman using a hidden spy camera in South-West Delhi's Kishangarh area. The accused, identified as Mohit Priyadarshi, reportedly admitted that he had been making such videos for his own gratification. The incident occurred on August 30 at Shani Bazar in Kishangarh village, where the complainant, a local resident, noticed an unknown man recording objectionable footage of her without consent using a device disguised as a lighter. A case was registered at Kishangarh police station and investigation initiated. With the help of CCTV footage and circulation of the suspect's photograph through the local intelligence network, he was traced and apprehended. The police said Priyadarshi confessed during interrogation. The lighter-shaped spy camera used in the offence was recovered from his possession.

3 of Faridabad family killed as AC compressor explodes

Faridabad: Three members of a family and their pet dog died as an air-conditioner compressor exploded in their house in Green Field Colony, Faridabad, in the early hours of Monday. The blast occurred around 3 am on the second floor of a rented four-storey building while the family was asleep. It is believed that a short circuit caused the fire in the AC, leading to the compressor explosion. The deceased have been identified as Sachin Kapoor (49), wife Rinku (48), and their daughter Sujain (13). The couple's son, Aryan (24), survived by jumping from the balcony but sustained fractures in the legs and is receiving treatment at a hospital. According to police, the family tried to escape to the rooftop, but the door was locked, causing them to succumb to suffocation. Fire and police teams reached the site and controlled the fire. All three victims were declared dead at the hospital.

Two boys drown in Haiderpur canal in northwest Delhi

New Delhi: The deceased were identified as Aniket (9) and Krishan Kumar (13), both residents of slums near the Ayurvedic Hospital in Shalimar Bagh. According to police, the incident occurred around 4 pm on Sunday and a PCR call was received around 10:17 pm. The boys were rushed to the BJRM Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead, an official said, adding that a post-mortem examination will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death. Both boys had lost their mothers earlier and were being raised by their fathers, who work as daily wage labourers. At the time of the mishap, the fathers were away at work, the cop added. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway, police added.

Semi-naked body of Ugandan woman found under flyover in Gurugram

Gurugram: The semi-naked body of a foreign national was found under the IMT Manesar Chowk flyover in Gurugram on Sunday morning, officials said. The police recovered the woman's passport from the spot that helped identify the victim as Ugandan national Nasimwa Madina (33), they said. According to the police, they received information in the morning that a woman's body was lying on the service road of the highway near IMT Manesar Chowk.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, PARMOD S/O KANHAIYALAL R/O H. No. 59, D-Block, Street No. 3, Near Budh Bazar, Road, Aman Vihar Kiran, Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MUKESH KUMAR in my SC case with No:SC/09/9681/1729/23/5/2014/ 90519681125927. The actual name of my father is MUKESH KUMAR in my minor son NISHANT aged 16 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SONI CHAUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MOHIT AHLAWAT S/o MUKEESH KUMAR AHLAWAT R/O C-173/G, C-BLOCK, HARSHAN BASTI, PALAM EXTN, SECTOR-7, DWARKA SECTOR-7, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AJAY KUMAR in my minor son NISHANT aged 17 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SONI CHAUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SONI CHAUDHARY W/O VEERENDRA KUMAR R/O C-173/G, C-BLOCK, HARSHAN BASTI, PALAM EXTN, SECTOR-7, DWARKA SECTOR-7, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SONI CHAUDHARY in my minor son PRIYANSHU aged 16 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SONI CHAUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

My Name has changed from Mohd Kaseem to Mohd Aslam Kaseem and my address is 230 A First Floor Khasra No. 310 & 313 Neb Sarai New Delhi 110086. My Name has changed from Razia Begum to Rajiya Begum and my address is 230 A First Floor Khasra No. 310 & 313 Neb Sarai New Delhi 110086.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MOHAMMAD SHAHID son of Mohammad Ilyas residing at 370, 11th Floor, Gali Sakhi Wali Bazar Matia Mahal, Jams Masjid, Delhi G.P.O. North Delhi, Delhi-110006 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MOHD SHAHID in my minor daughter's name SUBHANA NAAZ aged 15 years in her educational documents. The actual name of mine is MOHAMMAD SHAHID which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, POONAM W/O DINESH CHAUDHARY R/O H-135, Gali No-135, Block-B, Ameer Vihar, Burari, New Delhi-110084, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PUNAM DEVI in my minor daughter Namely ANITA KUMARI aged 15 years in her school records. The actual name of mine is POONAM which may be amended accordingly.

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NEWS BOX

Court rules Lisa Cook can remain a Fed governor for now while fighting Trump's attempt to fire her

Washington . (Agency)

A federal court ruled Tuesday that embattled Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook can remain in her position while she fights President Donald Trump's efforts to fire her. The ruling, which will almost certainly be appealed, is a blow to the Trump administration's efforts to assert more control over the traditionally independent Fed, which sets short-term interest rates to achieve its congressionally mandated goals of stable prices and maximum employment. Congress has also sought to insulate the Fed from day-to-day politics.

Trump said he was firing Cook on August 25 over allegations raised by one of his appointees that she committed mortgage fraud related to two properties she purchased in 2021, before she joined the Fed. Cook is accused of saying two properties were "primary residences," which could have resulted in lower down payments and mortgage rates than if either was designated a second home or investment property. Cook's lawyers argued that firing her was unlawful because presidents can only fire Fed governors "for cause," which has typically meant inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance while in office. They also said she was entitled to a hearing and a chance to respond to the charges before being fired, but was not provided either. The case could become a turning point for the 112-year-old Federal Reserve. Economists prefer independent central banks because they can do unpopular things like lifting interest rates to combat inflation more easily than elected officials.

Trump's tariffs seen cutting into China sales of US companies, survey finds

world.(Agency)

BEIJING: Many U.S. companies operating in China expect their sales to take a hit this year from U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs and the ones that China has imposed in response, according to an annual survey released Wednesday by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

Nearly two-thirds of the 254 companies who responded said the new tariffs have reduced expected revenues for their China operations in 2025. About one-third, many in banking and other industries that don't import from or export to the U.S., don't expect any impact.

Trump has imposed an additional 30% tax on imports from China, after raising them at one point to 145% before the two countries agreed in May to scale back a tit-for-tat tariff war. China has responded with a 10% tax on U.S. imports. The tariffs hit companies that export to the U.S. and those that import American parts or ingredients for their production in China, such as chemical companies, Shanghai chamber leaders said. "Tariffs have had a huge impact on our operations," said Eric Zheng, the president of the group. The two sides are holding trade talks, but where they are headed on tariffs and other issues is unclear. The uncertainty is a challenge for companies that need to make plans for the future, Zheng said. American courts have ruled that most of Trump's tariffs are an illegal use of a U.S. emergency powers law, but the import taxes remain in place as his administration appeals the case to the Supreme Court.

The Shanghai chamber survey, conducted from May 19 to June 20, found that manufacturers are being hit the hardest by the tariffs, with close to three-quarters saying the import taxes would reduce their 2025 China revenues. Respondents named U.S.-China tensions as their top challenge for the next three to five years. Zheng called improving the bilateral relationship "our No. 1 ask."

Trump rebukes Netanyahu over Israeli strikes in Qatar; urges peace efforts

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

U.S. President Donald Trump gave Benjamin Netanyahu a rare slap on the wrist Tuesday over Israel's strikes against Hamas in Qatar, as he insisted he played no role in the attack by one close US ally against another. Trump said he was not notified in advance of the Israeli attack on the Gulf state, a crucial broker in the negotiations between Israel and Hamas on ending the Gaza war and securing the release of hostages held by Palestinian militants.

"I'm not thrilled about the whole situation," Trump told reporters during a rare outing to a Washington restaurant. "We want the hostages back, but we are not thrilled about the way that went down today."

The Israeli attack on Doha could hardly be more sensitive as Qatar, in addition to its role in the Gaza negotiations, is home to a huge US airbase and hosted Trump during a Middle East swing this year.

The fossil fuel-rich emirate also recently gave the United States a luxury Boeing 747-8 jet for Trump to use as his presidential plane, a move that sparked major ethical questions. "This was a decision made by Prime Minister Netanyahu; it was not a decision made by me," Trump said in a post on social media.

"I view Qatar as a strong ally and friend of the U.S., and feel very badly about the location of the attack," he said -- although adding that eliminating Hamas was still a "worthy goal". In a statement that largely echoed one issued earlier by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Trump focused on the possible damage to his efforts to end the war in Gaza.

"Unilaterally bombing inside Qatar, a sovereign nation and close ally of the United States, that is working very hard and bravely taking risks with us to broker peace, does not advance Israel or America's goals," Trump said. Too late!

The US president was at pains to point out that Washington was caught unawares by the Israeli attack. He said the White House was "notified by the United States Military that Israel was attacking Hamas which, very unfortunately, was located in a section of Doha." I immediately directed Special Envoy Steve Witkoff to inform the Qatari of the impending attack, which he did, however, unfortunately, too late to stop the attack."

Normalcy returns to Nepal as army steps in to restore order; Gen-Z protesters demand reforms

The unrest began when hundreds stormed Oli's office, protesting Gen-Z deaths, corruption, and a social media ban, lifted later.

KATHMANDU. (Agency)

Army troops fanned out across Kathmandu and other major cities early Wednesday, enforcing restrictions and restoring calm a day after violent anti-government protests swept Nepal, prompting Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to resign. The Nepali Army, which took command of nationwide security operations on Tuesday night, imposed restrictions in cities including Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur, citing concern over groups causing "severe damage to ordinary citizens and public property." Authorities ordered residents to remain indoors unless "absolutely necessary", and streets were largely deserted as security personnel patrolled roads and fire trucks responded to blazes at

government and private buildings set on fire by protesters on Tuesday. The unrest erupted after hundreds of agitators entered Oli's office demanding his resignation over the deaths of at least 19 people in police action during protests by Gen-Z youth against corruption and a government ban on social media, which was lifted Monday night. Protesters had also torched the Parliament, the President's office, the Prime Minister's residence, government buildings, and offices of political leaders. The rapid descent into chaos shocked many, and Nepal's military warned against "activities that could lead the country into unrest and instability" in the country of 30 million people. Soldiers issued orders via loudspeakers on the streets, as tanks rumbled past the carcasses of burnt vehicles and tyres. The army warned Wednesday that "vandalism, looting, arson, or attacks on individuals and property in the name of protest will be treated as punishable crimes". Kathmandu's airport is expected to resume operations later on Wednesday at 6:00 pm, manager Hansa Raj



Pandey told Nepali media.

Demand for reforms remain

Ahead of an expected meeting with President Ram Chandra Poudel, Gen-Z protester Subhash said the recent violence might subside, but their demands for reforms remain. "The PM of our country, KP Sharma Oli, ran away. We demand a good leader. We want new rules and regulations in the country, so youth can have more opportunities," he told ANI. Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on Tuesday appealed to all parties, including the agitating Gen Z, to exercise restraint and

come forward for dialogue to resolve the crisis after Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned amid massive anti-government protests. The protests, which began on September 8 in Kathmandu and other cities, including Pokhara, Butwal, and Birgunj, were triggered by the government's social media ban and long-standing grievances over corruption, institutional favouritism, and lack of accountability. Nearly 5,000 young Nepalese leave the country daily seeking jobs abroad, a crisis that has amplified the unrest. President Paudel has urged all sides to remain calm and resolve the situation through dialogue, emphasising that citizens' demands can be addressed peacefully in a democracy.

Call it off

Nepali Army chief, General Ashok Raj Sigdel, has appealed for talks, in a video message issued late Tuesday. "To provide the nation with a peaceful resolution, we urge all groups involved in the protest to call it off and engage in dialogue", he said.

Murdoch resolves succession drama: A win for Lachlan and a loss for public interest journalism

world. (Agency)

Rupert Murdoch has succeeded in securing his vision for the future of News Corporation, the global media empire he has always thought of as his family business. To achieve this, he has torn apart his family. He has also ensured his media outlets, especially Fox News, remain committed to his hard-right-wing views.

With hindsight, this deal was inevitable. The 94-year-old mogul had just one remaining job to do as chairman emeritus of News Corp: to ensure that when he dies, the company he built and moulded remains in his image. This announcement says he has found a way, which may give him some comfort but is profoundly disappointing to anyone who cares about public interest journalism. There's no longer any prospect of his children from his first and second marriages, Prudence, Elisabeth and James, who are now known as the "departing beneficiaries", staging a coup after his death to wrest control from Rupert's chosen successor and elder son Lachlan, who has headed News Corporation and Fox Corporation since Murdoch stepped aside in 2023. Lachlan has taken a lesson from Rupert's dealmaking

playbook. He has thrown money at the problem by paying his three siblings more than he had previously offered for their respective shares. According to The New York Times, the three siblings will receive US\$1.1 billion (A\$1.7 billion) each for all their shares in the company. Their agreement



brings an end to the bitter battle the three siblings fought with their father and brother over the latter's infamous attempt to revoke a seemingly irrevocable trust created at the end of Murdoch's longest marriage, of 32 years, to Anna Murdoch (now Anna Maria dePeyster). She had hated how her husband pitted their children against one another in the battle for succession, so she negotiated an agreement that would give each of the four children from the first two

marriages a vote in the family trust. It also ensured Rupert retained enough votes in the trust so he could not be outvoted by his four (voting) children. When Rupert anointed Lachlan his successor, upsetting the others, speculation was aired that when Rupert died, and his votes with him, the three siblings might oust Lachlan as chief executive and take control of the company. Worse, in Rupert's eyes, they might change the editorial direction of the company, in particular Fox News. That is what has changed. The family trust has also been re-engineered with an increased lifespan from 2030 to 2050, and folds in Murdoch's daughters from his third marriage, to Wendi Deng – Grace and Chloe.

This shores up the trust so they can't sell out and dilute Lachlan's shareholding. Under the deal, a new company called Holdco, owned by Lachlan, Grace and Chloe, will own all the remaining shares of News Corp and Fox Corporation that previously had been held by the Murdoch family trust. The departing beneficiaries will sell their personal holdings in News Corp and Fox so none of them has any interest in either business.

Russian glide bomb attack in eastern Ukraine kills 24 people collecting their pensions

DONETSK REGION. (Agency)

A Russian glide bomb struck a village in eastern Ukraine as people stood in line in the open air Tuesday morning to collect their monthly pension. The blast killed at least 24 people and injured 19 others, the Ukraine Emergency Service said. In a related development, Poland's armed forces were on a heightened state of alert overnight Tuesday and early Wednesday because of what they described as "further massive airstrikes against targets located in Ukraine." "To ensure the security of Polish airspace, the operational commander of Poland's Armed Forces has



activated all necessary procedures. Polish and allied aircraft are operating in our airspace, and ground-based air defense and radar reconnaissance systems have reached the highest level of alert," the Operational Command of Poland's Armed Forces said in a statement posted on social media.

It said the actions were "preventative" and designed to secure the country's airspace and protect people in "areas adjacent to the threatened area." Warsaw's Chopin Airport warned passengers on its website that flight operations were on hold due to closure of the airspace over part of the country, but that the airport remained open. The Russian glide bomb on Tuesday hit the Donetsk region village of Yarova at around 11 a.m. The village lies less than 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the front line. Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said 23 of the dead were pensioners.

Yarova resident Hennadii Trush said his wife was killed in the blast as she waited to collect the pension of her bedridden mother-in-law. Afterward, Trush fled Yarova with his elderly mother, who was carried out on a stretcher. In shock and with soot still on his face, Trush wept as he described the scene of the attack. "It was beyond words," he told The Associated Press. "Before, strikes landed on the outskirts. This time it was right in the center of the village." It was the latest Russian attack to kill civilians. More than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the three-year war, the United Nations says. "Frankly brutal," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram of Tuesday's attack, urging the international community to make Russia pay economically for its full-scale invasion through additional sanctions.

UN Security Council Reforms Essential For Peacekeeping Operations To Be Effective: India

United Nations. (Agency)

Peacekeeping operations can be effective only if the Security Council is reformed to give it the legitimacy that comes from reflecting the contemporary realities, according to India. "The effectiveness of UN peacekeeping is tied to the structure and legitimacy of the UN Security Council, which must be reformed to ensure expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories to reflect the contemporary realities," India's Permanent Representative P. Harish said on Wednesday.

The major contributors, like India -- which has sent the most troops -- to peacekeeping operations are shut out of the permanent membership in the



through a member state-driven process of wide-ranging consultations is essential, Harish said. All stakeholders, particularly the troop and police-

contributing countries, should participate in the process, he added.

He was speaking at the Council open debate on peacekeeping convened by South Korea, the president for this month. Harish said that peacekeeping operations are confronting "multiple challenges, with political, operational, and technological complexities" and a return "to core principles of UN peacekeeping" is needed to face them, he said. The mandates must be simple, realistic, clear, and focused, he said.

Peace operations are likely to succeed when they are accompanied by a broader political process, with a clearly envisioned political outcome.

Why Israel's attack in Doha underscores a stark reality for Gulf states looking for stability and growth

LONDON. (Agency)

The oil-rich states of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have a lot going for them: wealth, domestic stability and growing global influence. In recent months, these Gulf kingdoms also appear closer to something they have long sought: reliable US support that has become stronger and more uncritical than ever, just as Iranian power in the region has significantly degraded. In Donald Trump, the non-elected Gulf Arab monarchs have an ally in Washington who has largely shed previous American concerns for democracy and human rights. That the American president made his first scheduled international trip of his second term to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE only underscores their international clout. Managing a post-civil war Syria

countries must still navigate a regional political tightrope. And as the Israeli targeting of senior Hamas leaders in Qatar on Sept. 9, 2025, shows, events by other Middle Eastern actors have a nasty habit of derailing Gulf leaders' plans. How these countries manage four particular uncertainties will have a significant effect on their hopes for stability and growth.

In Syria, years of civil war that had exacerbated splits among ethnic and religious groups finally ended in December 2024. Since then, Arab Gulf countries, which once opposed the Iranian-allied government of Bashar al-Assad, have been pivotal in supporting new Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa. They successfully lobbied the US to drop sanctions.

In addition to sharing mutual regional interests with Sharaa, the leaders of Gulf Arab states want a Syrian state that is free from internal war and can absorb the millions of refugees that fled the conflict to other countries in the Middle East.

Gulf states can support postwar Syria diplomatically and financially. However, they can't wish away the legacy of long war and sectarian strife. Israeli attacks on Syrian soil since Assad's fall, as well as recent outbreaks of fighting in the Sweida



region of southern Syria, underscore the ongoing fragility of the Syrian government and concerns over its ability to contain violence and migration outside of its borders.

The challenge of regional politics Syria illustrates a broader policy challenge for Gulf states. As their wealth, military

strength and influence have grown, these countries have become dominant in the Arab world. As a result, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have invested billions of dollars in efforts to influence governments and groups across the world. This includes the mostly authoritarian governments in the Middle East and North Africa, such as Egypt's. But here, Gulf states are torn politically. If democratic systems form elsewhere in the Arab world, this could encourage Gulf citizens to push for elected government at home. Yet overly coercive Arab governments outside of the Gulf can be prone to popular unrest and even civil war. Popping up unpopular regional governments risks backfiring on Gulf Arab leaders in one of two ways. First, it can entice Gulf states into protracted and damaging wars, such as was the case with Saudi Arabia and the UAE's failed military intervention in Yemen against the Houthis. Second, it can drive a wedge between Gulf states, as is seen with the current conflict in Sudan, in which the Saudis and Emiratis are backing rival factions.

**North chief to engineers:
Public infrastructure & road
safety is top priority**

Bengaluru. (Agency)

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar on Tuesday directed engineers to take steps regarding improvement of public infrastructure, road safety and basic amenities.

After inspecting Kodigehalli Gate Signal Junction, he instructed officials to start junction widening work to control traffic congestion. He also inspected the road widening work in progress near Ganesh Temple Junction, and ordered its expeditious completion. Kumar told engineers that improvement of public infrastructure, road safety and basic amenities must be top priority. He instructed officials to improve the waste disposal system and take action to clear black spots.

The commissioner directed officials to complete Geddalahalli vent work at the earliest. He advised the annual maintenance team to continue dredging work, and the high density corridor team to immediately take up pothole closing and asphalt work near Nagawara flyover junction. He also instructed BWSSB officials to complete pipeline and repair work quickly, after obtaining permission from the Traffic department.

Contractors for road, SWD maintenance Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to immediately appoint contractors for the maintenance of roads and major stormwater drains across the five city corporations, under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.

Addressing a virtual meeting regarding the steps to be taken within the five city corporations, he said that centralized AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract) teams currently operating on arterial and sub-arterial roads be dissolved. Instead, new contractors should be appointed separately for each of the five city corporations through appropriate procedures.

**CSR issued against two
for feeding stray dogs
in Chennai**



Chennai. (Agency)

The Kotturpuram police have registered a Community Service Register (CSR) entry against two unidentified men for feeding stray dogs on a public road, following a complaint filed by a local resident citing a recent Supreme Court directive.

According to the police, complainant Muralidharan Sivalingam of Pondicherry Road, Kottur, spotted two men arriving on a scooter near the Kottur Garden area around 12.45 pm on September 7. The pillion rider allegedly placed food on the pavement for a stray dog before the duo left.

Muralidharan filmed the incident on his phone and uploaded the clips on social media tagging the Chennai police, corporation, and state officials. Claiming this to be the first such petition in Tamil Nadu after the Supreme Court's restriction order, he filed a complaint with the police. Confirming the development, a Kotturpuram police official said, "The complaint has been taken on record. Action will follow as per legal provisions."

Shruti Vinodhraj, honorary member of the Tamil Nadu animal welfare board, said, "The Supreme Court order clearly directs municipal authorities to create dedicated feeding spaces for stray dogs in each ward. This is a larger exercise and will take time."

'Social media ban was final trigger': Nepali students in India voice support for Gen Z protests back home

Mumbai. (Agency)

The widespread youth-led movement that has toppled Nepal's government has sparked concern among the sizeable Nepali student population in India, with many voicing support for the protests being driven by members of their generation.

"There is a narrative in international media that the protest is due to the ban on social media by the Nepal government. But it was only the final trigger. The protest was against the inefficient government and rampant corruption. The ban on social media served as a trigger, as by doing that, the government was suppressing the voice of the youth," a Nepali student studying in India said, requesting anonymity. The social media ban was later lifted.

As Nepali students across different parts of the world hold events in solidarity with the Gen Z protests

in their home country, those pursuing various higher education courses in India too have taken to social media to support the movement, particularly to emphasise that this is a reaction from the youth frustrated with their government.

Students have highlighted videos that went viral under the hashtag '#Nepokids', which showed the alleged lavish lifestyles of politicians' wards. "There was a major anti-government movement taking shape on social media after those videos went viral. Multiple videos started surfacing from different parts of the country with social media users drawing attention to the stark contrast between the luxurious lives of politicians and their families and the dysfunction of the broader

system resulting in sufferings of the common population," another student said.



The social media ban was just the last straw that brought the youth onto the streets, the student added. "This is what we are all trying to portray on our social media handles so that the world knows that this is not just because social media was banned," the student said.

On Tuesday, Gen Z protesters in

Nepal set fire to government buildings, offices of major political parties, and the homes and offices of top political functionaries. This came after 19 young protesters were killed in police firing in Kathmandu. The protests led to Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli resigning.

The protests have echoed in India, where a considerable number of Nepali students study.

According to the All-India Survey on Higher Education, in the academic year 2021-22, approximately 13,129 Nepalese students were studying in India, which is expected to have increased over the past few years. "There is major political instability in Nepal. In the past decade, the prime minister has changed multiple times. Amid all that,

when the young generation is struggling for opportunities, nepo-kid videos aggravated the situation, and the youth decided to come to the streets. Many of my friends back home are part of the protest, and I support them," Yogen Rauniyar from Kathmandu, who is studying engineering in a college in Maharashtra's Pune, said.

"The original idea was about a peaceful protest where most youngsters joined with uniforms. But when authorities showed insensitivity in handling the protesters, the protest took a violent turn," he added.

According to Nepali students in India, the rage among the youth has been brewing for a while. "With limited opportunities, many youngsters are developing businesses on social media. Closing that was only the tip of the iceberg; the issue is more serious.

**BMC launches weekend,
fast-track marriage
registration services for
couples in Mumbai from
Sept 21**



Mumbai. (Agency)

While marriage registration was previously restricted to weekdays, the new decision allows couples to register on both Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm at designated ward offices.

On Saturdays, services will be available at 13 ward offices, including A, C, E, F South, G South, H East, K East, P South, P North, R Central, L, M West and S. On Sundays, the service will be provided at 12 ward offices, including B, D, F North, G North, H West, K West, P East, R South, R North, N, M East and T.

During weekdays, the civic body will also operate a fast-track marriage registration service. In every ward office, 20 per cent of the daily slots, amounting to 6 out of 30 registrations, will be reserved under this category. Couples who opt for this service and complete the required documentation, verification and fee payment will receive their certificate the same day.

BMC noted that nearly 30,000 to 35,000 marriages are registered annually in Mumbai, but this figure is lower compared to the total number of marriages taking place in the city. Officials found that lack of time and the need for spouses and witnesses to appear in person during office hours were major reasons for delays or avoidance of registration.

Couples availing either the weekend or the fast track service will be required to pay the regular registration fee along with an additional amount of 2,500 rupees. The BMC clarified that the services will not be available on public holidays.

Deepening rift within Andekar crime family fuelled by muscle of split gangs at the centre two murders one year apart

Pune. (Agency)

A DEEPENING rift within the family of Pune's notorious gangster Bandu Andekar over the 68-year-old patriarch's illicit wealth and control of his criminal stronghold is suspected to be the central reason behind the murder of his two family members – his son Vanraj Andekar and his grandson Ayush Komkar – one year apart, said senior police officers. This family feud is fueled by two factions of the once-undivided Andekar gang, probe has revealed.

Vanraj (40) was shot dead near his Nana Peth residence on September 1, 2024. Vanraj's sister Sanjivani Komkar, her husband Jayant, Ayush's father Ganesh Komkar (who is Jayant's brother and husband of Kalyani – Vanraj's other sister) and history-sheeter Somnath Sayaji Gaikwad were among those arrested for Vanraj's murder. Police said following a previous dispute, the Komkars had allegedly conspired to kill Vanraj with the help of Gaikwad, a former henchman of the Andekar gang who later became a rival.

On September 5 this year, Ayush (18) was

allegedly shot multiple times by two gunmen in the parking lot of his residential building in Bhavani Peth in what is suspected to be an act of revenge for the murder of Vanraj, who is gangster Bandu Andekar's son. Ayush was the son of Bandu Andekar's daughter Kalyani Komkar, whose husband Ganesh Komkar is a



key accused in Vanraj's murder.

These two murders – a year apart – point to a clear rift in the family led by Suryakant alias Bandu Ranaji Andekar, which had deep links to criminal activities and also politics. The roots of Andekar family's links to criminal activities can

be traced back to Bandu's elder brother Balkrishna alias Balu who rose to notoriety in the 1970 and 80s by running a gang in the central parts of Pune. Bandu took over the reins after Balu was murdered on the premises of Pune court in July 1984 by a rival gang.

"The gang led by Bandu Andekar has been involved in various criminal activities including collection of protection money or 'hafta' from small businesses and extorting larger ones. They were also involved in gambling dens. Soon the gang also entered in land and property deals using muscle power. The family has acquired film theatres, commercial and residential properties, and has stakes in various types of contracts," said a senior police officer who has worked in the Pune crime branch.

The Andekar family entered politics in the 1990s with Bandu's brothers Udaykant and Ramakant becoming corporators in the Pune Municipal Corporation. Vatsala Andekar from the became mayor of Pune in the last 1990s and Bandu's wife Rajashree was also elected corporator. Vanraj, Bandu's elder son, won the civic elections in 2017 on an NCP ticket.

'End of an Era': South Mumbai's New Yorker, home of sizzling brownies and nachos, shuts after four decades

"But we pray this is not the end," the restaurant owner said, adding that a delivery model is in the pipeline to continue serving the iconic dishes of New Yorker.

Mumbai. (Agency)

After four decades, South Mumbai's beloved restaurant New Yorker will shut its doors on Thursday, September 11. Known for its mix of Mexican, Italian and Indian dishes, the vegetarian restaurant built a loyal following with its sizzling brownies, sizzlers and cheesy nachos – all of which became nostalgic favorites for generations of diners.

"It is with a lot of mixed emotions that today I share that September 11 will be our last day of service at New Yorker," wrote owner Ranbir Batra on Instagram. While the closure brings sadness, he said, it also stirs gratitude for the memories the restaurant gave him – many from his own childhood. The restaurant, which opened a few years before his birth, became his training ground.

"From working on the cash counter, to the

kitchen, to taking orders... I learned my basics of being in this business from here," he said, adding that every single staff member who has worked here and every guest who has passed through the doors of the restaurant have been like family to him and his family. "To all our staff and patrons, over all these years, I just want to say 'Thank you'. Without you we would have never been able to be there for so long."

Why is New Yorker shutting down? When it comes to reason, Batra didn't give a clear answer but mentioned that it is due to some unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances that they have to shut the doors. "But we pray this is not the end," he said, adding that in the pipeline is a delivery model to continue serving the iconic dishes of New Yorker.

Giving fans a sliver of hope, he added,

"The door will always be open for New Yorker to come back in a new way. For now though, we say goodbye to this location."

An outpouring of nostalgia

The announcement prompted a wave of reactions online from those who grew up dining at the restaurant.

"Unbelievably sad," wrote hospitality brand and communications advisor Pooja Vir, remembering New Yorker as her "first official hangout" during college.

Comedian Sahil Bulla called it a "core childhood memory", recalling nachos, the activity mat and birthday parties. "Please don't go," he pleaded.

Photographer Ujwal Puri said "nothing can beat" the restaurant's nachos, while NCP spokesperson Anish Gawande described the closure as "the end of an era."



The loneliness bug biting India's working young

The seed of this column was planted exactly 14 months ago. I was delivering the inaugural keynote address at an offsite in Udaipur for an IT firm of repute. There were 350 people in the audience from the key client-facing realm of bleeding-edge work. My hour-long address was followed by a question-answer session. At the end of 20 minutes of Q&A, I decided to reverse the format and said would give questions to the audience that anyone could answer. I got to ask just one question though—as about 40 people wanted to answer that one first question. The answers shook me up a bit. It has been the subject of my probe in corporate organisations over the last year, and it is the subject of my column today.

The question, then: "What is the biggest regret of your working life to date as an employee and a human being, in that order?" Surprisingly, the answers were all more or less the same, all pointing to a cluster of thoughts that led one to the narrow alley of loneliness. Loneliness seems to be the biggest corporate disease around. The working person is today more lonely than ever. While some realise it, others don't. Everyone, however, is making some kind of effort to fill in this vacuum. The working man and woman are lonely. The younger ones seem more prone to this 'disease' than the older ones. The married ones who started a family rather young seem to have escaped, while those still single and looking to form relationships seem to be on a different boat altogether. This is a massive ship of the lonely that's lurking.

The working young—in the age bracket of 25-35—seem to be working just too hard. There is very little time for them to devote to relationships of any kind. There is the parent at home, the grandparent for some, and then there are friends. Most of these friends are from school and college. New friends at the workplace are really considered a peripheral set of folk with whom they interact, drink, eat, party and work with. As for newer-still friends, there is just no time to make.

The conspiracy deepens. Most working people in the new-age work centres concentrated in cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, Gurugram and the like are migrants. Most leave their hometowns to slay on precious work-experience in the big cities of our tech workplaces. Coincidentally, this is true for spaces such as IT, biotech, retail, gaming, aviation and even more spaces that capture the imagination of the new-age worker. When you leave Bhubaneswar to work in Bengaluru, you have left your home, your relatives, your friends, your local food and, more importantly, everything that you are most familiar with. You uproot and land in a city where everything is new. Making friends in the new city is possibly the most daunting task at hand. In any case, where do you have the time when all you do is work and party? You work five days a week, sleep an entire day on the weekend to recover, and party again in the evenings to show that you belong to the new city that has gobbled you up.

Time then flies. The days grow into months, and the months into years.

The youngster who entered the city has morphed. Work-wise, there is growth and income-wise there is plenty to talk about; but in terms of relationships, there is very little to report. In the bargain, the big city is today filled with working people in their late 20s and early 30s who have no one to call their own in reality. Yes, some relationships do start at the work-place and do flourish as well, but these are far and few. In most cases, there is so little time to devote to building relationships that a new relationship is itself considered to be a pain and a drain on precious time. The shortcut is therefore adopted—when the physical way just does not work, go virtual. And there begins a new story. I work with a client in the space of a popular dating app. I have dived deep into data, and find dating apps to have two different avatars.

A throwback to the age of monsters

It's difficult to avoid the feeling that we are in an era not unlike the period between the two World Wars

IT was in 2005 that the United Nations, celebrating its 60th anniversary, adopted, by consensus, a resolution on the principle of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The initiative was a response to the international community's failures to prevent the genocides in Rwanda and the massacre at Srebrenica in the 1990s. The principle established that sovereignty is not absolute and that states have a primary responsibility to protect populations everywhere from mass atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. If a state failed in this responsibility, the international community had the duty to take collective action. Despite its adoption by consensus, there were fears among developing countries that this principle would be used selectively to intervene in their domestic affairs. R2P was used by the West to intervene with military force against Muammar Gaddafi in Libya in 2011, ostensibly to prevent large-scale violence against those opposing the regime. The assumption was that a regime change would lead to a stable and humane political dispensation. Instead, it spawned a violent civil war that still rages on, fuelled by external forces.

The problem with such interventions is that the "morning after" is never part of the intervention. The violence continues, perpetrated by a different set of actors. Libya gave R2P a bad name. While it has been invoked in several UN resolutions since then, it has not resulted in coercive intervention sanctioned by the UN Security Council. There have been recent instances of horrific violence against, and displacement of, innocent men, women and children. Think of civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and the Central African Republic and now the genocide in Gaza — there has been unprecedented and barbaric violence against civilians. There may be pockets of popular outrage and reluctant condemnation by some governments, but it is difficult to avoid the feeling that we are indeed in an era ominously not unlike the turbulent interregnum between the two World Wars (1918-39), described thus by Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci: "The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters." Hitler's Holocaust against the Jews was only the most extreme example of monstrosity. There were several others often cloaked in patriotic impunity. Far from accepting the internationalist

obligation to protect populations against indiscriminate violence and genocide, even the readiness to call the perpetrators to account is half-hearted and selective. It is the US political shield and unstinting economic and military support which has enabled Israel to act with impunity. A reverse holocaust is taking place in Palestinian lands and the conscience of the world is barely shaken. The pervasive outrage one may have expected has failed to manifest itself and this has implications far beyond the current instances. Is geopolitics in a transitional era enabling another "time of monsters"? There have been several violent conflicts and



immense human suffering in the post Second World War period. Recall the indiscriminate violence unleashed upon the people of Vietnam in the US-led war in Indochina. Millions died of starvation and utter deprivation in Mao's pursuit of a Great Leap Forward in China (1959-63). Apartheid in South Africa took its own horrific toll until it came to an end in 1994. The birth of Bangladesh in 1971 occurred in the wake of violent suppression and genocide by Pakistani forces against their compatriots in then East Pakistan. What distinguishes the present are the muted voices and the absence of people's and civil society protest movements, which could confront the perpetrators of violence. There are courageous individuals and committed groups who do keep the flame of dissent alive and call the powerful to

account. But the State everywhere is shrinking the space for conscience-keepers.

The dawn of the nuclear age in 1945 brought with it the danger of human extinction. This mobilised both states and civil society across the world to promote nuclear disarmament and oppose doctrines of deterrence based on the dystopian concept of Mutually Assured Destruction. In the 1980s, there was a worldwide Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and non-nuclear weapon states were very active and vocal in demanding a world free of nuclear weapons. While the world is fortunate that it has not been incinerated so far in a nuclear Armageddon, the threat from nuclear weapons has only increased, intertwined as it is with advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and remote sensing and targeting. There is little popular concern and the UN is unable to go beyond rhetorical flourishes. Silicon Valley icons talk glibly about the 'singularity' that AI will achieve in our lifetime, surpassing and dominating humanity. If what makes us human — our emotions, our creativity and unique aesthetic sense — is replicable in machines, then defences against crimes against humanity would become feeble and eventually vanish. That's because having a moral centre is uniquely human.

In a landscape of competing states, it is unlikely that there will be a renewed commitment to multilateral processes overseen by empowered institutions of global governance.

There is a surfeit of nationalist chest-thumping and no sense of international solidarity without which multilateralism cannot work. It is a paradox that precisely at a time when the salience of cross-border and global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics and cyber security, has increased, the readiness to collaborate has diminished. The world has leaders galore. It has no statesmen who go beyond the nation to embrace humanity, no country that stands for something more than itself. What is the answer to this dilemma? It can only come from the people of the world whose present and future are being threatened by a descent into another "age of monsters", whose end is too horrifying to contemplate. There are green shoots of reason and occasional flashes of wisdom that should make one hopeful. If these coalesce together into a powerful global movement for peace and shared humanity, the age of monsters will recede from this blighted century of ours.

Rest of India can learn from Kerala in facing population challenge

India is caught between a present opportunity and a future worry—and must be prepared to deal with both. The implications of ageing demographic are significant and enduring

India needs to learn coping with an increasingly ageing population. That's the message contained in the latest Sample Registration Survey report. The data show that the nation's total fertility rate (TFR) has decreased to 1.9 in 2023, after remaining constant at 2.0 in 2021 and 2022. At the same time, TFR for rural India has touched 2.1—the replacement level where births and deaths balance out each other, leading to population stability. While the fall in TFR is a significant demographic marker for India catching up with global population trends, this poses a new challenge for the country as a whole, though some regions like the south have been dealing with an ageing population for some time now. The implications of ageing demographic are significant and enduring. While the initial phase of low fertility certainly comes with a demographic dividend—a larger working-age population—in the long run, an ageing population poses major socio-economic challenges. A fall in the working-age population and a rise in the dependent population can hurt productivity and overburden the



healthcare sector. It surely necessitates changes in systems and policies. India is caught between a present opportunity and a future worry—and must be prepared to deal with both. The current age distribution is a window of opportunity for growth that could last another couple of decades. It's what comes later that warrants some

meticulous planning. And while planning, India should take into account the disparity in population trends across the country. For example, Kerala's fertility rate has been declining since 1971, and it is already dealing with the challenge of the growing elderly numbers and a shrinking working-age population.

There are pointers for the country in how Kerala is handling the situation. Apart from its health and entrepreneurial schemes targeted at the elderly and projects to strengthen geriatric and palliative care, Kerala's Senior Citizens Commission, formed recently to ensure the welfare and protection of senior citizens, and the proposed Kerala State Policy for Elder Persons, 2025, which promises a 'Kerala model of ageing' through participation of local bodies, healthcare providers and non-governmental organisations, are worth a look. India must formulate policies and allocate adequate resources to address the unique needs of a growing elderly population and deal with the potential economic and social implications.

Denmark's efterskole: The difference a gap-year makes

Denmark's efterskole system offers 15-year-olds the choice of spending a year pursuing personal growth, not exams. It turns out more self-aware, independent adults. Innovations like Tamil Nadu's activity-based learning take off from similar ideas

What does it truly mean to educate a young person? Is it simply about filling their heads with formulas, dates, and grammar rules, or something more profound and lasting? Is education supposed to only prepare students to pass exams and get jobs, or should it also shape them into thoughtful, independent, and self-aware human beings who can navigate life with confidence? Denmark appears to have answered these questions in a manner few other countries have dared to attempt. Its fascinating efterskole system offers 15-year-olds a precious gift: an entire year spent not chasing grades or test scores, but exploring who they are, what they enjoy, and how to live well with others. This isn't a dream for nearly one in three Danish teens—it's a reality. For that year, these young people live at a boarding school. They cook their meals, clean their rooms, share chores, and learn to manage their daily lives. Sure, they still study core school subjects like math and languages, but the real focus is personal growth. Music, drama, art, sports, or technology become pathways of self-expression. There are no formal exams; no cramming for tests. Instead, they learn something most school systems forget to teach: how to be human. And the results are striking.

Research shows Danish students attending efterskole are more likely to finish high school. But more than that, they emerge from the experience as confident, adaptable, and emotionally mature young adults. They are better equipped not only to study but also to live. They know how to share space with others, handle conflicts, and organise themselves; most

importantly, they have a better understanding of who they are. Ireland offers a similar, though slightly shorter, experience called the 'transition year'. Students there also take a break from conventional studies to explore the arts, work experiences, and new skills. It is no coincidence that actors like Cillian Murphy and Paul Mescal credit this year for shaping their careers. Germany's Waldorf schools and Finland's student-centred models share echoes of this holistic approach. Even the American 'gap year' before university serves a related purpose, helping young people pause, think, and grow before plunging into adulthood. However, there is an uncomfortable truth here. This model, as beautiful as it is, depends heavily on wealth, social trust, and government support. Denmark can afford this because its tax-funded welfare system makes education accessible even to middle-class families. Boarding, supervision, extracurricular freedom—all of this costs money. For poorer countries, such a system feels impossibly distant.

Culture matters, too. In nations like India, Nigeria, or Bangladesh, education is often seen as a survival tool—a high-pressure ladder to escape poverty. Parents want their children to focus on medicine, engineering, and law, not poetry, pottery, or self-discovery. A year spent learning to 'find oneself' sounds like a luxury that low-income families cannot afford. So, is efterskole just a rich country's indulgence? Not necessarily. Although poorer nations may not be able to copy the model entirely, its spirit—the belief that young people need space

to grow as humans, not just as workers—can still be adopted in practical ways. India has already taken quiet but meaningful steps in this direction. Though the system remains largely exam-focused, there have been notable shifts. One standout is Tamil Nadu's activity-based learning (ABL) programme, introduced in 2007 for early grades in government and aided schools. ABL breaks from rote learning,



offering child-friendly, activity-driven, and self-paced education. Instead of lectures and memorisation, students learn through activity cards and visual ladders, progressing at their own pace. Multi-age, multi-level classrooms further encourage collaboration and dissolve rigid hierarchies. What makes ABL especially significant is its deliberate focus on non-cognitive outcomes: student confidence, social interaction, emotional engagement, and curiosity. These are the

very foundations of the efterskole philosophy, minus the dormitories and year-long immersion. And the results are encouraging: improved learning outcomes, lower dropout rates, stronger teacher-student bonds, and higher student participation.

While ABL focuses on younger students, its spirit can, and should, reach higher levels. Across India, various initiatives, from life skills programmes to youth leadership camps, are already blending academic and emotional learning. In many ways, these are Indian versions of the efterskole idea. They may not resemble Danish boarding schools, but they share the same goal: educating the whole person. Short retreats, arts workshops, and community service projects could be scaled up across schools, giving teens space to explore, collaborate, and grow, without disrupting their academic path. None of these efforts will succeed unless parents and policymakers begin to value what is not easily measured: confidence, empathy, problem-solving, and resilience. These are not soft extras but survival skills in a changing world. Today, employers from tech to healthcare rank emotional intelligence, communication, and adaptability among the top hiring priorities. The world is shifting, and so must education.

The message from the efterskole model is universal: teenagers deserve more than academic drilling. They deserve the chance to learn how to live. And countries like India are proving that even in resource-constrained settings, honouring that message in context-appropriate ways is possible.

India's Pearl Harbour in the Nicobar islands

► The port in Galathea Bay is one of India's most ambitious plans to create a dual-use civil-military project on one of its most strategically located island territories. Maritime strategists have likened the Nicobar port to a future Pearl Harbour, the gigantic US naval base on Hawaii.

Agency New Delhi.

In a recent editorial, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi criticised the construction of the Rs 72,000 crore Great Nicobar infrastructure project in the Andaman and Nicobar island chain. Gandhi called the International Container Transhipment Port (ICTP), officially notified as India's 13th port last September, an "ecological disaster" and "planned misadventure" for the damage it will cause to flora, fauna and indigenous tribal societies.

The ICTP in Galathea Bay is one of India's

most ambitious plans to create a dual-use civil-military project on one of its most strategically located island territories. Its benefits for India's defence and sea trade will far outweigh the impact on the environment. The port at Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island is over 1,200 km from the Indian mainland, but just 40 nautical miles away from the Malacca Straits – the world's busiest and most critical waterway that connects the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Every day, over 23 million barrels of oil pass through these narrow straits and over 94,000 ships pass through it annually. Indian cargo is presently transhipped, or moved from gigantic container ships to smaller ships, at regional ports like Colombo and Port Klang, and then transported to ports on India's east coast.

The ICTP, the first phase of which will be commissioned in 2028, will save an estimated USD 200 million in transhipment fees. The port will also have a military enclave where Indian warships can be berthed. Current port facilities in Port Blair

cannot host large warships like destroyers and aircraft carriers.

STRATEGY TO CHECKMATE CHINA

This is where the Nicobar port becomes critical to India's oceanic strategy to checkmate China. Over 65% of China's energy supplies transit through this

largest with 234 warships, is a constant presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

While India has a massive naval base, INS Kadamba base in Karwar on the west coast, it has no such dedicated facility on the east coast. The Navy's Eastern Fleet shares the Vishakhapatnam port with commercial ships.

This is a problem at a time when the Navy has started basing its most-modern warships in its largest port, which is closest to the Malacca Straits. On August 26, the Navy commissioned its most-modern frigates – the INS Udaygiri and the INS Himigiri – in the port. Berthing space could be further restricted when the Navy's largest warship, the INS Vikrant, will be shifted here from Karwar in the next few months.

The port has just a single entrance and exit that can be extremely vulnerable in wartime. (During the 1971 war, Pakistani submarine PNS Ghazi attempted to lay mines at the entrance to Visakhapatnam harbour to bottle up the eastern fleet centred around the old INS Vikrant).



UP woman kills her 3 children then dies by suicide after dispute with husband



Agency New Delhi.

A 29-year-old woman allegedly strangled her three children and then died by suicide following a family dispute in Tikri town in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, officials said on Wednesday. According to police, the woman, identified as Tej Kumari, also known as Maya, took the step after quarrels at home over her husband not speaking to her and the children not being sent to a private school.

The victims were her daughters aged 4 months, 2 years and 7 years. Vikas Kashyap, Maya's husband and a Delhi-based tourist-bus operator, was reportedly asleep outdoors under a tree when the incident occurred.

When neighbours alerted authorities, police broke open the door and found the three children's bodies on a cot and Maya hanging from the fan. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and further investigation into the matter is underway.

ISI spy ring busted, Nepali man arrested for sending Indian SIM cards to Pak

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi Police's Special Cell said on Wednesday it arrested a Nepalese citizen accused of supplying Indian SIM cards to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), exposing a cross-border espionage module.

The accused, identified as Prabhat Kumar Chaurasia (43), is a resident of Birgunj in Nepal. He was arrested on August 28 in Delhi's Laxmi Nagar after police received a tip-off.

Police said Chaurasia purchased 16 SIM cards using an Aadhaar card obtained in Maharashtra's Latur and smuggled them to Nepal. Eleven of those cards were later traced to Pakistan, where they were allegedly used to operate WhatsApp accounts by ISI operatives in Lahore and Bahawalpur.

Bahawalpur, a known stronghold of the terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), recently came under focus during Operation Sindoar, when India carried out precision strikes on Markaz Subhan Allah, JeM's headquarters and training camp.

Officials said the SIM cards supplied by Chaurasia were used in the area to coordinate anti-India activities.

Police recovered several digital devices containing incriminating material and empty SIM card packets during the arrest. During questioning, Chaurasia confessed he came into contact with ISI operatives in 2024 through a Nepalese intermediary, who promised him help in securing a US visa under the guise of journalism. In return, he was tasked with supplying Indian SIM cards and collecting defence-related information.

Born in Nepal in 1982, Chaurasia studied in Bihar's Motihari and earned a degree in information technology. He worked as a pharmaceutical representative before launching a logistics company in Kathmandu in 2017, which eventually failed.

Police said it was during his attempts to go abroad that he came under ISI's influence. The Special Cell filed a case of criminal conspiracy for "acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India". Further probe is on to identify Chaurasia's network and other possible associates.

Caught accepting bribe, Delhi cop tosses money in air; bystanders flee with Rs 5,000

Agency New Delhi.

Dramatic scenes played out in Delhi when an Assistant Sub-Inspector was caught red-handed taking a bribe and, in a desperate bid to escape arrest, hurled the cash into the air – sending bystanders scrambling to grab the flying notes. The incident took place Assistant of Sub-inspector Rakesh Kumar, posted to Police Station Hauz Quazi, accepted a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a man. However, the man, a resident of Bazar Sitaram area in Hauz Qazi, had already notified Delhi Police and a trap was laid to catch him red-handed. The complainant alleged that ASI Kumar, a division officer in the area, demanded a bribe for not implicating the complainant in a false case. The complainant approached the Vigilance Branch on September 9, 2025, and informed officials about

ASI Kumar's actions through a written complaint. He added that the accused instructed him to reach the police station with the bribe at 12:30 pm. The complainant produced the

signal to the Vigilance Branch team positioned in the vicinity. Once the accused accepted the bribe, the team raided the station to apprehend him.

Sensing the raid, ASI tossed the bunch of cash in the air in order to dodge arrest. Noticing the currency floating in the air, bystanders rushed to collect the notes and fled with about Rs 5000. The situation was soon brought under control by the Vigilance Team officials and they eventually recovered Rs 10,000 from the spot. ASI Kumar was finally arrested and a case was filed under the Prevention of

Corruption Act. He is expected to be produced at the Rouse Avenue District Court. Furthermore, an appeal was made to all citizens to come forward and report any instance of police personnel demanding bribes. Complaints can also be lodged on the Vigilance Helpdesk Number: 1064.



demanded amount, with 30 notes of rupees 500 in order to lay the trap, as instructed by the Vigilance Branch.

After midday, the complainant entered the police station with the demanded amount. Noticing the ASI approaching the station, the complainant gave a pre-determined

INS Tamal, BrahMos-ready stealth frigate, set to enter naval fleet

Agency New Delhi.

The Navy's newest and last foreign-built warship, INS Tamal, will anchor at Karwar Naval Base on Wednesday after a nearly two-month journey from Russia, marking a major boost to India's maritime defence in the Arabian Sea. Commissioned on July 1, 2025, at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, Tamal is a Talwar-class stealth guided missile frigate capable of firing the supersonic BrahMos, widely regarded as the world's most lethal anti-ship missile. The 3,900-ton warship is also equipped for anti-submarine warfare with rockets, torpedoes and the capacity to carry a helicopter. It can sustain speeds of up

to 30 knots and cover 3,000 kilometres in a single stretch. On its voyage home, Tamal docked at naval bases in St Petersburg, Casablanca in Morocco, Naples in Italy, Souda Bay in Greece, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Salalah in Oman, reflecting India's growing naval

engagement with friendly countries. Nicknamed the 'Sword of the Indian Navy', Tamal will operate under the Navy's Western Command, safeguarding waters off Gujarat and Maharashtra. It becomes the eighth stealth frigate of the Talwar and Teg classes to be deployed in the western seaboard, which the Navy calls its "sword arm". Tamal is the second of two follow-on Talwar-class frigates ordered from Russia. The first, INS Tushil, was inducted earlier as part of the Navy's third batch of Talwar-class ships. Since 2003, six ships of this class have been serving in India's fleet, with four already armed with BrahMos and the remaining two in the process of being upgraded.

to 30 knots and cover 3,000

kilometres in a single stretch. On its voyage home, Tamal docked at naval bases in St Petersburg, Casablanca in Morocco, Naples in Italy, Souda Bay in Greece, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Salalah in Oman, reflecting India's growing naval

interview with news agency ANI. "If at all what is being said or speculated has an iota of truth in it, it deserves a systematic and clinical investigation."

His comments came in the wake of BJP

veiled digs at the opposition.

Rijiju had earlier posted on X, thanking INDIA bloc MPs who had "voted with conscience" for the NDA candidate. Santhosh further claimed that the INDIA bloc's nominee received 15 fewer votes

than expected, suggesting internal dissent. The opposition's candidate, Justice (Retired) B Sudershan Reddy, secured around 40 per cent of the votes, an outcome described as "respectable" by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh. However, the shortfall has raised concerns of disunity and defection within the opposition alliance. When asked about the Nepal

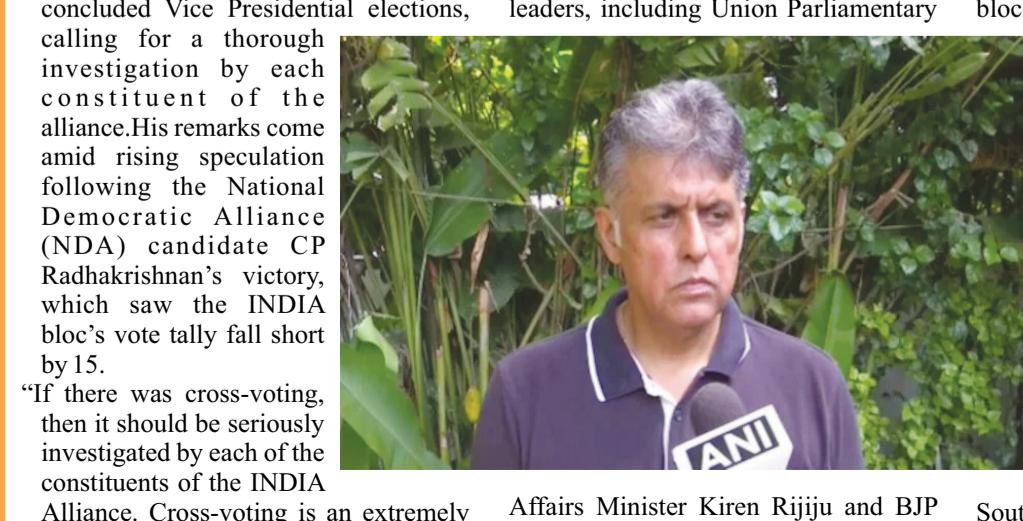
coincidence.

"What happened to Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh and KP Sharma Oli in Nepal is not coincidental," Tewari wrote on X. "Triggers may be domestic but an orchestrated attempt is being made to destabilise the South Asian region and bring about regime change."

He cautioned that similar destabilisation efforts "will happen elsewhere also," without naming specific actors behind the alleged orchestration.

He also voiced concerns about insufficient flood relief in Punjab and warned of geopolitical instability in South Asia, signaling that the Congress party is closely watching both domestic political cohesion and regional developments.

He urged the central government to reassess the damage and provide proportionate support not just in Punjab, but also in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, which were similarly affected.



Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and BJP General Secretary BL Santhosh, taking

Silt a challenge for displaced families as Yamuna recedes

Agency New Delhi.

The Madras High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Tuesday. The petition sought directions for the Election Commission of India (ECI) to clarify allegations of widespread manipulation of electoral rolls in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The plea referenced claims made by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during a PowerPoint presentation and by former Union Minister Anurag Thakur in a press conference. The petitioner wanted the court to compel the ECI to clarify these claims.

However, a division bench called the petition "completely misconceived". The bench noted the petition had no concrete evidence to back the claims. The court remarked the case relied primarily on "allegations and counter-allegations made on certain platforms" and lacked verifiable proof. "The petition, as it stands, is vague and lacks necessary details. No such direction to clarify its position can be given to the Election Commission," the court stated. The bench also imposed costs of Rs 1,00,000 on the petitioner and directed the sum be paid to the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority. The court also clarified it did not consider the substance of the allegations. The EC remains free to make its own decisions regarding the issues raised.

The dismissal effectively concludes the PIL but allows the ECI to independently address or investigate concerns related to the integrity of the electoral process. Last month Rahul Gandhi in press conference accused the poll body of "colluding" with the BJP to "steal" over 100,000 votes in the Mahadevapura assembly segment of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat during the 2024 general elections.

Nepal Gen Z protests lead to travel chaos, Bengal's Durga Puja takes heavy hit

Agency New Delhi.

The wave of student and youth protests in Nepal has snowballed into a major crisis, crippling normal life in Kathmandu and spilling across the border to India's tourism sector. The agitation began as a campaign against corruption but escalated sharply after the government imposed a social media ban, triggering violent clashes in the capital. Police opened fire on demonstrators, leaving at least 19 dead, which further fuelled public anger. Under mounting pressure, the Nepalese government was forced to lift the ban and issue a late-night statement appealing for calm.

The unrest has cast a shadow over India's Durga Puja holiday season, particularly in West Bengal, where Nepal is a popular tourist destination. Travel operators reported mass cancellations within hours of the violence breaking out.

"Over a hundred bookings were cancelled as soon as news of the unrest spread," said Samrat Sanyal, General Secretary of the Himalayan Hospitality and Tourism Development Network (HHTDN). He added that cross-border traders, too, face mounting financial losses.

At border checkpoints, drivers waiting for passengers have been left stranded after the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) issued a high alert, halting all vehicle crossings. Some locals have even expressed intent to join the protests, with one resident clarifying, "The Gorkhas are not afraid." For many holidaymakers, the situation has thrown plans into disarray. Suman Ghosh, a banker from Kolkata, said he had already booked air tickets and hotels for his family but was now considering cancelling the trip. "The prevailing situation is not safe for my family. I don't know whether I will get my refund. My travel agent hasn't responded," he said. Industry voices warn of deep losses during what is usually a peak travel period. Anil Punjabi, a member of the National Committee of the Travel Agents Federation of India, called the developments "disastrous for the tourism industry", noting that tourism is "the first to be hit and the last to cure".

Serious matter: Congress leader seeks probe into Veep poll cross-voting claim

coincidence.

"What happened to Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh and KP Sharma Oli in Nepal is not coincidental," Tewari wrote on X. "Triggers may be domestic but an orchestrated attempt is being made to destabilise the South Asian region and bring about regime change."

He cautioned that similar destabilisation efforts "will happen elsewhere also," without naming specific actors behind the alleged orchestration.

He also voiced concerns about insufficient flood relief in Punjab and warned of geopolitical instability in South Asia, signaling that the Congress party is closely watching both domestic political cohesion and regional developments.

He urged the central government to reassess the damage and provide proportionate support not just in Punjab, but also in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, which were similarly affected.

NEWS BOX

Asia Cup: Litton Das shines bright, but can Bangladesh turn brilliance into glory

LONDON: (Agency)

Bangladesh have not always been regarded as one of the favoured teams in T20Is despite boasting one of the finest all-rounders in world cricket, Shakib Al Hasan, along with several other quality players. While ODIs have long been their most comfortable format, in both Tests and T20Is, they are still striving to break into the top-tier sides since making their T20 World Cup debut in 2007. However, the last 10 months have brought encouraging signs for Bangladesh, particularly under the leadership of Litton Das, who replaced Najmul Hossain Shanto. Winning four of their last six bilateral series, the Tigers are gradually finding their rhythm, but capturing the Asia Cup will demand an even greater effort, especially with heavyweight opposition waiting in the tournament.

Litton in the form of his life

Litton has done everything possible to take Bangladesh forward. From sacrificing his opening slot to leading the Tigers from the front, he has left no stone unturned. He is also the only Bangladesh captain with four T20I series wins. In the series against the Netherlands, Litton averaged 145 with a top



score of 73. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. He also stands joint with Mahmudullah Riyad as Bangladesh's leading six-hitter in T20Is. Currently third on the all-time run-scorers' list, the Dinajpur-born batter is only 114 runs away from becoming Bangladesh's leading run-getter in the format. Having guided the team to three consecutive series wins, Litton should be brimming with confidence.

Tamim-Emon key for Bangladesh

Bangladesh have rarely enjoyed a settled opening pair in T20Is, but Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Parvez Hossain Emon are beginning to change that narrative. The duo has the potential to become the Tigers' most reliable partnership at the top, with their role firmly set on providing strong starts—something they have already shown glimpses of in their 12 innings together.

Asia Cup 2025: India must avoid complacency against smaller teams, says Robin Uthappa

New Delhi: (Agency)

As India prepares to launch their Asia Cup 2025 campaign against the United Arab Emirates, former cricketer Robin Uthappa has cautioned the Men in Blue to guard against complacency and ensure they maintain intensity throughout the tournament.

Speaking on Sony Sports, the 2007 T20 World Cup winner noted that while India are clear favourites to lift the continental title, the danger lies in underestimating opponents. "I think complacency is a danger, so I'd make sure they take every game respectfully," Uthappa said. "The quality of players is so good that sometimes you can take your foot off the pedal, thinking, 'Listen, we'll dominate, so you can relax.' That is something they need to look out for. India enters the competition in strong form, fresh from their T20 World Cup triumph in 2024, and boasts a deep squad led by Suryakumar



Yadav. However, Uthappa emphasised that respect for every opposition, including underdogs like the UAE, is essential if India is to avoid slip-ups. Beyond on-field focus, Uthappa stressed the importance of unity within the dressing room. With the squad featuring several players in contention for spots at the 2026 T20 World Cup, he said, ensuring a healthy atmosphere free from egos or insecurity would be critical. "They need to make sure the health of the team is really good," he explained. "In this unit, there may be two or three more guys who are going to be the key contenders for the World Cup next year. So you want everyone getting along, keeping the dressing room atmosphere light, but at the same time, playing for each other."

WATCH OUT FOR THE DARK HORSES
Looking beyond the UAE, Uthappa also warned that India must be wary of potential dark horses.

Jonathan Trott warns Afghanistan after Hong Kong rout in Asia Cup: We've won nothing

The 17th edition of the Asia Cup is all set to kickstart on September 9 as Afghanistan and Hong Kong will lock horns in the curtain-raiser fixture of the event. Here are the complete details of the continental event and what will make it exciting for the viewers.

New Delhi: (Agency)

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott was far from satisfied with his team's display in their opening Asia Cup 2025 match against Hong Kong, despite coming away with a comfortable victory. The former England batter felt the performance lacked sharpness and said the side was rescued by moments of individual brilliance rather than a collective effort. While the scorecard suggested



Afghanistan were in control, Trott pointed out that Hong Kong's dropped catches and lapses in the field had given his team breathing room. "We started averagely today. We were a bit fortunate with a few dropped catches that sort of let us off. We need to make sure we improve in a few areas for the rest of the group games," Trott told

ESPNcricinfo. Afghanistan's batting card highlighted the issue. Only Sediqullah Atal (73), Azmatullah Omarzai (53) and veteran Mohammad Nabi (33) made meaningful contributions. The rest of the batting order failed to reach double figures, underlining the inconsistency Trott is eager to address. We need players to take

responsibility. Some of our players need to get in form and start scoring runs," he said. "I would have liked us to bat better, but the way Sediq and Azmat batted showed it was a good pitch. I'm fairly happy with the total we got, but there are still things we need to work on."

Fielding, too, was a concern. Trott admitted Afghanistan were let off by Hong Kong's mistakes, and warned that against stronger opposition, such sloppiness could prove costly. The win nevertheless came as relief after what Trott described as a "hectic schedule"—six matches in 12 days. Afghanistan now have a short break before taking on Bangladesh (September 16) and Sri Lanka (September 18) in crucial group-stage fixtures. Despite Afghanistan's rise in world cricket, which includes a historic run to the 2024 T20 World Cup semifinals, Trott was quick to temper expectations. "We've won nothing. Let's just make that clear. We're an up-and-coming side and we've got a lot of work to do," he stressed.

For Rashid Khan's men, the message is clear -- flashes of brilliance will not be enough if

FIDE Grand Swiss: Gukesh suffers second loss, Eriagisi, Vaishali stay in hunt

World champion D Gukesh suffers defeat in the World Cup Swiss tournament, impacting his chances for Candidates 2026. Meanwhile, Arjun Eriagisi and R Vaishali maintain strong positions, setting up a tense final phase.

New Delhi: (Agency)

It was another disappointing outing for world champion D Gukesh at the World Cup Swiss tournament as he went down to Greece's Nikolas Theodorou in the sixth round on Tuesday. Coming off a defeat to the USA's Abhimanyu Mishra, the youngest-ever Grandmaster, Gukesh overpressed in a drawn rook-and-pawn endgame, only to be punished for his



miscalculation. The setback leaves Gukesh on 50 per cent with three points, meaning the teenager will need at least four wins from his remaining five games to remain in contention for a spot in the Candidates 2026. At the top, Arjun Eriagisi continued to impress, holding sole leader Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran with the black pieces in a queen's pawn game. The draw ensured Maghsoodloo stayed ahead with five points from six games, but Eriagisi remains within striking distance on 4.5. Sharing second place with him are Mishra, Matthias

Bluebaum of Germany, and Nihal Sarin, who capitalised on a tactical blunder from Poland's Szymon Gumiłarz. Meanwhile, R Praggnanandhaa was unable to break down the solid defence of Rauf Mamedov and had to settle for a draw, while Vidit Gujrathi bounced back strongly with a victory over Slovenia's Anton Demchenko. Among other Indians, P Harikrishna, Raunak Sadhwani, Aditya Mittal, S L Narayanan, Aryan Chopra and Divya Deshmukh all drew their respective encounters. In the women's section, R Vaishali continued her sparkling run, defeating Azerbaijan's Ulviyya Fataliyeva with black to remain in joint lead alongside Kateryna Lagno. The FIDE representative outplayed Germany's Dinara Wagner in a long-drawn endgame to also reach five points. Vaishali, who converted her extra pawn into a clinical rook-and-pawn win, has shown excellent control across phases of play and looks well-poised to push for a Candidates berth.

Sanju Samson, Jasprit Bumrah miss optional training ahead of Asia Cup opener: Report

New Delhi: (Agency)

India batter Sanju Samson and star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah skipped the optional practice session ahead of India's Asia Cup 2025 opener against UAE. The Indian team held their practice session on Tuesday, September 9, a day ahead of their first match in the tournament. Abhishek Sharma dazzled in the session, hitting 30 sixes. According to PTI, since it was an optional training day at the ICC Academy, senior players Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson, and pacer Harshit Rana chose to take a break. Leading up to the optional session, Sanju Samson was not given much practice with the main India batters, indicating that he might be snubbed from the India playing line-up.

Shubman Gill, who returned to India's T20I team in the Asia Cup, is likely to open the innings with his Punjab teammate



and close friend Abhishek Sharma. Samson was India's registered opener in the T20I

side over the past year but is likely to be benched. Jitesh Sharma, India's specialist finisher, is likely to take over the lower-middle order role and keep the wickets as well.

Abhishek Sharma Dazzles in Practice

The spotlight was firmly on Abhishek on Tuesday. The young left-hander didn't muscle the ball much but relied on supreme hand-eye coordination to send deliveries soaring into the orbit, many landing well outside the practice facility.

Abhishek practically turned the nets into a "range-hitting" exhibition — a golf parlance often borrowed by cricket. Over the course of an hour-long batting stint, he clobbered at least 25 to 30 sixes, making it nearly impossible for those watching to take their eyes off.



into global success. With nAts confirmed for Paris after visa issues derailed their last outing, Liquid's opening clash with DRX on September 13th could set the tone for a long-awaited deep run. NRG on the other hand arrives as a true wild card. Written off early after a poor start to the season, the squad flipped expectations by storming through VCT Americas Stage 2, taking down Cloud9 and Sentinels before falling short to G2 in the Grand Final. Their defensive setups anchored by Adam 'mada' Pampuch's deadly Operator had earned them a reputation for discipline and creativity. Still, their attack side remains too rigid at times, as they lean heavily on set plays that opponents can counter. With veteran Ethan in the lineup, NRG has the pedigree to compete, but against EDG in their opener, they will need adaptability to survive.

New Zealand name strong squad for Women's World Cup, Fran Jonas left out

New Delhi: (Agency)

New Zealand has named a strong 15-member squad for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, but the announcement was marked by the absence of left-arm spinner Fran Jonas. The 21-year-old has represented the White Ferns in 26 ODIs and was expected to be part of the spin group, but selectors opted for a different balance. Replacing Jonas is all-rounder Flora Devonshire, who has earned her first senior ICC call-up. The 22-year-old impressed in the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield with more than 250 runs and 18 wickets, offering a dual skill set that strengthens the middle order and provides additional bowling depth.

Head coach Ben Sawyer admitted that leaving out Jonas for Devonshire was a difficult call. He stressed the challenge of selecting from multiple players vying for the same spot but expressed confidence that Jonas, despite missing out, has her best years ahead. Sawyer underlined that tough choices were inevitable while balancing talent and team requirements. Head coach Ben Sawyer admitted that leaving out Jonas for Devonshire was a difficult call. He stressed the challenge of selecting from multiple players vying for the same spot but expressed confidence that Jonas, despite



missing out, has her best years ahead. Sawyer underlined that tough choices were inevitable while balancing talent and team requirements. "It's never easy when you have

multiple players pushing for the same spot and that of course made for some tough selection calls. Having to leave out the likes of Fran in favour of Flora was a tough decision. We know Fran is a quality player and at 21 we believe she still has her best years in front of her," Sawyer said. The squad blends experienced stalwarts with emerging names. Captain Sophie Devine, preparing for her final ODI World Cup, is joined by Suzie Bates, who will feature in her fifth edition. Lea Tahuhu enters her fourth, while Maddy Green and Amelia Kerr make their third appearances.

New Zealand are scheduled to start their campaign on Wednesday, October 1 against Alyssa Healy's Australia at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

This crypto exchange eyes \$3 billion IPO with Nasdaq backing

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Cryptocurrency exchange Gemini has raised the proposed price range for its US initial public offering (IPO), aiming for a valuation of up to \$3.08 billion, reported Reuters. The move reflects strong investor interest in crypto-focused businesses.

The company, backed by the Winklevoss twins, plans to sell 16.67 million shares at a price between \$24 and \$26 each, up from its previous range of \$17 to \$19 per share. Through this IPO, Gemini hopes to raise around \$433.3 million. In addition, Nasdaq has agreed to buy \$50 million worth of shares in a private placement at the time of the IPO, the report mentioned. Gemini is expected to finalise its share price on Thursday and list under the ticker "GEMI". Goldman Sachs and Citigroup are leading the offering. The IPO comes as US markets recover, aided by lower interest rates and easing concerns over tariffs and inflation. Crypto companies have been attracting attention from investors, thanks to regulatory clarity, growing exchange-traded fund (ETF) flows, and institutional adoption. Gemini will become the third publicly traded crypto exchange in the US, following Coinbase, now part of the S&P 500, and Bullish, whose shares more than doubled on debut. Founded by Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, Gemini gained fame as the twins settled a 2008 legal dispute with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. The exchange continues to expand its presence in the crypto market as interest in digital assets grows.

Tata Sons likely to remain unlisted

New Delhi.(Agency)

Bank FDs tend to remain a preferred investment option not only for senior citizens that are seeking a steady income but also for investors with a low risk appetite. However, investment consultants do not recommend excessive reliance on FDs, as it is important to evaluate your financial goals and overall asset allocation before deciding how much to invest in them. For example, using FDs to save for your child's higher education 15 years from now may not be effective, as the post-tax returns often fail to outpace inflation. On the other hand, if you are saving for a short-term goal, such as a holiday in two years, an FD can be a suitable choice. Therefore, before investing, it is wise to compare the interest rates offered by different banks. Below is a list of banks providing the most competitive FD rates for deposits up to Rs 1 crore across various tenures.

Amid tariff uncertainty: Diplomatic teams engaging with the US for trade talks: FM

New Delhi.(Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said diplomatic teams are engaging with the US amid America imposing a steep tariff on Indian products. The US has imposed a 50 per cent import duty on Indian goods entering American markets from August 27. It is affecting exports of labour-intensive sectors, such as shrimp, textiles, leather and footwear. "From our side, we are keeping all the doors open, if I can use that expression. The diplomatic teams are engaging with the US. The trade negotiations can still go on. So, from our side, we are not making anything difficult for others," she said at the NDTV Profit GST Conclave 2025. The remarks assume significance as India and the US have been negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been completed. For the sixth round, the US team, which was to visit India last month, deferred their visit. Trade relations between the two countries have been strained due to the high tariffs. The US is India's largest trading partner with a USD 191 billion bilateral trade in goods and services. America is also the third-largest investor in India, with USD 76.26 billion FDI coming into India during April 2000 and June 2025. America accounts for 10 per cent of the total FDI India has received during the period.

Pilgrimage tourism boom: MakeMy report shows 19% growth in FY24-25; surge in premium stays

New Delhi.(Agency)

Group travel, short stays and last-minute bookings, these are the trends that define the popular religious tourism segment with pilgrimage travel emerging as one of the fast-growing segments of India's travel and tourism industry.

"Accommodation bookings across 56 pilgrimage destinations grew by 19% in FY24-25," according to online travel company MakeMyTrip (MMT) which tracked for pilgrimage travel in 2024-2025. "The pilgrimage travel trends highlight broad-based momentum, with 34 destinations recording double-digit growth and 15 destinations growing by over 25%, underscoring how spiritual journeys are becoming a powerful driver of travel demand," the MMT report said.

The breadth of growth across pilgrimage destinations can be seen in centres such as Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Puri (Odisha), Amritsar (Punjab) and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), which continue to grow. At the same time, places like Khatu Shyam Ji (Rajasthan), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh) and Thiruchendur (Tamil Nadu) are also registering strong momentum, reflecting the widening canvas of spiritual travel in the country.

What are homebuyers most worried about in 2025 Hint: It's not just price

The 2025 housing market signals a clear shift. Buyers are moving beyond affordability, prioritising quality, timely delivery, and livability, even if it means paying more for premium and luxury homes.

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Homebuyers in India are changing the way they approach real estate, and it's no longer just about affordability. A new survey reveals a striking reversal in preferences — premium homes are gaining favour, while affordable housing is losing steam amid concerns over quality, location, and design.

The latest ANAROCK Homebuyer Sentiment Survey, conducted between January and June 2025 with responses

from over 8,200 participants across age groups and geographies, found that 36% of homebuyers now prefer properties priced between 90 lakh and 1.5 crore. This is a sharp departure from the pre-Covid era when only 18% looked at this segment, signalling a rise in demand for premium and luxury housing. By contrast, only 25% of respondents expressed interest in homes priced between 45 lakh and 90 lakh, while the share of affordable housing has shrunk significantly. Back in late 2020, over 40% of homebuyers were targeting affordable homes.

Today, that figure is down by 11 percentage points.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOSING STEAM

The survey highlights deep dissatisfaction among buyers in the budget segment. At least 62% of affordable housing seekers said they were unhappy with the options currently available. Their reasons were

telling: 92% cited poor project locations with weak connectivity and lack of social infrastructure, 90% pointed to low construction quality and poor design, and 77% complained about cramped unit

what they want," he noted. Echoing this sentiment, L.C. Mittal, Director at Motia Builders Group, added: "Even with splashy tax cuts rolled out for things like cement and stone — which generated banner headlines — buying a home in India continues to be a dream out of reach in 2025. The gains are countered by rising sale prices, scarcity of budget-friendly homes and overall economic pressures."

For those worried about location, the key issues included lack of access to healthcare, workplaces, security, and recreational facilities. This indicates that affordability alone is no longer enough to attract buyers if quality of life is compromised.

BIGGER HOMES IN DEMAND

Consumer preferences for larger homes remain strong in the post-pandemic market. More than 45% of respondents said they prefer 3BHK units, followed by 40% opting for 2BHKs. Interest in 4BHK and larger homes, though niche, has doubled in three years — from 4% in H1 2022 to nearly 7% in H1 2025.



Why affordable housing demand is slowing down in India

New Delhi.(Agency)

Affordable housing was once seen as the answer to India's urban housing challenge. For millions of families, it represented the hope of owning a home within reach of their budgets. But despite policies and schemes to encourage it, many buyers feel disappointed with the quality and practicality of these projects.

KEY REASONS FOR DISSATISFACTION

Anuj Puri, Group Chairman of ANAROCK, noted that as many as 62% of affordable homes seekers are dissatisfied with what the market currently provides. The concerns are led by poor location accessibility, with 92% of buyers complaining about weak connectivity to workplaces, schools, and essential services. Nearly 90% also cited low construction quality and poor design layouts, while 77% felt that the unit sizes offered are too cramped to support comfortable living, Puri noted.

LOCATION WOES RUN DEEP

A deeper look at location-related

dissatisfaction reveals the everyday struggles of residents. For almost half of the buyers (47%), poor access to healthcare services is the biggest frustration, said Puri.

He added that the connectivity to workplaces is another serious concern, with 64% of respondents either dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied.

CHANGING MARKET DYNAMICS

The struggles of affordable housing are also tied to larger market trends. According to Aman Gupta, Director at RPS Group, affordable homes are slowly losing space in India's housing market. Government programs and GST reductions are aimed at middle-class buyers. But, budget homes are showing up less in new projects and sales," he said.

"Meanwhile, luxury and premium homes are doing really well. High-net-worth individuals and people living abroad are driving this. This means the typical city family has a harder time finding practical homes," Gupta added.

Accessibility to shopping areas and

Schools fares slightly better, but still leaves a considerable section dissatisfied. For example, only 15% of buyers are extremely satisfied with school and college access, while 20% remain dissatisfied, mentioned Puri.

SAFETY

Safety also features high on the list, with nearly half of respondents unhappy about security conditions.

Access to recreation facilities has also disappointed buyers, with more than half rating it poorly.

Accessibility to shopping areas and

Sensex up nearly 400 points, Nifty nears 25,000 on hopes of India-US trade talks

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Benchmark stock indices opened higher on Wednesday, lifted by optimism over recent tax reliefs, growing bets of US rate cuts, and hopes of progress in trade talks with Washington.

The S&P BSE Sensex rose over 350 points in early trade, while the Nifty50 edged close to the 25,000 mark around 9:30 am. Both indices reflected improved sentiment after five straight sessions of gains. The Nifty has added 1.2% during this run but still trades about 5.4% below its September 27, 2024, record high. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted: "A major positive for the market today comes from President Trump's initiative to improve India-US relations and PM Modi's positive response to the same. However, from



past experience the market should judge President Trump by his actions and not words." He cautioned that "the major challenge the market is facing now is the high valuations, particularly in the broader market, which will constrain any potential rally."

According to him, "India is hugely underperforming other markets now. For instance, while Hang Seng and Kospi delivered 51% and 31% returns during the last one year, Nifty delivered -0.69% return: huge underperformance." He added, "Massive sustained selling by FIIs triggered by high Indian valuations is the principal reason for this underperformance. FIIs who sold in India and moved money to other markets have gained. Therefore, they might do it again. A change in this trend will happen when indications of a recovery in earnings emerge." Geopolitical uncertainty, however, lingered after US President Donald Trump urged European Union officials to impose 100% tariffs on China and India as part of a strategy to pressure Russia, according to a US official and an EU diplomat.

Tax on gold jewellery Here's all you need to know



New Delhi.(Agency)

If you've inherited gold jewellery from your parents, you may be wondering whether it attracts income tax. The good news is that simply receiving gold as inheritance is not treated as taxable income in India, so you don't have to pay any tax just for owning it.

The tax question arises only when you

decide to sell the jewellery. At that stage, the profit you make is treated as capital gains, and tax is charged only on the gains, not on the full value of the gold. CA Suresh Surana, while speaking to The Economic Times, said that the cost of acquisition for tax purposes is taken as the price originally paid by the person from whom the gold

was inherited. If the gold was bought before April 1, 2001, you can instead use the fair market value (FMV) as on that date if it benefits you. This value is then adjusted for inflation using the Cost Inflation Index (CII) to arrive at the taxable gain, he stated.

KEY RULE CHANGES IN 2024

Earlier, gold sold within 36 months of inheritance was treated as a short-term asset, and gains were taxed as per the individual's income tax slab. If held longer than 36 months, it was considered long-term and taxed at 20% with indexation benefits, explained Surana. However, the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, changed these rules from July 23, 2024. Now, gold held for more than 24 months is treated as a long-term asset, with gains taxed at 12.5% without indexation, Surana noted. If sold within 24 months, the gains are short-term and taxed at slab rates. In short, while inheritance itself doesn't attract tax, selling inherited gold does, and the new rules have made long-term taxation simpler but at a lower flat rate.

Fitch raises India's growth forecast to 6.9% for FY26 on strong Q2

The revision comes after India's real GDP grew by 7.8% in the April-to-June quarter, surpassing expectations and marking an acceleration from the 7.4% growth seen in the previous three months.

CHENNAI.(Agency)

India's economic growth forecast has been revised upward as Fitch Ratings raised its estimate to 6.9% for the current fiscal year, from an earlier projection of 6.5%. The revision comes after India's real GDP grew by 7.8% in the April-to-June quarter, surpassing expectations and marking an acceleration from the 7.4% growth seen in the previous three months. The revision in economic growth also comes after the government introduced changes in the goods and services tax

(GST) just ahead of the festive season.

ROBUST SERVICES AND CONSUMPTION DRIVE GROWTH Fitch highlighted that stronger-than-expected momentum in the second quarter was mainly driven by robust activity in the services sector and resilient domestic consumption.

The agency mentioned that India's growth continues to rely heavily on domestic demand. This is supported by strong real income dynamics and relatively easier financial conditions, which have encouraged spending and business activity. Despite the positive growth, Fitch pointed out that uncertainty around global trade relations could pose risks. The recent imposition of a 25% additional tariff by the United States on Indian imports has created tensions. Fitch expects these tariffs to be negotiated lower in time but warned that this uncertainty could dampen business sentiment and affect investment



decisions. While the first half of the fiscal year showed strong performance, Fitch expects India's growth to slow down in the coming months. The agency projected that growth will moderate to 6.3% in the second half of the current fiscal year and further slow to 6.2% in the next two fiscal years.

REAL VS NOMINAL GDP CONCERN

Fitch also raised a cautionary note on the narrowing gap between nominal and real

GDP growth. It said that real GDP might be overstated because of unusually low wholesale and commodity prices in recent months. This situation could reverse if price pressures return, affecting overall economic calculations.

India's retail inflation hit a low of 1.6% in July, the lowest level since June 2017. This was largely due to low food prices and above-average monsoon rainfall. Additionally, core inflation—excluding volatile food and fuel prices—eased below 4% for the first time in six months.

Fitch expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to respond to the current economic environment by cutting key interest rates by 25 basis points later this year. After the cut, the central bank is likely to keep rates steady throughout 2026.

The agency expects the RBI to begin tightening monetary policy starting in 2027, depending on inflation and growth trends.

Reem Shaikh Rings In 23rd Birthday With

Jannat Zubair

Nia Sharma And Roshni Walia

Reeem Shaikh celebrated her 23rd birthday surrounded by friends from the TV world. Jannat Zubair, Nia Sharma, and Roshni Walia were among them. The cosy party, organised on September 8, was filled with laughter, love and treasured moments. The actress wore a white Lucknowi one-piece and finished off her look with a tiara. The bright smile of Reem echoed the celebratory mood of the night. Friends Nia and Jannat, who made the midnight event memorable, were spotted having fun, radiating a lively and warm atmosphere towards the birthday girl.

Jannat and Nia Make the Night Special

Jannat Zubair and Nia Sharma were ideal hosts as they celebrated Reem's birthday at exactly 12 midnight. The two actresses not only celebrated with her in person but also wished her deeply on social media.

Clips and photos from the evening depicted the three friends laughing, hugging, and sharing light moments that thrilled fans online.

Jannat, who has been a friend for over a decade with Reem, has known her since the early days of their television careers. Their friendship, which started when both were working as child artists, still continues to be strong, and the birthday party only strengthened their relationship.

Roshni Walia Joins the Celebration

Roshni Walia also attended the celebration, adding to the charm of the evening. She

was seen in a beautiful one-piece dress, posing stylishly with Reem. A video from the birthday party, shared on the Instagram page, also captured the two actresses together, leaving fans gushing over their bond. Roshni's presence highlighted the warm camaraderie the young actors share. Together, the actresses lit up the celebration with their glamour and cheer.

Reem's Journey in Television

Reem Sameer Shaikh started as a child artist and gained popularity with serials such as Chakravartin Ashoka Samrat and Tujhse Hai Raabta. She has more recently been praised for her work in Fanaa Ishq Mein Marjawan and Raisingshani vs Raisingshani. The latter especially garnered a lot of appreciation from viewers.

Aside from her TV fame, Reem has amassed a massive online following, with more than 6.4 million fans on Instagram. Her fans continue to shower her with love on social media, and her birthday was no different.

A Friendship Beyond Sets

While Jannat has been a childhood friend, Nia and Reem's friendship began more recently on the sets of the reality show The Laughter Chefs. The two immediately hit it off, and their relationship extended beyond the professional realm.

Rubina Dilaik

Celebrates Sister Rohini's Birthday With A Cute Reel Ft. Abhinav Shukla

Actress Rubina Dilaik, who continues to charm fans with glimpses of her personal life, shared a delightful reel on Instagram celebrating her sister Rohini Dilaik's birthday. The video captured lighthearted moments of the celebration, where Rohini and her family were seen enjoying the day in a warm, joyous atmosphere. In the clip, Rubina's niece Veda instantly stole hearts with her innocence and charm as she danced playfully beside Abhinav Shukla, Rubina's husband. Rohini, the birthday girl, joined in with a radiant smile,

sophistication in a black-and-white printed midi dress with floral motifs. The calf-length outfit carried a flowy silhouette that enhanced her graceful aura. With her hair left open, she kept her look simple yet effortlessly stylish, perfectly complementing the celebratory mood.

Rohini Dilaik's Journey: Marriage and Motherhood

Rohini Dilaik tied the knot with Sarthak Tyagi in March 2023. Soon after, the Dilaik family was overjoyed with the news that Rohini was expecting her first child. Sharing the happiness, Rubina took to social media to announce the double joy for the family.

Rubina's heartfelt caption read: "We are thrilled, our JOY of expanding as a Family has doubled. Rohini Dilaik and Sarthak Tyagi are going to be parents soooooooon." This announcement came shortly after Rubina and Abhinav revealed their own pregnancy in September 2023, marking a beautiful new chapter for both sisters simultaneously.

Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla: A Journey of Love and Strength

Rubina and Abhinav's relationship has been a subject of admiration and resilience in the entertainment industry. The couple, who tied the knot in 2018 in a dreamy Shimla wedding, revealed during their stint on Bigg Boss 14 that they had gone through a rough patch, even contemplating divorce. However, their time on the show brought them closer and they emerged stronger as a couple.



posing gracefully for the camera, creating memories filled with happiness and togetherness. The celebration also highlighted a touch of elegance in style. Little Veda looked angelic in a white tiered frock, adorned with subtle black accents, making it perfect for a special occasion like her mother's birthday. Rohini, on the other hand, exuded



'Life Is Not Very Complicated': Wamiqa Gabbi Misses Her Naani; Reflects On Her Teachings



Wamiqa Gabbi recently opened up about the life lessons she learned from her maternal grandmother, fondly remembering how her Naani always believed that "life is not very complicated." The Bhool Chuk Maaf actress shared a heartwarming photo on Instagram, where her Naani is seen holding her hand, while her paternal grandmother (Daadi) is holding her Naani's hand. Calling herself deeply moved by the simplicity of these women, Wamiqa penned a long, emotional note in their honour.

The Bhool Chuk Maaf actor wrote, "Mummy, Naani, Daadi aur main (white heart emoji) Mummy's hand is resting on the side, Naani's hands are holding my hand and Daadi is holding Naani's hand. The simplicity of these women has always amused me. The hope, the positivity, their culture that they hold close to their heart and the kindness and the love and the awareness and acceptance of everything that life has been surprising them with. Just living everyday like it's a new day. It's just beautiful. I learn so much from them (sic)." Wamiqa added that she wishes to be more like her Naani and Daadi – kind, open-minded, and with a 'never-give-up' attitude. "Naani, in her final days on earth really proved this to me that living life is not very complicated. Just keep your head high, prayers in your heart always and have faith. Trust your instincts.

She didn't just live her life, she accompanied death till the end like a friend... I want to be like my naani and like my daadi who just keeps being more kind, more open minded with each passing day. She's a 'never give-up' kinda girl and definitely I want to be like my mom who can randomly laugh and find joy in the most stupid situations and yet be so composed and graceful in the most tough ones as well. She's often misunderstood but she laughs that off too. Uff! How blessed I am," she added.

In her post, Wamiqa concluded by admitting how blessed she feels to be surrounded by such strong women. She shared that she misses her Naani dearly and hopes to reunite with her someday.

Janhvi Kapoor Recreates Bijuria With Ishaan Khatter; Varun Dhawan Reacts



Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter, who made their Bollywood debuts together in Dhadak (2018) and worked together in Homebound, reunited for a fun moment that has set social media buzzing. The duo recreated the iconic song Bijuria from Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, leaving fans nostalgic and thrilled to see their chemistry once again. Varun Dhawan, who stars in the song with Janhvi, had the best reaction to the post. In a video now going viral, Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter can be seen matching the steps of Bijuria from Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, bringing back memories of their debut film days. Vishal Jethwa, who worked with Janhvi and Ishaan in Homebound, was seen dancing his heart out in the video. Their playful camaraderie and effortless moves quickly won over netizens, many of whom showered the clip with love in the comments. "Humein laage na nazariya", wrote Janhvi in the caption. Take a look:

The couple soon discover their common love and passion for cricket, which changes the course of their lives. This sports drama brought out yet another side of Janhvi's acting skills.

Varun Dhawan also joined the fun by reacting to the video. In the comment box, he wrote, "Soo good". Fans commented, "Ishaan looking a replica of Shahid while dancing", "Bijuria x Homebound can only happen at Dharma", "Ishan carbon copy expression like his bro shahid three of you amazing", "Best best", and others.

Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor share screen space in Homebound

In Homebound, Ishaan shares screen space with Janhvi and Vishal Jethwa. The film tells the story of two childhood friends, Shoab Ali (played by Ishaan) and Chandan Kumar (portrayed by Vishal), who grow up in a North Indian village with dreams of escaping the weight of their marginalised identities. Their journey, however, takes a turbulent turn as circumstances trigger both internal and external conflicts that put their friendship to the test. The film has already made waves internationally with its showcase at Cannes, though its theatrical release date is yet to be revealed. Homebound also marks an on-screen reunion for Ishaan and Janhvi, a pairing that has left fans eagerly awaiting the film.

Live like paying guests to make marriage work



Just the way a banker's wife has to put up with her husband's painfully long hours at work, a lawyer's husband too spends the better part of his life on teleconference with his wife.

While it is a matter of great pride to be an investment banker's wife or for that matter a savvy corporate lawyer's husband, deep down men and women still have inhibitions about each other's career choices, and would rather give anything for some quality time at home with each other.

With blurring gender divide, women are making a success of high-flying corporate jobs that involve living out of a suitcase while making way for men to explore the finer nuances of culinary art by way of a sous chef's job at a Star hotel. From waiting tables at a restaurant, assisting in a portrait photo shoot, to piercing people's eyebrows, jobs are getting as vivid and imaginative as they come, and are no longer limited to pursuing engineering or medicine to find a standing in the society. Under the facade of this happy acceptance have we really moved beyond professional stereotypes; is a woman as proud if her husband

mixes drinks at a bar, or a man compassionate towards his working-late-hours-in-office wife?

For Nishit Mangal, a manager with a UK-based travel company, it is critical that his partner has it easy at work and returns at day's end to look after their home. "A teaching job would be best suited for my spouse as she can have some time off with the family. While this doesn't go on to imply that a woman with a powerful white collar job is not respectable, just that she'd be too busy for her own good."

Like a busy woman, a very busy man at work too can cause relationships to fall apart. For instance, Anisha Singh, pursuing her Masters, winces at the mention of men from a Merchant Navy background. "Anything but Merchant Navy for me because my father comes from that background and I have experienced a sense of bewilderment that comes with getting to see him after long intervals," she rues. Anisha, however, doesn't attach a prestige-factor to her partner's job. Says she, "He could be doing any job, so long as the two of us are making a decent living, it doesn't really matter."

Shedding more light on this socio-cultural-economic thought process, senior clinical psychologist and marital

therapist, Dr Bhavna Barmi says, "Men stress on respect-worthy jobs for their women, and women by the same token crave for a pride-worthy job for men. Today, family and work lives are so closely intertwined that if one partner is too passionate about his job it can bring about a sense of displacement in the other. And if it turns out to be the woman that does a high profile job and contributes more financially, the man is bound to feel threatened."

Perhaps it is true at some point that your job and your partner's attraction to you are interrelated. There are men like Francis Hughes, a marketing professional with an MNC, who think women with an interesting job is a plus and not an essential for attraction. "It is enough that she is passionate about her job. The worst would be to date or marry someone who hates her work as she'll carry that grumpiness back home, making it difficult for any companionship to bloom," he avers.

Dr Kamal Khurana, marriage and relationship expert, attributes this difference in outlook towards each other's professional commitments to man's organic role as the provider and woman's as the upholder. "Deep within women still prefer men who would provide for them, protect them, and by virtue of which earn a higher salary than them. Men too continue to be deeply conventional in their ideas, expecting a woman to still look after the house and kids, even if she goes out to do a job," says he.

Then how about making the differences work? Explains Dr Khurana, "Both should have the right self-esteem, and live together like paying guests to run the house. The 'unisex mindset' should extend to finances as well, and if you can't rationalise your expectations, you are your partner's gravest enemy."

A job is never dreadful or embarrassing; the key lies in owning yourself, your people, and subsequently, your situation.



5 Things you should never reveal Online

address. Even if you think that you can trust your e-friend, don't be naive. Similarly don't give out your address for some lucky draw. This very lucky draw may prove 'unlucky' for you.

Don't post any abuses: If you have some complaints against your boss or teachers don't write messages against them over the net. For starters, it can be easily traced back to you. Wouldn't you rather talk about your complaints face-to-face with your boss than miss out on that promotion you were vying for.

Bank details: It's one thing to pay your bills online over secure websites, but never ever can you give out your account number or your ATM pin codes. Don't take such risk no matter what the emergency is. If someone asks you for such details be suspicious of them.

Minute-by-minute details: It's one thing to tell people how you feel or crack a joke a two over the net, but don't give out details like 'going out for groceries' or 'heading to the local bar'.

Is your friend a toxic one?



Take this quiz to know if your friend is someone who doesn't want to see you happy.

While knowing that a friend can be toxic is easy, spotting one out of your circle of buddies may be very difficult. Friendship is based on trust, and, at times, unconditional trust can make one not notice things. Certain kind of friends can use unconditional trust to bring about negativity and unhappiness in your life. If you think you know one such person, who is supposedly a friend but probably has vested interests, take this quiz to be sure of it.

You've passed an exam your friend couldn't clear. The next level post the exam is making you extremely nervous but you want to clear it by hook or by crook. Your friend:

a. Encourages you because she is



very happy that at least you cleared the test.

b. Is extremely upset that she couldn't clear the exam. Instead of encouraging you, he/she decides to narrate failure stories of people who've appeared for the level too. Something happened in your life months back and you confide in your friend about it. At the next get-together, a related incident takes place with another friend.

Your friend:

- a. Doesn't reveal your secret to anyone.
- b. Decides to narrate your experience as a case study to people, thinking it's okay to tell them.

You have been gymming, but still haven't been able to reduce your weight and are extremely conscious about it (which most people know). Your friend:

- a. Tells you it's okay to be a little healthy, and gives you company to workout.
- b. Makes fun of how you can't fit into this one perfect dress that you love, just because you eat so much. Does your friend make you feel upset most of the time, never helping you when you feel low?
- a. My friend never does that.
- b. Yes, most of the times.

Do you enjoy the company of this friend, or does he/she never miss a chance to hamper your self-esteem?

- a. I love spending time with my buddy, and just can't do without him/her.
- b. Sometimes, I feel my friend can never be nice to me, and makes me feel bad about myself.

Has your friend ever broken your trust without being sorry about it?

- a. Never.
- b. Way too many times.

If most of the answers are:

a's: You have a friend worth keeping. He/she is extremely loyal to you, keeps you happy most of the times and most importantly, will never leave your side, come what may. Be with them like they've always been with you; we see bonding of a lifetime here.

b's: Sorry to say, but you're friends with a toxic personality who doesn't care one bit about you. Your so-called friend is all about him/herself and sees no reason why he/she should care for your feelings. We suggest you say no to their company, so that you stay happy. Make friends wisely.

Enrol your kid into a toy library

Toy libraries — with a range of engaging, colourful and child-safe playthings — are the new way to keep your fidgety kid occupied. Raghav is like any other five-year-old and constantly needs new toys to keep him engaged. His parents had scoured all the toy shops and were at their wit's end when they discovered a toy library. Full of the latest playthings, these new additions to city life are a dream destination for hyperactive kids and their harried parents. "Membership of a toy library is a good way to keep the child engaged. My son Raghav gets bored with toys easily. But after becoming a member of Nutty Newton he waits for a new toy every week," says Priya Farmania. Toy libraries like Toyz Hub, Toyswala, Nutty Newton and Playful Champs prevent parents from burning a hole in their pocket buying expensive toys. All of them stock global brands with a wide selection like wooden toys, puzzles, board games, constructive games, inflatables and more. Educational toys are the latest on the rack and give the kids the knowledge of phonic sounds, spellings and numbers.



"Our vacation packages are very popular. The members can take a break during exams and come back once they get over," says Richa Kanoria of Toyswala, which provides three toys at a time for two weeks for a membership fee of 850 per month. Toys can even be ordered online. "We have around 150 members — from newborns to eight-year-olds," says Sakshi Jain. The libraries hold workshops for artwork, storytelling and vegetable carvings every week. "The kids come and have a great time with their friends," adds Sakshi. Hygiene is very important for these institutions. "We have toy-specific detergents. We sterilize and dry them in the sun before they're wrapped and delivered," says Sonam Bagrecha of Toyz Hub. They also send out books with two toys every week but don't charge for these. "The idea is to get the kids to start reading," Sonam quips. Seems like kids can have all the fun!

Learn the art of French parenting

There isn't any doubt about the fact that new generation believes in self-improvement. Same could be the reason why French-parenting is coming into talks. New age parents, if not want to act, at least surely want to feel conscious enough toward how well they are performing their duty as parents. Surf a bit of net and you'll know, French parenting is on blogs, in discussions and in books that are on bestseller lists. So here we try to give a gist of why French people boast of having the secret of raising their children right, and what is that they do to make their children sit quietly at the dinner table in a restaurant instead of jumping on your soup bowl or spill your plate in your lap.

The following are some of the important beliefs of the art of French Parenting.

- Children must learn and firmly believe in basic courtesy. Educate them with 'hello', 'goodbye', 'thank you' or 'please' and make sure it comes as a part of their regular vocabulary.
- No matter how much you love your kids and are there with all your one hundred per cent, they must know 'Who's the boss'. Give them the 'big eyes' (a stern look of disapproval) when needed.
- Children must know how to wait. They must understand that things in life don't



always come served on a platter and for that a parent should learn to say 'No'. Don't give in to your child's demands each time.

-Let them learn how to handle frustration.

It's observed that French kids learn very

quickly to sleep quietly through night; and the secret is — their parents don't go rushing to pick them up every time they cry during nights.