

## Amit Shah's appeal on Hindi Diwas: Respect all Indian languages

Shah noted that from the heights of the Himalayas to the vast beaches of the South, from the desert to the rugged forests and village 'chaupalas', languages have shown the way to a man in every situation to stay organised and move forward unitedly through communication and expression.

**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday extended Hindi Diwas greetings, and asked everyone to respect all Indian languages and move forward towards a self-reliant, self-confident and developed country. Shah noted that from the heights

of the Himalayas to the vast beaches of the South, from the desert to the rugged forests and village 'chaupalas', languages have shown the way to a man in every situation to stay organised and move forward unitedly through communication and expression. He also said that the greatest strength of India's languages is that they have provided every class and community with an opportunity for expression. "Our country is fundamentally a language-oriented nation. Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spirituality from generation to generation," he said in a message on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.

Extending Hindi Diwas greetings, the home minister said he firmly believed that languages, by becoming companions of one another and bound in the thread of unity, were moving forward together. "On this occasion of Hindi Diwas, let us respect all Indian languages, including Hindi, and move forward towards a self-reliant, self-confident and developed India," he said.



in the Northeast, the voice of Oviyalu in Tamil Nadu, the songs of Lohri in Punjab, the verses of Vidyapati in Bihar, the hymns of Baul saints in Bengal, Kajri songs, and Bhikari Thakur's 'Bidesia' – all these have kept the country's culture vibrant and welfare-oriented. The home minister said Saint Thiruvalluvar's verses are sung with as much devotion in the South as he is read with interest in the

North and Krishnadevaraya was as popular in the South as he was in the North.

"The patriotic compositions of Subramania Bharati ignite national pride in the youth of every region. Goswami Tulsidas is revered by every Indian, and the couplets of Saint Kabir are found in translations in Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam," he said. Shah said Surdas's poetry remains prevalent in the temples and musical traditions of South India even today.

"Srimanta Sankaradeva and Mahapurush Madhavdeva of Assam are known to every Vaishnav, and Bhupen Hazarika's songs are hummed even by the youth of Haryana," he said. The home minister said even during the difficult period of slavery, Indian languages became the voice of resistance. "Our languages played a significant role in making the freedom movement a nationwide endeavour. Our freedom fighters connected the languages of the regions and villages with the freedom struggle," he said.

**With 14 crore memberships, BJP is world's largest political party: JP Nadda**

**Agency Visakapatnam.**

BJP national president JP Nadda on Sunday said that the saffron party has become the world's largest political party with 14 crore members, out of which two crore are active. The party has 240 Lok Sabha members, around 170 MLAs and more than 170 MLCs across the country, he said.

Addressing a party rally here, Nadda termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA regime as "responsible and responsive". "We are the largest political party in the world with 14 crore members.



In India, we have the NDA governments in 20 states and the BJP governments in 13 states. We are the largest representative party in the country. We have 240 MPs (Lok Sabha). We have around 1,500 MLAs. We have more than 170 MLCs," he said.

Nadda said in the 11 years under PM Modi leadership there has been politics of performance and accountable government, while in the previous governments there were politics of non-performance, and they did not carry out development works. They also forgot the promises made in the manifestos. There was family-based politics, corruption and appeasement, he said. "We come from a party which has an ideological base," the BJP president said. Listing out the developmental works undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, Nadda said the Centre has provided Rs 15,000 crore for the construction of the capital Amaravati.

## Punjab's Sikh Farmers Face 30,000 Crore Loss – Urgent Economic Aid Needed to Revive Agriculture

**The Sikh Times**  
**Gurcharan Singh**  
**Babbar**

Chandigarh / New Delhi, 14 September 2025:

Punjab is reeling under one of the union's worst floods in decades, leaving the state's Sikh farming community in deep distress. Preliminary assessments indicate an estimated ₹30,000 crore worth of losses to crops, livestock, and rural infrastructure. Experts warn that Punjab's agriculture could be crippled for the next two seasons, as farmlands are now buried under several feet of silt, sand, and debris, rendering them temporarily unfit for cultivation. Villages across Punjab have been devastated. Farmers have lost standing crops, agricultural equipment, and even their homes. The fertile topsoil of many fields has



been washed away, replaced by sand and muck. To restore the soil's fertility, farmers will now have to invest heavily in earth-leveling, cleaning, and soil-treatment – a process that will require substantial funding and months of hard work. Adding to their misery, thousands of cattle – the backbone of rural economy – have perished in the

floods. Farmers will need significant financial support to repurchase livestock, rebuild sheds, and restart dairy activities, which are a major source of income for rural Punjab. Social and religious organizations have been working tirelessly to provide cooked meals, rations, and essential supplies through

langars and relief camps. While these efforts are commendable, they do not address the core issue – the economic rehabilitation of farmers. Experts emphasize that mere food distribution is not enough; what Punjab's farmers urgently require is direct financial assistance to revive their fields, repair their homes, and restore their livelihoods. The Sikh farming community is looking towards both the Punjab Government and the Central Government for swift action. Delays in financial support could further worsen the situation, as anger and frustration are reportedly growing among farmers. Timely relief packages, direct bank transfers, and ground-level implementation of compensation schemes are essential to prevent a long-term agrarian crisis.

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## "A Victory For Every Citizen": N Sitharaman Praises New GST Structure

**The changes will see the current 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent structure replaced with just two rates - 5 per cent and 18 per cent.**

**Tamil Nadu. (Agency)**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms have reduced the tax burden on people.

Addressing the Joint Conclave of Trade and Industries Association - 'Tax Reforms for Rising Bharat' in Chennai, she explained that the four-tier GST structure has now been simplified to just two slabs.

"Earlier, GST had four categories. Now, we have simplified it into two slabs - 5 per cent and 18 per cent. Items that were taxed at 12 per cent and 18 per cent have largely been moved to the lower 5 per cent bracket. For certain essentials, tax has been reduced to zero. This reform will significantly benefit all 1.4 billion Indians," FM Sitharaman said. The changes, the biggest overhaul since



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

New Delhi, 14 September 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta has said that the contribution of the Arya Samaj to society and nation-building has been both historic and inspirational. The Chief Minister added that Maharishi Dayanand ji showed us the path of truth, harmony and values, and that his contribution to women's empowerment has been invaluable. Mrs Rekha Gupta expressed these views today while participating in various programmes organised by the Arya Samaj in the capital. She first attended the 47th Foundation Day celebrations of the

2026," he said, with actor-politician Kamal Haasan and several other prominent film personalities in attendance. The actor also praised Ilaiyaraaja and said he is an "incredible man".

"Hats off to the great maestro," he said.

During the event, Mr Stalin urged the Centre to award the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, to 82-year-old Ilaiyaraaja.

"I am making this request not just on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, but also on behalf of Ilaiyaraaja's fans across the world. I hope it will be fulfilled," he said.



**Rajinikanth Praises MK Stalin As Vijay Launches Poll Campaign**

Rajinikanth's endorsement of MK Stalin came on a day when actor and Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay launched his maiden state-

wide campaign in Tiruchirappalli on Saturday.

The actor, swarmed by thousands of followers, slammed the Centre and the DMK government, and said that he entered politics only with the intention of serving the people and not for earning wealth. He said he chose Tiruchirappalli for his maiden rally as it was the place from where Dravidian icon, DMK founder C.N. Annadurai, decided in 1956 to enter the electoral race. He said it was also the place where AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran held his first state conference in 1974 after launching his party in 1972.

## CM Rekha Gupta participates in various Arya Samaj programmes

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

New Delhi, 14 September 2025

Central Arya Yuvak Parishad at Defence Colony, and later joined the closing ceremony of the annual festival at Arya Samaj Ved Mandir, Pitampura. On this occasion, she shared her thoughts on the role of Arya Samaj in social upliftment and nation-building. The Chief Minister said that the organisation's contribution to the nation is unique, as it has always placed public welfare and social service at the core of its mission. She added that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we are all determined to follow the ideals of Arya Samaj and build Delhi into a clean, beautiful and prosperous



capital. The Chief Minister described the life of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji as deeply inspirational and said that he showed us the path of truth, harmony and values, with his

contribution to women's empowerment being particularly invaluable. Mrs Rekha Gupta further stated that it was due to the great efforts of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji that daughters received opportunities to progress, and that is why she herself was able to become Chief Minister. She remarked that such events, enriched with Vedic culture and values, ignite the flame of service, morality and unity in society. She called upon everyone to take inspiration from the ideals of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji and resolve to build a better future.

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Front continued news

## Punjab's Sikh Farmers Face 30,000 Crore Loss – Urgent Economic Aid Needed to Revive Agriculture

Punjab, often called the "Food Bowl of India," has fed the nation for decades. Today, its farmers are facing ruin. The Sikh community, social activists, and farmer are urging the government to treat this as a national emergency and ensure that aid reaches every affected household without bureaucratic delays.

## CM Rekha Gupta participates in various Arya Samaj programmes

Chief Minister also commended the continuous dynamism and organisational strength of the Arya Samaj. Referring to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, she said that he is not merely a politician but like a saint, who has not taken a single day's leave in his 26-27 years of public life, dedicating himself tirelessly to the nation's welfare.

She observed that today, while embodying the ideals of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji, Modi Ji is taking the country to new heights, and that all of us must follow his path.

She added that if we rise above our small selfish interests and fulfil our social responsibilities, Delhi can become the very best city. During the ceremony, the Chief Minister also highlighted the programmes being held on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary year of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati ji, describing it as a year of inspiration for both society and the nation. She described the tradition and culture of Arya Samaj as a heritage for Delhi, and appealed to the public to move forward together on the path of service, values and unity.

### News box

## Zomato delivery agent slows down bike to take U-turn on Southern Peripheral Road, crushed to death by truck

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

A 20-year-old delivery rider with Zomato out to hand over a packet of food died after being hit by a truck on Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) around Friday midnight. Around 12.10am, Vikas was on his way to deliver an order, navigating the SPR near Vatika Chowk. As he slowed down to take a U-turn — a common manoeuvre for riders weaving through the city's roads — a rashly driven truck crashed into him from the side. The impact was devastating. Vikas's bike got lodged in the front right tyre of the truck, and the delivery agent was fatally crushed. Sudhir Sharma, who happened to be nearby, was left shocked. "It was a horrific scene. I saw the truck crushing the biker under its wheels. Many Zomato riders gathered around and tried to help him, but he had already died by then. His head was crushed," Sharma said. The truck driver, instead of stopping to help, abandoned the loaded vehicle and fled the scene. A police team arrived quickly, impounded the truck, and began a search for the driver, who remained at large till late on Saturday evening. An FIR was registered against the unidentified driver under BNS sections related to rash driving and causing death by negligence at Badshahpur police station. Vikas's body was moved to the mortuary around 2am, and his family in UP was notified soon after. The incident sparked calls for safer roads. Many of Vikas's colleagues protested at the accident scene and demanded immediate arrest of the truck driver.

## Woman jumps with son (11) from 13th-floor Noida flat

### Noida. (Agency)

A 37-year-old woman allegedly jumped with her 11-year-old son from the balcony of their 13th-floor flat at Ace City in Greater Noida West on Saturday. Both died on the spot. Police said the child was suffering from a neurodevelopmental disorder and was under medication. A note left behind by the woman indicated that she was overwhelmed by stress and took the extreme step. According to police, the child's father, a chartered accountant, was in another room of the house while his son was taking a walk on the balcony with his mother. Around 10am, he heard a scream and rushed to the balcony only to see his wife and son lying on the ground. Police and emergency services reached the spot soon after and sent the bodies for autopsy.

Cops said the note written by the woman, and addressed to her husband, said they did not want to trouble him anymore, and no one was responsible for their deaths. "Information received so far indicates the mother was extremely anxious about the boy," said Shavya Goyal, additional DCP, central Noida.

An officer from Bisrakh police station said, "According to the sequence pieced together so far, the father had asked his wife to give medicine to their son around 9 am. After administering it, she took him to the balcony. Minutes later, both fell to their death." In her note, the woman wrote to her husband, "We are leaving this world... Sorry. We do not want to trouble you anymore. Your life should not be ruined because of us. No one is responsible for our death." Neighbours told police that the child had been undergoing treatment for a developmental condition for a long time. He did not attend school and was heavily dependent on medicines.

Police said handwriting analysis of the note and statements of relatives and society residents are being collected to rule out other possibilities.

## As cars get more connected, ICAT says cybersecurity ratings on way

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

Imagine your tech-ed-up-to-its-teeth car suddenly swerving and hitting a median on the highway when you had it fully under control. This could be the handiwork of a cyber hacker who remotely took control. Just like phones and laptops, modern high-end cars can be hacked too as they come with many built-in software connected through networks — electronic control units, or ECUs, smartphone apps, telematics systems and key fobs are some of the ways a hacker can break in, experts say. To deal with such challenges, International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), which functions under the Union ministry of heavy engineering, is developing a process to issue cybersecurity certificates to cars. India currently has the Bharat NCAP (New Car Safety Assessment Programme) star ratings system, which was introduced in 2023 and is issued to automobiles based on their performance

in crash tests and hardware. "Most high-end cars are now equipped with SIM cards. The ECU of the vehicle can be hacked and its programming can be changed," said ICAT director Saurabh Dalela. Manesar-based ICAT, which is a premier centre for crash-testing and certification, hopes to test car software and issue cybersecurity certificates in two years' time, Dalela said, adding it would necessitate changes in laws by govt. Modern vehicles come equipped with M2M (machine-to-machine) SIM cards — special chips installed by carmakers in partnership with telecom companies. These SIMs connect the car to a central server, enabling remote control without the internet, much like IoT devices. Designed for long-term and automated communication, an M2M SIM ensures the car's control systems — such as the ECU and engine management unit (EMU) — receive instructions and transmit data seamlessly. According to

experts, hackers can access telecom databases and extract details of the M2M SIM installed in a car, thereby manipulating the car's critical functions — from locking systems to acceleration and braking. Atul Rai, co-founder and CEO of Staque Technologies, a company working with multiple state police forces to help them use artificial intelligence solutions in crime detection and identifying and tracking criminals, said one form of attack involves cloning or intercepting the M2M SIM. "Once hackers replicate the SIM, they can send false commands directly to the ECU and EMU. This allows them to interfere with how the engine responds — forcing a sudden brake, accelerating without driver input, or even steering the car into danger," Rai added. "Access to the M2M SIM essentially means access to the car's brain," said a cybersecurity expert. "It's like giving the keys of the engine to an outsider who can then dictate what the car

does."

As vehicles advance towards automation, AI-powered sensors such as LIDAR (light detection and ranging) and cameras have become crucial. These systems allow cars to detect obstacles, stay in lanes, and park automatically. But what happens if the sensors themselves are tricked? Rai said a GAN (generative adversarial network) attack is within the realm of possibility. Manipulated visual data can be fed to the car's AI. While driving at speed, the car's sensors may be tricked into detecting a "phantom obstacle" on the road. The vehicle could suddenly brake or swerve, causing a crash. "Imagine you are driving a car over 100kmph and suddenly a car, which has some pattern (invisible to the naked eye) on its rear, overtakes yours. There is a possibility of an AI-based camera in your car being duped into believing that there is an obstacle and applying a sudden brake or a sudden turn, leading to an accident," said Rai.

## 3 who made video call to seek ransom nabbed after gunfight in Ghaziabad

### Noida. (Agency)

Three members of a robbery gang who allegedly orchestrated an abduction using a video call to demand a ransom and virtually scout their victim's residence were arrested. The breakthrough came after an exchange of fire near the Bhikhanpur underpass in Vijay Nagar, leading to the arrest of Raja alias Mukesh (26), Deepak alias Lulhan (28), and Shubham (21). The trio is suspected to have been involved in multiple cases of loot, theft, and snatching across NCR. Earlier this week, Mayank Mishra, a 24-year-old digital marketing executive, was abducted at gunpoint near IPREM College on Delhi-Meerut Expressway.

"They overpowered me, forced me into my own car, and kept driving around for hours," Mishra later told police. The kidnappers took him through isolated stretches in Dasna, Sector-62, and Vijay Nagar, demanding he unlock his phone. The gang then used Mishra's phone to make a video call to his brother at their Ecovillage apartment in Greater Noida West. During the call, they ordered the brother to show them cupboards, shelves, and drawers — essentially conducting a virtual tour of the house. "Through the video call, they identified where we kept cash, jewellery, and other valuables," Mishra's brother recounted. Police said the gang spotted around Rs 90,000 in cash, jewellery worth nearly Rs 10 lakh, and several silver items during the call.

The criminals also attempted to extract money via UPI transactions at petrol pumps but failed. After holding Mishra captive for more than three hours, they abandoned him near Mohan Nagar, damaged his phone to erase evidence, and discarded his car keys.

Police recovered a stolen Swift Dzire car, two country-made pistols, live cartridges, a knife, Rs 19,500 in cash, three mobile phones, and looted



withdraws from the state," said an IMD official. According to the weather department's five-day forecast, the city is likely to remain dry, with maximum temperatures ranging between 33 and 36 degrees Celsius, and minimum

temperatures around 27-28 degrees Celsius. So far this monsoon, Gurgaon has recorded 618.7mm of rainfall — 33% above the seasonal average of 464.5mm. By comparison, last year the city received 746.2mm of rain.

## Meerut metro, part of RRTS corridor from Delhi, completes trials; ready for rollout

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

Ghaziabad: Trial runs on the 23km Meerut metro-cum-rapid rail corridor, which began this Feb, have been completed and the section is expected to be inaugurated soon. Part of the Namo Bharat network, the corridor will cut travel time between Delhi and Meerut to 55 minutes, offering seamless high-speed connectivity for commuters. The high-speed regional rapid transit system is already operating on 55km — between New Ashok Nagar and Meerut South of its planned 8km route. The 17km Sahibabad to Duhai Depot section was first to open on Oct 20, 2023. Subsequent sections were opened in stages, including Duhai to Modinagar (North) on March 6, 2024, and Modinagar North to Meerut (South) on Aug 18, 2024, and Sahibabad to New Ashok Nagar on Jan 5, 2025. The Sarai Kale Khan station, one

of the largest on the corridor, is likely to open to commuters next week. However, there is no official confirmation on it. Once the Meerut corridor is opened, commuters will be able to cover the 33.5km distance from Ghaziabad rapid rail station to Meerut South in just 25 minutes. A one-way journey along the entire corridor will take just 55 minutes.

NCRTC officials said Meerut metro is the first project in India where a local metro system will operate on the same infrastructure as a regional rapid transit line. With 18km of elevated track and 5km underground, Meerut Metro has 13 stations, including Meerut South, Partapur, Rithani, Shatabdi Nagar, Brahmputri, Meerut Central, Bhainsali, Begumpur, MES Colony, Daurli, Meerut North, Modipuram, and Modipuram Depot. Of these, four — Meerut South, Shatabdi

Nagar, Meerut Central, and Begumpur — will be shared with rapid rail corridor for seamless interchange. Unlike Delhi Metro, the Meerut Metro will have 2x2 transverse as well as longitudinal seating, along with provisions for wheelchairs and medical stretchers. Passengers will also have access to air-conditioning, luggage racks, USB charging ports, and ergonomic seating to enhance comfort and convenience.

The new trainsets also feature modern designs, regenerative braking systems, and advanced safety technologies such as Automatic Train Protection (ATP), Automatic Train Control (ATC), and Automatic Train Operation (ATO). Each three-car train, capable of carrying over 700 passengers, will operate at a frequency of 10 minutes.

## How to tackle waste Haryana to hold a meet with residents

### Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Gurgaon: In a first, Haryana will bring vendors, residents' groups, and civic officials together to decide how Gurgaon and Faridabad can manage their solid waste. The govt will host high-stakes vendors' meet on solid waste management in Chandigarh on Sept 15 for Gurgaon and Faridabad, which have faced sharp criticism for their overflowing landfill in Bandhwari and patchy waste collection.

The meeting, to be chaired by the urban local bodies minister Vipul Goel, aims to strengthen the solid waste management mechanism, with a special focus on door-to-door collection, transportation, and processing of waste. The stakeholders will review model requests for proposals that lay down the framework for new contracts on door-to-door collection, transport, and waste processing. For the first time, feedback is being directly solicited from vendors and agencies currently or previously engaged in SWM activities; RWAs; NGOs; microenterprises and cooperative societies registered in Haryana; and labour and cooperative societies working in sanitation and waste management. The MCG also issued a notice to the RWAs asking them to study the new model



request for proposals for door-to-door collection, transport, and waste processing and send their feedback to the ULB department at the earliest.

"The tender that we recently floated for door-to-door waste collection was cancelled. The state govt now wants to formulate a plan specifically for Gurgaon and Faridabad by taking into account the

feedback of all stakeholders, especially residents. We have also intimated them officially by mail about the meeting and the feedback to be sent to the ULB department at the earliest," MCG executive engineer Sunder Sheoran told TOI. "The RFP was revised multiple times, and tenders too were floated multiple times, and now the tender was

cancelled. More than one year was spent revising RFPs and then floating tenders again and again, and now it is finally cancelled," said Anil Mehta, a solid waste management expert, who worked as a consultant in the Haryana govt.

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# 'Khilafat' terror module posing as NGO busted

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has uncovered a suspected terror module known as Khilafat, which was allegedly operating under the guise of a non-governmental organisation and backed by a Pakistan-based handler, with the arrest of five operatives in raids across multiple states. The arrested accused have been identified as Ashhar Danish (23), Aftab Qureshi (25) and Sufiyan Abubakar (20), both from Mumbai; Mohammad Huzaifa (20) from Telangana; and Kamran Qureshi (26) from Madhya Pradesh. Addressing a press conference, Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah said the operatives possessed detailed knowledge of preparing gunpowder and fabricating improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Some

members had even expressed readiness to sacrifice their lives in pursuit of establishing a Caliphate in India under the concept of Ghazwa-e-Hind, he added. The cop added that a large cache of



incriminating material, including chemicals, IED-making components, cartridge fabrication equipment, ball bearings, two semi-automatic pistols and a country-made pistol. Kushwah also mentioned that the module was fund-

ed money through hawala transactions and was being run in form of an NGO to evade suspicion from law enforcement agencies. The breakthrough came after the arrest of Aftab and Sufiyan near

Cell) Amit Kaushik, carried out raids in Jharkhand's Ranchi, Raigarh in Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana, leading to the arrest of three more suspects, the official mentioned. The police described Ashhar Danish as the kingpin. A postgraduate in English, he allegedly posed as a company CEO, professor, or NGO operator to disguise his activities. Officials said Danish had procured chemicals for gunpowder manufacturing, bought copper plates in August 2025 to make cartridges, and obtained a bullet along with a country-made weapon from Bokaro to use as a prototype for fabricating firearms. The team recovered sulfur powder, sodium bicarbonate, ball bearings, gas masks, electrical wires, fuse points, cartridges and other components used in making IEDs from his rented accommodation in Ranchi.

Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station in Southeast Delhi who were trying to procure weapons from a Mewat-based person. Based on the information from the duo, the team led by deputy Commissioner of Police (Special

## 13 yrs on, double murder accused held after 20,000-km chase across 7 states

New Delhi: After a chase of over 20,000 kms across seven states, a man wanted in a double murder case in Southeast Delhi was arrested after being on the run for 13 years, the police said on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Lalan Kumar, alias Lalawna (33), a native of Madhepura in Bihar, was the key conspirator behind the murder of a truck driver and his helper in 2012, they added. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari said the accused carried a bounty



of Rs 1 lakh on his arrest and was also declared a proclaimed offender by a Delhi court in December 2012. The cop added that a team from Shaheen Bagh police station was chasing him ever since the crime took place. "Our officers traveled more than 20,000 kms across Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand in search of the absconding person. Over 500 call detail records were analysed and nearly 1,000 people were questioned during the man-

hunt," Tiwari added. He said the team developed

lead. Consistent surveillance in his native place on September 4 and the accused was apprehended. During interrogation, Kumar admitted that he had been living under different identities across Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand since 2012. The cop also mentioned that the accused avoided mobile phones and social media and frequently changed his appearance to evade arrest. To sustain himself, he worked as a labourer while staying away from his native village for long period. The incident dates back to

June 31, 2012, when a case was registered at the Pul Prahladpur police station on the complaint of Ram Gupta regarding the abduction of truck driver Shamim and helper Sher. The complainant's vehicle was also missing. During investigation, the bodies of the driver and helper were found in Palwal, Haryana, and Mathura UP, respectively. Later, the truck was recovered from Prayagraj, UP. During further probe, two persons - Sunil and Shatrughan - were arrested. Kumar was absconding since then.

## Delivery man takes child hostage, forces woman to undress in Noida

New Delhi: A 22-year-old delivery man has been arrested in Noida for allegedly coercing a woman to remove her clothes by holding a knife to her child's neck, recording her explicit videos and circulating them on social media, police said on Friday. The accused, identified as Gaurav from the Gulistanpur village, used to deliver milk and groceries to the woman's home. According to the police, the accused forcibly entered the house one day while the woman's children were asleep. He allegedly held a knife to her son's neck and compelled her to undress while he filmed the incident on his mobile phone.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Kavita Vishkarma S/O Shiv Murti Vishkarma, R/O 4/33, Veena Enclave, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi -110041, declare that name of mine, my father and my mother have been wrongly written as Kavita, Shiva and Suman in my 10th class educational document. The actual name of my wife is Hina Kausar, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Irfan S/O Mohd Usman residing at KH no-24/6 Left portion 4th floor Street no - 4 Sangam Vihar Burari Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Mohd Irfan for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD USMAN S/O Mohd Ehsan residing at KH no-24/6 Left portion 4th floor Street no - 4 Sangam Vihar Burari Delhi-110084 have changed my name to MOHD USMAN for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Mohit Kumar S/O Ram Phire Singh, R/O 203, Pushp Vihar Colony, modipuram, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh - 250110, have changed the name of my minor son Pranav Pradhan aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as PRANAV ADHANA.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Azima Khaton W/O Mohd Usman residing at KH no-24/6 Left portion 4th floor Street no - 4 Sangam Vihar Burari Delhi-110084 have changed my name to MOHD USMAN for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, REHMATULLAH S/O MOHD EHSAN residing at A-1294-A DDA FLATS INDER LOK DELHI - 110035 have changed my name to RAHAM-TULLAANSARI for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, GEETA W/O Vipul Kapoor R/O E-39, Street no-16F, Sadh Nagar, Palam, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to GEETA KAPOOR for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Mohit Kumar S/O Ram Phire Singh, R/O 203, Pushp Vihar Colony, modipuram, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh - 250110, have changed the name of my minor daughter Prema Pradhan aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as PRANAV ADHANA.

### NAME CHANGE

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## NEWS BOX

**"Violence Coming": Elon Musk's "Fight Or Die" Message At London Rally****World. (Agency)**

Clashes erupted in London on Saturday, and police made 25 arrests after up to 1,50,000 people massed for one of the largest-ever far-right protests in Britain, organised by activist Tommy Robinson.

Protesters at Robinson's latest "Unite the Kingdom" event had marched over Westminster Bridge before rallying near Downing Street for speeches by figures associated with the far right from across Europe and North America, including billionaire X owner Elon Musk, who joined via video-link. "You're in a fundamental situation here," Musk told the crowd, claiming "the left is the party of murder and celebrating murder". "Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you. You either fight back or you die." Speakers at Robinson's event also included French far-right politician Eric Zemmour and Petr Bystron of the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

Zemmour reiterated the far-right, white nationalist so-called "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory, which claims white Europeans are being deliberately supplanted by non-white immigrants. Ed Davey, leader of the UK's centrist Liberal Democrats, took to social media to criticise Musk and the violent scenes that happened.

"These far-right thugs do not speak for Britain," he added. Police said 26 officers were injured, four seriously, after facing "unacceptable violence" while trying to control the crowds, many draped in English and British flags, during several tense hours on the rally's fringes. The Metropolitan Police -- which estimated 110,000 to 150,000 people turned out, "significantly exceeding" organisers' estimates -- said the clashes broke out after some attendees tried to enter so-called "sterile areas" near counter-protesters. Around 5,000 people had attended a Stand Up to Racism march, which began around a mile to the north. About 1,000 police were deployed to keep the rival groups apart.

**Indian-Americans Donated \$46 Million To Democrats In 2020, Just \$16 Million To Republicans: Study****World. (Agency)**

Indian-Americans overwhelmingly favour Democratic candidates, contributing nearly three times more to their campaigns than to Republicans, a new study shows. The research, titled "An Emerging Lobby: An Analysis of Campaign Contributions from Indian-Americans (1998-2022)," was conducted by Karnav Popat and Vishnu Prakash of Ashoka University, along with Joyojeet Pal of the University of Michigan.

The study, released in September 2025, analysed two decades of political donations using Federal Election Commission data compiled by OpenSecrets.

During the 2020 presidential election cycle, Indian-Americans donated USD 46.6 million to Democratic candidates compared to USD 16.3 million to Republican candidates. In 2016, only 0.6 per cent of



Indian-American contributions went to then-President Donald Trump's campaign.

The study found that Indian-Americans' contributions are concentrated in sectors such as technology, finance, healthcare, and academia, enhancing their political visibility. Indian-Americans now number over 4.9 million, with six elected to Congress in the 2024 elections. While the study does not cover the 2024 cycle, it underscores the community's growing political engagement and consistent preference for Democratic candidates.

**Inside Lashkar's Muridke Resurrection After Op Sindoos With Pak's Help****World. (Agency)**

The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit is quietly orchestrating the reconstruction of its demolished headquarters, Markaz Taiba in Muridke of Pakistan's Punjab, following its destruction by the Indian Air Force on May 7 during Operation Sindoos, according to the dossier prepared by India's intelligence agencies that NDTV exclusively accessed.

At 12:35 am Pakistan Standard Time, Indian Mirage aircraft penetrated deep into Punjab province to strike three core structures within the 1.09-acre Markaz Taiba campus. The targets included a red multi-story block used for cadre accommodation and weapons storage, and two yellow-painted buildings known as Umm-ul-Qura, which served as training facilities and senior commander residences.

Only skeletal remnants remained standing, with analysts praising the Indian strike as the most severe blow dealt to Lashkar's infrastructure since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

**Demolition And The Road To Rebirth**

By August 18, LeT deployed heavy machinery, razing the already crippled structures. HUMINT-sourced video reveals rubble-strewn grounds and cadres supervising clearance. On September 4, the yellow Umm-ul-Qura block was reduced to dust. Three days later, the red building followed suit.

The group now eyes February 5, 2026 - Kashmir Solidarity Day - as the symbolic deadline to inaugurate the reconstructed complex.

**Trump calls on all NATO countries to stop buying Russian oil, threatens 50% to 100% tariffs on China****Trump's letter comes at a tense moment in the conflict after the recent flight of multiple Russian drones into Poland, an escalatory move by Russia as it was entering the airspace of NATO ally.****BASKING RIDGE.. (Agency)**

President Donald Trump said Saturday he believes the Russia-Ukraine war would end if all NATO countries stopped buying oil from Russia and placed tariffs on China of 50% to 100% for its purchases of Russian petroleum.

Trump posted on his social media site that NATO's commitment to winning the war "has been far less than 100%" and the purchase of Russian oil by some members

of the alliance is "shocking." As if speaking with NATO members, he said: "It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia." Since 2023, NATO member Turkey has been the third largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia. It's unclear whether Trump would want to directly confront Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. That leaves uncertain whether the threats might actually lead to new tariffs or a ban on Russian oil purchases. Trump's post arrives after the Wednesday flight of multiple Russian drones into Poland, an escalatory move by Russia as it was entering the airspace of a NATO ally. Poland shot down the drones, yet Trump played down the severity of the incursion and Russia's motives by saying it "could



have been a mistake." U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that the drone incursion was "unacceptable and unfortunate and dangerous" as he judged NATO's response so far to be appropriate. Still, Rubio said it was unclear if the drones were intentionally sent to Poland.

"The question is whether the drones were targeted to go into Poland specifically," Rubio said. "If that's the case, that the evidence leads us there, then obviously that

would be a highly escalatory move."

While Trump as a candidate promised to end the war quickly, he has yet to hit the pressure points needed to end the violence and has at times been seen as reluctant to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin. Congress is currently trying to get the U.S. president to back a bill toughening sanctions, after Trump last month hosted Putin in Alaska for talks that failed to deliver on progress toward peace.

The U.S. and its allies are seeking to show a firmer degree of resolve against Russia. At an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting Friday, acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea said America "will defend every inch of NATO territory" and that the drones entering Poland "intentionally or otherwise show immense disrespect for good-faith U.S. efforts to bring an end to this conflict."

**China launches probes targeting US semiconductors ahead of Madrid trade talks****TAIPEI (Agency)**

China launched two probes targeting the US semiconductor sector Saturday ahead of talks between the two nations in Spain this week on trade, national security and the ownership of social media platform TikTok. China's Ministry of Commerce announced an anti-dumping investigation into certain analog IC chips imported from the US. The investigation will target some commodity interface IC chips and gate driver IC chips, which are commonly made by US companies such as Texas Instruments and ON Semiconductor. The ministry separately announced an anti-discrimination probe into US measures against China's chip sector. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is set to meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Madrid between Sunday and Wednesday, He's office said. US measures such as export curbs and tariffs "constitute the containment and suppression of China's development of high-tech industries" such as advanced



computer chips and artificial intelligence, a Chinese commerce ministry spokesperson said.

The announcements of the probes follow the US on Friday adding 23 Chinese companies to an "entity list" of businesses that will face restrictions for allegedly acting against US national security and foreign policy interests. The list includes two Chinese companies accused of acquiring chipmaking equipment for major Chinese chipmaker SMIC. The meetings between Bessent and He in Madrid will be the latest in a series of negotiations aimed at reducing trade tensions and postponing the enactment

of higher tariffs on each other's goods. US and Chinese counterparts previously held discussions in Geneva in May, London in June and Stockholm in July. The two governments have agreed to several 90-day pauses on a series of increasing reciprocal tariffs, staving off an all-out trade war. Bessent described the talks during the last round in Stockholm as "very fulsome." "We just need to de-risk with certain, strategic industries, whether it's the rare earths, semiconductors, medicines, and we talked about what we could do together to get into balance within the relationship," Bessent said at the time. US President Donald Trump and former President Joe Biden placed curbs on China's access to advanced semiconductors including restrictions on the sale of chipmaking equipment to the country. While Washington cites national security concerns, China argues the curbs are part of a US strategy to contain its growth.

**Turkey wary of Israeli threat following airstrike on Hamas in Qatar****ISTANBUL (Agency)**

An Israeli strike on a meeting of Hamas officials in Qatar has cast a cloud of growing concern across Turkey that it could be the next target. Turkish Defense Ministry spokesman Rear Adm. Zeki Akturk warned in Ankara on Thursday that Israel would "further expand its reckless attacks, as it did in Qatar, and drag the entire region, including its own country, into disaster." Israel and Turkey were once strong regional partners, but ties between the countries ran into difficulties from the late 2000s and have reached an all-time low over the war in Gaza sparked by the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack in southern Israel. Tensions also have risen as the two countries have competed for influence in neighboring Syria since the fall of Bashar Assad's government last year. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been a long-standing supporter of the Palestinian cause and of the Palestinian militant group Hamas. The Turkish president has criticized Israel, and particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,



some have taken up residence there. Israel previously accused Turkey of allowing Hamas to plan attacks from its territory, as well as carrying out recruitment and fundraising. Erdogan is close to Qatar's leaders and Turkey maintains strong military and commercial ties to the emirate. He is due to travel to Qatar this weekend for an Arab and Muslim leaders' summit. After Israel's attacks on the territory of Iran, Syria, Yemen and now Qatar, Ankara is bound to be concerned

by Israel's ability to freely use the airspace of neighboring states.

"Israel's ability to conduct strikes with seeming impunity, often bypassing regional air defenses and international norms, sets a precedent that deeply worries Ankara," said Serhat Suha Cubukcuoglu, director of Trends Research and Advisory's Turkey program. Turkey sees these attacks as a "broader Israeli strategy to establish a fragmented buffer zone of weak or pacified states around it," he added.

**Turkey has superior military might**

In crossing a previously unthinkable line by attacking Qatar, a close American ally that has been serving as a mediator in Gaza ceasefire talks, Israel also has raised the question of how far it will go in pursuing Hamas targets. Through its NATO membership, Turkey would seem to have a greater degree of protection against Israeli attack than that afforded to Qatar by its close ties to the United States. Turkey also boasts significantly greater military might than the Gulf state.

**Assassination of US conservative activist Charlie Kirk prompts flood of false claims online****world. (Agency)**

A flood of false and misleading claims filled social media in the two days it took officials to arrest and publicly identify 22-year-old Tyler Robinson as the suspect in Wednesday's assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University.

The reaction followed a well-worn pattern of misinformation and conspiracy theories that often come after breaking news events when facts can be fluid. Those kinds of posts appeared within hours of the shooting, with some of the earliest incorrectly identifying the gunman before officials had released any information about a suspect.

More claims spawned on Thursday and Friday, presenting old videos and photos as recent footage of the shooter and erroneously reporting on Robinson's background.

**CLAIM: Robinson is a registered Republican.**

**THE FACTS:** This is false. Utah records say Robinson was registered as a voter, but not affiliated with either political party. His voter status is inactive, meaning he did not vote in two regular general elections after receiving a notice from his county clerk.

According to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, Robinson's family said he had become "more political in recent years" and had criticized Kirk, mentioning that he was due to appear at an event in Utah. Cox stated that ammunition found at the scene was engraved with taunting, anti-fascist and meme culture messaging.

**CLAIM: Robinson is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America.**  
**THE FACTS:** This is false. Priscilla Yeverino, spokesperson for the group, confirmed that "we have no members in DSA named Tyler Robinson anywhere in the country."

A photo of a person who bears a resemblance to Robinson wearing a Salt Lake City DSA shirt with the slogan "bee the change" has been used to support this claim. Yeverino declined to confirm that person's identity "for this person's privacy and safety." Prior to Robinson's arrest, many on social media were quick to assume the shooter was a Democrat and prominent conservative figures, including President Donald Trump, blamed liberal politics for Kirk's death. **CLAIM:** A video of a man running toward a parking lot shows the shooter escaping.

**THE FACTS:** This is false. The video was filmed on July 28, more than a month before Kirk was shot and began spreading before Robinson was arrested. It shows Dakota Hawver, the suspected gunman who killed three people and injured three others at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, running from the front of the resort in the direction of its front parking lot.

Multiple local news networks published the footage after the Reno shooting. Hawver was shot by police and died in the hospital days later. A version of the misrepresented video included a caption falsely stating: "video shows Charlie Kirk's real shooter escaping."

**More than 100,000 attend London protest organized by far-right activist, with clashes breaking out****TIRANA (Albania). (Agency)**

A London march organized by far-right activist Tommy Robinson drew more than 110,000 people and became unruly on Saturday as a small group of his supporters clashed with police officers who were separating them from counterprotesters. Several officers were punched, kicked and struck by bottles tossed by people at the fringes of the "Unite the Kingdom" rally. Metropolitan Police said. Reinforcements with helmets and riot shields were deployed to support the 1,000-plus officers on duty. Twenty six police officers were injured -- four who were seriously hurt, including broken teeth and a concussion, a possible broken nose and a spinal injury. At least 25 people were arrested for offenses including violent disorder, assaults and criminal damage, and the investigation continues, police said.

"There is no doubt that many came to exercise their lawful right to protest, but there were many who came intent on violence," Assistant Commissioner Matt

Twist said. "They confronted officers, engaging in physical and verbal abuse and making a determined effort to breach cordons in place to keep everyone safe."

The rally drew an estimated crowd of between 110,000 and 150,000 people, far surpassing expectations, police said.

The rival "March Against Fascism" protest organized by Stand Up To Racism had about 5,000 marchers. Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, founded the nationalist and anti-Islam English Defense League and is one of the most influential far-right figures in Britain. The march was billed as a demonstration in support of free speech -- with much of the rhetoric by influencers and several far-right politicians from across Europe aimed largely at the perils of migration, a problem much of the continent is struggling to control. "We are both subject to the same process of the great replacement of our European people by peoples coming from the south and of Muslim culture, you and we are being colonized by our former colonies," far

right French politician Eric Zemmour said. Elon Musk, the Tesla CEO and owner of the X platform who has waded into British politics several times this year, was beamed in by video and condemned the left-leaning UK government.

"There's something beautiful about being



public, the people that built this nation." The marches come at a time when the UK has been divided by debate over migrants crossing the English Channel in overcrowded inflatable boats to arrive on shore without authorization. Numerous anti-migrant protests were held this summer outside hotels housing asylum-seekers following the arrest of an Ethiopian man who was later convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in a London suburb. Some of those protests became violent and led to arrests. Sea of flags Participants in the "Unite the Kingdom" march carried the St. George's red-and-white flag of England and the union jack, the state flag of the United Kingdom, and chanted "we want our country back." UK flags have proliferated this summer across the UK -- at events and on village lampposts -- in what some have said is a show of national pride and others said reflects a tilt toward nationalism. Supporters held signs saying "stop the boats," "send them home," and "enough is enough, save our children."

Arrangements for Dasara at brisk pace; collector reviews preparations at Indrakeeladri Temple



Vijayawada. (Agency)

NTR District Collector G Lakshmisra conducted a surprise inspection of the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple premises atop Indrakeeladri on Saturday ahead of the Dasara festivities, which begins on September 22. He reviewed preparations alongside temple officials and police to ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for devotees. Lakshmisra emphasised that the Dasara festival arrangements should enhance the spiritual atmosphere and showcase the state's cultural traditions. He instructed officials to provide adequate seating for devotees and ensure all necessary amenities are in place.

He directed officials to organise entry and exit routes according to plan and make decorations reflect spiritual splendor. The collector stressed that the temple engineering authorities would be held responsible for any inconvenience or lapses in preparations.

Lakshmisra also advised arranging distribution of drinking water, buttermilk, milk, biscuits, and other necessities for devotees. Temple Executive Officer Seena Naik, ADCP Rama Krishna, and other officials participated in the inspection.

**Prenatal diagnosis of over 1,700 foetuses finds one in four suffering from genetic anomalies**

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A 14-year-long study on prenatal diagnosis (PND) of rare genetic disorders, conducted by a leading Ahmedabad-based institute and funded by the Central government's department of biotechnology, for over 1,700 samples from 10 states and two Union Territories has found that more than a quarter of the foetuses suffered from "genetic anomalies", and 7.7% had "other rare genetic disorders".

The study, conducted by the FRIGE Institute of Human Genetics, Ahmedabad, from 2008 to 2022, from 12 tertiary healthcare centres and published earlier this week in the Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases, showed that out of 1,738 prenatal cases, 752 (43.27%) foetal samples were 'Normal' and showed no signs of genetic diseases. But in 519 (29.86%) cases, the foetus was identified as a 'carrier' of the disease, while in 467 (26.87%) cases, the results found that the child would be born suffering from a genetic disorder. About 75% of the samples were from Gujarat.

Of the 467 cases, 406 concerned those of autosomal recessive (AR) disorder with examples including Cystic Fibrosis, Sickle Cell Anaemia, Tay-Sachs Disease, and Wilson's Disease. In 21 cases, the sample results exhibited an autosomal dominant (AD) mode of inheritance, such as Huntington's Disease. Forty of the cases were with X-linked inheritance patterns, examples including Haemophilia. The study only focused on diseases with molecular or biochemical genetic aetiology and did not include cases with chromosomal abnormalities identified through PND.

Corresponding author of the paper, Dr Harsh Sheth of the FRIGE (Foundation for Research in Genetics and Endocrinology) Institute of Human Genetics said, "Rare genetic disorders are increasingly diagnosed due to advancing genetic technology, whilst treatment for them is challenging."

# Journalist Siddique Kappan among nine booked for unlawful assembly

The accused were booked for unlawfully assembling and conducting a protest near Vanchi Square, close to the High Court Junction, without prior permission.

Kochi. (Agency)

Kochi city police on Saturday arrested two persons and booked nine others, including Siddique Kappan, a journalist from Kerala who had been imprisoned after being charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), in connection with a solidarity gathering held in support of Rejaz M Sheeba Sydeek, who faces UAPA charges for allegedly criticising 'Operation Sindoor'. The arrested have been identified as Dr Hari and Shani. Others booked in the case include Neeharika Pradaash, Pramod Puzhangara, Ambika, and C P Rasheed, who had also taken part in the solidarity meeting. The arrests followed a protest held at Vanchi Square on

Saturday, organised with the support of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), demanding the release of Rejaz. The accused were booked for unlawfully assembling and conducting a protest near Vanchi Square, close to the High Court Junction, without prior permission, said a source with Kochi city police. "They had no valid sanction to use loudspeakers and had gathered illegally, causing obstruction to both pedestrians and traffic in the area. Hence, they were taken into custody," said Sibi Tom, assistant commissioner with Ernakulam Central subdivision.

A police officer from Ernakulam Central station further clarified that the organisers had only obtained permission from the Kochi

Corporation to hold the event, but had not secured mandatory police approval for the use of loudspeakers. "When the police reached the spot, most participants dispersed. However, two individuals refused to leave and even pushed the sub-inspector on duty, obstructing official work," she said. The two were taken into custody and their arrest was formally recorded, and they were later released on station bail, she added. Rejaz, an independent journalist from Kerala who has been reporting on human rights issues, was arrested from a hotel in Nagpur, Maharashtra. He was then booked under the UAPA, after allegedly criticising Operation Sindoor through social media, besides raising anti-India slogans.



## Unmarked speed breakers pose danger to commuters in Chennai

Chennai. (Agency)

Improperly designed speed breakers without any markers to alert the commuters on the busy Krishnadas Main Road and surrounding roads in Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar zone of Greater Chennai Corporation are posing threat to road users.

The busy stretch, connecting Perambur and Ayanavaram, is used daily by hundreds of vehicles, including MTC buses. Residents say at least three speed breakers were installed last month, but none carry proper markings, reflective paint, or warning signs, making them difficult to spot, especially at night.

On Wednesday, MA Sivaraman (55), who runs a tea stall, met with an accident while riding along the stretch. "I was riding my bike around 11 am at a speed of about 25 kmph. I didn't see the hump at all," he said, adding he sustained injuries to his

knees, hands, and forehead after falling down from the bike.

The residents noted that this is not an isolated



incident and warned more such incidents could occur if the issue is not addressed. C Rajkumar, a local activist, said, "Just last week, a woman from another area also sustained injuries. The

issue of unmarked speed breakers is not limited to this stretch alone - it's a problem across the city that needs urgent attention."

"Many of these incidents often go unreported or remain unnoticed, leaving no record of accidents caused by speed breakers," another city-based activist said.

"Proper monitoring and regulation of speed breakers in line with Indian Roads Congress standards is essential. Although the government constituted a committee, headed by the city traffic police, in 2024 to standardise speed breakers in Chennai, its impact is yet to be seen on the ground," she added.

A zonal-level GCC official assured that the speed breakers would be marked immediately with reflective paint to address the issue.

**CB-CID busts iridium fraud racket, arrests 30 across Tamil Nadu, other states**



Chennai. (Agency)

The Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) has arrested 30 members of a gang involved in defrauding the public by misusing the name of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and luring victims with false claims of receiving huge sums of money from abroad through the sale of iridium.

This is the second such case being investigated by the agency. Around four months ago, 13 had been arrested by the Salem detachment of CB-CID. The arrests follow reliable information indicating that several fraud gangs across the state have been operating bogus trusts without proper registration, fabricating documents in the name of the RBI, and deceiving people by promising crores of rupees from foreign sources.

Acting swiftly, the CB-CID suo motu registered 13 cases across the state and launched a coordinated investigation. After the Salem arrest, the agency pursued further leads and conducted a massive, simultaneous search operation on Friday across 20 districts in Tamil Nadu and in four locations outside Tamil Nadu.

During the operation, a total of 47 locations (43 in Tamil Nadu and four in other states) were raided by special teams consisting of 10 deputy superintendents of police, 35 inspectors of police, and 12 sub-inspectors.

This large-scale operation led to the arrest of 30 suspects, including 5 key conspirators SHS Swaminatha of Chennai, Jeyaraj of Katpadi, AC R a v i c h a n d r a n f r o m Kudumiyamalai, Gnanaprakasam of Manapparai and Daisy Rani from Dindigul who belong to five major gangs.

## Day after SC agrees to hear plea, four Gujarat police constables booked for 'thrashing' minor at police station

**Accused constables transferred to police headquarters; investigation being conducted by Inspector of the same police station where the accused cops were stationed**

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Three constables of the Botad Police were booked on Saturday for allegedly illegally confining and thrashing a minor at their police station after picking him up from the illegal custody of two other persons who had personally called up a constable, instead of calling the police control room, claiming that the teenager had been involved in a theft. The four police constables - Kaushik Jani, Yogesh Solanki, Ajay and Kuldeep Singh Vaghela - have been transferred from Botad Town police station to the police headquarters, confirmed DySP Maharsi Raval, who is supervising the case. They have neither been suspended from service nor placed under arrest so far. DySP Raval further confirmed that the case in question is being investigated by the Inspector of Botad Town police station itself, who is the direct supervisor of the four accused police constables. Botad SP Chintan Teraiya remained unavailable for comment. The 17-year-old teenager, who is still under treatment at



a private hospital in Ahmedabad, had to undergo dialysis during his treatment. The FIR was filed after activist Mujahid Nafees of the Minority Coordination Committee wrote to DGP Vikas Sahay, triggering an inquiry; Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani raised the matter; and the incident was mentioned in the Supreme Court by Advocate Rohin Bhatt.

The petition was mentioned before a Bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran on Friday, who agreed to hear it and scheduled a hearing on September 15.

Speaking to The Indian Express, DySP Raval said, "According to the FIR, on August 19, the minor was taken to a place called Military Road in Botad town. After accusing him of theft, the accused called Constable Jani on the phone. Jani then went to the spot and picked up the minor and took him to Botad Town police station. The FIR said that the minor was questioned and assaulted in the D-Staff room of the police station." Raval added, "He fell ill during this time and was taken to a hospital in Botad. There the doctors said he was facing the effects of some toxic substance and so, he was referred to a hospital in Ahmedabad." When asked if the alleged thrashing had led to the impact on the boy's kidneys, necessitating the dialysis, DySP Raval said, "We have sought a detailed medical report, asking whether such a condition can occur from the type of assault described by the minor. We will receive that report tomorrow (Sunday)."

# 'One Village, One Library': Gadchiroli Police transform Maoist stronghold with 72nd library

**The library is located in Jijaon, under the Mannerajaram police station in the Bhamragad subdivision, over 7km from Mannerajaram.**

Nagpur. (Agency)

The brother and other relatives of Raju Velaji, Divisional Committee Member (DVC) of Gatta Dalam, an active Maoist from Jijaon, witnessed a transformation in their village as the Gadchiroli Police inaugurated its 72nd public library in Jijaon on Saturday under the 'One Village, One Library' initiative.

The initiative, conceptualized by Gadchiroli's Superintendent of Police, Neelotpal (IPS), aims to empower school students, educated unemployed youth, and women and men in the district's remote areas. The goal is to integrate them into the mainstream by nurturing their intellectual and creative talents, strengthening their perspectives, fostering a passion for reading, and preparing for competitive exams.

The library is located in Jijaon, under the Mannerajaram police station in the Bhamragad subdivision, over 7km from Mannerajaram. The construction of this modern library was made possible through

the collaborative efforts of the Gadchiroli Police, CRPF, SRPF officers and personnel, and local residents who contributed both labour and funds.

Over 500 residents living in the areas falling under the Mannerajaram police station's jurisdiction attended the inauguration ceremony. The ceremony began with a book procession attended by all senior officers and villagers. The procession served to raise awareness and instill a sense of respect and fondness for books and reading among students and villagers.

Talking to The Indian Express, SP Neelotpal said, "We opened our first library in March 2023 at Kotgul... The idea came from the fact that many people can't afford to go to the cities, and they don't have a proper study environment at home. Libraries in



Gadchiroli and Nagpur are often very expensive, charging hefty fees. So, we decided to open libraries in or near areas with a police presence."

"We have now established libraries in 72 locations. The first one, in Kotgul, is a state-of-the-art library. All these libraries operate on community participation. The villagers,

our police station, and SRPF and CRPF personnel who are deployed here for three-month rotations contribute to it. This model ensures that community ownership doesn't fade away. We make the students the custodians of the library, and they all do a fantastic job," said the SP.

Currently, 8,000 students are studying at these libraries across Gadchiroli. "The books, including those for competitive exams and others on figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and

Dr. Ambedkar, are provided by former police officers who have tied up with companies in cities like Pune and Kolhapur to send books to the libraries needed," added Neelotpal.

Since the programme started, 205 students have been selected for various government jobs, both in and outside of Gadchiroli, as

police constables, talathis, and foresters, among others, informed the SP. The Mannerajaram police station was reopened in January 2023 because it was a significant security vacuum. This area, particularly Jijaon, was a major crossing point for Maoists moving from the National Park Area into Gadchiroli by crossing the Indravati river. While a police post was first created in Mannerajaram in the early 2000s, it couldn't sustain due to Maoist activity, including arson. It had to be closed down, but in January 2023, the post was re-established.

The inauguration was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) M. Ramesh, Additional Superintendent of Police (Aheri) Satya Sai Karthik, Assistant Commandant of A/9 Battalion CRPF Amit Sinha, Officer-in-Charge of Mannerajaram Police Station PSI Shubham Shinde, PSI Prashant Narkhede of SRPF Group 4 Nagpur, along with local sarpanches, police patils, students, and villagers.

## Relentless reformer who made democracy accountable

I first met Professor Jagdeep S Chhokar in 2006, when I was the youngest in the Election Commission of India. At that time, the relationship between the Election Commission (EC) and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)—the organisation he co-founded—was marked by caution, even suspicion. ADR had begun to make waves with its landmark petitions in the courts, demanding greater transparency in elections. From within the EC, we were instinctively wary: here was an organisation holding up a mirror to the system we were constitutionally sworn to safeguard. But the more we engaged with Jagdeep, the more we realised that we were fighting the same battle—to make India's democracy not just participatory, but truly informed. It was the beginning of a professional partnership and a personal friendship that endured through the years.

### A Shared Haryana Connection

The fact that Jagdeep belonged to Haryana—which was my own cadre—brought us personally closer. He was born in Patti Kalyana, a well-known village in Panipat, which was earlier part of Karnal district, where I underwent my IAS training.

That coincidence alone would have been enough to give us a sense of kinship, but our connections went even deeper. As a student, I used to attend German classes at Max Mueller Bhavan, where his sister, Bimla Chhokar—who later became Bimla Bhalla—was also a fellow student. These ties made it feel natural for us to look upon each other almost as family. Our conversations often ranged from electoral law to personal anecdotes, and just a few months ago he told me—with characteristic candor—that for the last 15 years he has been quoting me on a subject close to both our hearts: electoral rolls. I had once said that “electoral rolls are the soft underbelly of the Election Commission”. Jagdeep said he had repeated that line hundreds of times in his writings and speeches. Now, with the controversy around the Special Intensive Revision of rolls in Bihar at its peak, that observation seems more relevant than ever.

### From IIM to ADR: A Scholar Who Chose The Battleground

Professor Chhokar was not a career activist. A distinguished academic and former dean of IIM-Ahmedabad, he could have chosen a quiet, comfortable life in the cloisters of academia. Instead, he brought the same intellectual rigour that defined his scholarship to the contested arena of electoral reform. ADR's origin story is now the stuff of democratic legend: a group of IIM-A professors—including Chhokar—filed a PIL in the Delhi High Court in 1999 seeking mandatory disclosure of criminal, financial, and educational background of candidates contesting elections. The case eventually reached the Supreme Court, and in 2002, the landmark judgment mandated that such disclosures be made public. This was a watershed moment in Indian democracy. It was Jagdeep who became the public face of this movement, taking ADR's mission beyond courtrooms to civil society, media platforms, and public debates. He combined the empiricism of a researcher with the passion of a reformer, often presenting data that embarrassed political parties but empowered the citizenry.

### ADR As The 'Eyes and Ears' Of Reform

In the years that followed, ADR became indispensable to the cause of electoral reform. Its painstaking work of compiling and analysing candidate affidavits, publishing reports on criminalisation of politics, and tracking campaign finance violations provided an evidence base that no one could ignore—not even the political class. ADR's data is now the gold standard for anyone studying the state of Indian democracy.

## Nepal upheaval has lessons for India

### THE GREAT GAME: South Asia must return to being both front and centre of New Delhi's attention

THE revolution in Nepal earlier this week was so sudden, so swift and so dramatic, that even India was caught flat-footed. As former Nepali Prime Minister KP Oli's armed police shot young student protesters in cold blood, including children in school uniform, Indian officials realised quickly that the ancient regime was collapsing. They had been preparing for Oli's visit to India, beginning September 16. They were gobsmacked that the dam had burst on its eve. Thing about the India-Nepal relationship is that it is so intimate, so deep-seated, so profound that it is like no other tie that India has. Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj brought this “roti-beti rishta”, between the Terai and India's northern borderlands, to the startled attention of Delhi's elite some years ago, but the phrase is as true for the rest of Nepal and India. The Nepali elite as well as the proletariat—the ‘Bahun’ and ‘Chettris’, Brahmins and Kshatriyas in the hills, as well as people of other castes in the lowlands and the plains—marry, live and work in India and vice-versa. Ties of kinship reinvent the generations. If you drive from Patna to Janakpur, no one looks twice when you cross the open border.

You could argue that this is true for every neighbour of India, that ethnicity, religion and culture transcend both geography and sovereignty. Certainly, this is especially true for each of the three nations whose people have asserted their will in the face of democratic capture these last few years—Sri Lanka in 2022, Bangladesh in 2024 and now Nepal. Despite the small and big differences in each of these revolutions, the fundamental similarity is inescapable. The people rose because they were simply fed up of being led by the noose, by people they had voted in and who were now treating them like so much cattle.

In Kathmandu things have moved fast. Nepal's former Chief Justice Sushila Karki has been sworn in as the country's interim Prime Minister and Parliament has been dissolved. Still, the power tussle is not over. There are signs that Nepali Army chief Ashok Raj Sigdel—who, because of the aforesaid special India-Nepal tie, was awarded the honorary rank of a “brother general” in the Indian Army by the President of India last December—wants to assert himself and may be leaning in favour of the pro-monarchist politicians. Never forget that for decades when the King of Nepal was on top of the heap,

the erstwhile Royal Nepal Army's first slogan every morning was, “Shri Panch ko sarkar jai jai ho!” The pushback has come from the most unusual of quarters. It is said that the Army chief wanted President Ram Chandra Poudel to resign to pave the way for a Naya Nepal, but Poudel responded, in words to the effect, that “you can shoot me, but I won't stop being a democrat.”



Along with other political leaders like former PMs KP Oli and Sher Bahadur Deuba, Poudel was taken under Army protection for some days, but he has since been returned to Sheetal Niwas, his official home. Then there are the nameless, faceless Gen Z leaders, whose factions may have been squabbling among each other these last few days, but they have held firm on the most important next step: No return to monarchy. And that the Constitution of Nepal, forged in the aftermath of a previous revolution, the jana andolan of 2006, which finally came into being in 2015—cannot be gutted.

Equally significant is what India and China, Nepal's two most important neighbours, are thinking. China hasn't said a word so far. India's Ministry of External Affairs has said it is “closely monitoring” the situation and PM Modi has described the violence that wracked Kathmandu as “heart-wrenching.” Note, though, the silence from any other political outfit in Delhi—they have all been told to keep quiet, which is as it should be. India is playing this hugely important moment in the region very carefully.

Word is, that India will continue to back the progressive, secular and constitutional forces in Nepal, as it has always done in the past. During the 2006 jana andolan as well, India's then Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran—and a columnist with The Tribune—broke from traditional policy to announce that India would support the egalitarian protest that had gone on for 19 long days and nights. That midnight in April 2006, I witnessed the incredible joy on the streets of Kathmandu as India made the right choice. It spelt the end of Nepal's monarchy that had held Nepal and itself together since 1768 when Prithvi Narayan Shah united the warring kingdoms.

Another such moment is upon us today and we must learn several lessons from the past to deal with the present. First, the upheaval in Nepal must remind New Delhi of the importance of being even closer in touch with its neighbours. Second, India's elite foreign service may prefer the watering holes of the West, but there's nothing like the waters of the Bagmati or the Kosi and Mahakali from which to drink deep and imbibe both knowledge and culture. And third, as the largest democracy not just in the region but in the world, India is a role model—Sushila Karki, the interim PM, like many other Nepali politicians before

her, has studied at Banaras Hindu University—and must continue to be seen as such.

Nepal as well as the rest of South Asia must return to being both front and centre of India's attention. It doesn't matter if India is the fourth largest economy in the world and that these far smaller nations are small or smaller than India's provinces. The simple truth is that India must return to the “all boats must rise” maxim and connect with these sovereign nations as equals, who have much to give as well as to get. There is a fourth reason. India's political class has also forgotten South Asia. There was a time when people like former PM Chandra Shekhar, Congress leaders like DP Tripathi and Left leaders like Sitaram Yechury and Prakash Karat together put their weight behind the democratic polity in Nepal. Today's politicians, though, would rather look elsewhere. Fortunately, the India-Nepal glue is so tight that the relationship is still safe. But if the disinterest continues, as it sometimes threatens to do, the danger is that some of the glue may start to come unstuck.

### No law can be above a fair due process

#### One must question the Public Safety Act's relevance when it imparts pre-emptive punishment without the rigour of trial and undermines human rights and democratic ethos

The recent arrest of the Aam Aadmi Party's lone MLA in Jammu and Kashmir under the Public Safety Act (PSA), a preventive detention law that allows authorities to hold individuals without trial for up to two years, after he allegedly used unparliamentary language against an official over a compensation issue, raises the question: should a democracy retain such a sweeping law? In sensitive J&K, the State often asserts its need for extraordinary powers—authority above and beyond routine legal processes—to tackle terrorism supported from across the border. However, the draconian PSA—enacted in 1978 to counter timber smuggling—is now invoked not only for national security threats, but also for disturbances to public order.

Preventive detention can appear to be an instrument of political convenience if political or civil society leaders are booked under such laws, apart from terrorists or participants in orchestrated disruptions. The PSA also risks being viewed as an informal justice system; it allows the same individuals to be detained multiple times. Numerous cases have reached the courts in J&K against



the application of this law in situations that are not security threats. The law also helped detain J&K's top political leadership for protesting the abrogation of Article 370. One must question the PSA's relevance when it imparts pre-emptive punishment without the rigour of trial and undermines human rights and democratic ethos. If a sitting

MLA can be detained without bail or trial, citizens are entitled to wonder who decides what constitutes a threat, on what evidence, and under whose oversight.

The governance context adds complexity. Omar Abdullah, the elected chief minister, accused the “unelected government”—the lieutenant governor's administration—of raising the matter of blurred accountability structures. The inference is that, unlike an elected government, the LG administration does not face the people or derive legitimacy from them. Even without the PSA, J&K's security arsenal has enough legal tools to tackle genuine threats. Long detention, under any law, is never the default option. Prosecution through regular courts is a transparent alternative that is available. Importantly, the powers of policing and security should be in the hands of elected leaders, so that political decisions, including the use of extraordinary laws, remain accountable. A confident democracy can easily secure both national security and individual liberty.

## Paper to pixels: Know your candidate digitally

**It's baffling that Indian students require so many printed certificates in this digital age. The use of DigiLocker and blockchain in storing and accessing records securely should be expanded. An easier KYC is the need of the hour**

What is the true meaning of a certificate? I found asking myself the question while reading about some Andhra Pradesh colleges withholding certificates from nursing students and asking them to work for a “service period” of a year in an affiliated hospital before being “released”. A nurse quoted in the story was planning to apply for a job in her home state, Kerala, using the certificate. The coercive clause delayed her life plan.

It's baffling how such a modern form of bonded labour exists, under which apart from paying college fees one has to work for a stipulated period too. No wonder the legal validity of such a contract is facing public interest litigation now.

But I do understand collaterals. The talk of an ‘original certificate’ brought back memories of thick papers signed by calligraphic hands, with stamps of approval that made faking difficult. One carefully saved a ‘provisional’ certificate, followed by its ‘original’. Employers usually returned the original after inspection of copies duly attested by a government officer or an equivalent. But then, there were some nasty employers who held back the originals as collaterals to prevent employees from leaving. Legally, a certification is proof of qualification that the dictionary defines as “action or process of providing someone or something with an official document attesting to a status or level of achievement”. By that yardstick, the Supreme Court has clarified that Aadhaar is sufficient as a certificate of residency to enable a voter identity, but not as a proof of citizenship. The prime minister's postgraduation certificate has been a

subject of legal banter over its verification. All such questions, however, should be buried in the sands of time with new technologies that enable easy, foolproof verification and transmission. We know about the biometrics that go with Aadhaar, whose project leader Nandan Nilekani pointed out that it is a “number, and not a card”. What is often touted as an Aadhaar card is a printout reporting the unique identification number. This essentially means that an Aadhaar number is associated with a person with certifiable features, including a proof of residency. What we are waiting for now is the Aadhaar revolution's equivalent in certificates concerning education, academic credits and experience, and evolve from the current know your customer framework to another KYC—know your candidate. We have the DigiLocker model cutting across educational institutions and domains to stop the exploitation of students and job-seekers and reduce bureaucratic red tape, but progress has been slow. It needs to be adopted the way we have done with land records. As India marks 50 years of the cult classic Sholay, I recall visiting Ramanagara, the film's hilly shooting site that is also a pioneering area for digitisation of farm records. I was taken on the pleasant drive outside Bengaluru by Rajeev Chawla, the IAS officer who led Karnataka's Bhoomi project, which became a case study on e-governance at Princeton University. Chawla showed me how digitisation, once done, meant that a farmer could get a bank loan against a printout directly verifiable with government records, and

bypass corrupt local record-keepers (patwaris) who could harass them. Last year, the Union government reported that 95 percent of India's rural land records have now been digitised—after early struggles by the likes of Chawla, who had to train people, forge technology partnerships and build processes that made it all possible.

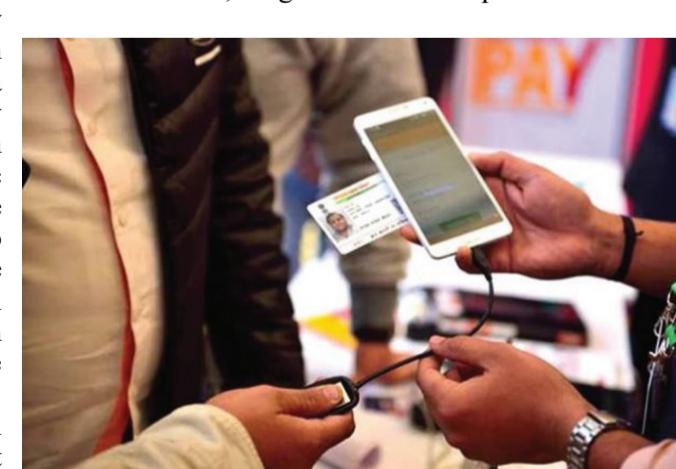
In certification, DigiLocker holds promise as a

data stored by the issuer in the DigiLocker system. People like the harassed nursing student in Andhra Pradesh should embrace this, and the government needs to loudly advertise it.

Under India's IT laws, universities must accept documents from DigiLocker National Academic Depository (NAD) as legally valid alternatives to physical copies. However, they are not mandatorily bound to join the system—and that is a loophole impeding faster adoption.

The government has been setting deadlines for institutions to join the NAD, and the University Grants Commission has also been stepping up pressure on affiliated bodies. The DigiLocker scheme was launched in 2015 and the NAD in 2017. Evidently, the pace of progress has not matched that of Aadhaar usage. Both state-level universities and private institutions need to be pressured to embrace the NAD.

The arrival of blockchain as a technology to store records in a foolproof way strengthens the system. The NAD already uses blockchain for storing degrees from many accredited institutions. Blockchain stores certificates with unique digital footprints in an immutable, decentralised ledger to prevent forgery at any level. What we could do is not only legally and administratively push private institutions to make the DigiLocker system as ubiquitous as Aadhaar, and add digitally-signed contracts to it. This might save people from falling prey to dubious private contracts that often fail to withstand legal scrutiny.



secure, cloud-based platform allowing citizens to store, access, and share digital copies of their official documents including Aadhaar, driving licences, and educational certificates. This allows real-time document verification, secure sharing with unique document codes, and user-controlled access. The verification works through digitally signed and secure QR codes on documents so that details are authenticated against the signature and

# Kids stuck in traffic for two hours daily in Bengaluru: Parents

Over 25,000 children bear the brunt of bad infrastructure in the Bengaluru East City Corporation that houses a significant number of IT companies.

## Bengaluru (Agency)

Over 1,500 parents in and around Sarjapur, Varthur, Panathur and Bellandur have petitioned the traffic police chief to save their wards from the pain of getting stuck in traffic for two hours every day. This comes after a day after a school bus sank in a ditch near Panathur and 20 students had to be pulled out. The parents have now expressed a grave concern over 15 locations that are infamous for traffic gridlocks and potholes on the stretch.

Over 25,000 children bear the brunt of bad infrastructure in the Bengaluru East City Corporation that houses a significant number of IT companies. Parents said the bad stretch extends from Sarjapur Road to Varthur Road, covering Bellandur, Panathur, Thubarahalli, and Balagere. They complain that their children are stuck in traffic on this road for over two hours every day. Maneka Reddy, whose child is studying at Inventure Academy, approached Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy and requested him to address the issue.



"Our children are stuck in traffic between 2.30 and 4.30 pm every day. School buses are taking a long time to traverse because of potholes, construction vehicles parked on the roadside, vehicles coming from the opposite side and others. The issues were taken up

transport system of each school and bus timings to arrive at a data-driven solution. But the biggest issue remains with the corporation.

"Earlier during the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) administration, officials used to give the lame excuse of monsoon to delay the road work, like asphalting and filling up of potholes. During the non-rainy season, they would delay fixing potholes," said Pavithra Holla, a parent from Balagere-Panathur Road. She hoped that the new corporation would fix the Balagere-Panathur Road from the Railway Under Bridge side.

Recently, Additional Chief Secretary of Urban Development Department Tushar Girinath directed Greater Bengaluru Authority officials and other parastatals to address the pothole issue. The traffic department has identified 4,822 potholes on major roads in the city and asked GBA to fix them.

Karthik Reddy said he will analyse data from each school in the area and stagger school bus timings. This, he hoped, would bring some improvement in traffic in the area. He also urged GBA to fix potholes.

with the joint commissioner of police (traffic) and he is aiming to ease the situation," she said.

Residents pin hopes on new corp to fix road. The parents have found 15 junctions that are causing delays for one reason or the other. Traffic police have surveyed the potholes, the

## Man, daughter killed as lorry crushes auto near Sumanahalli Junction in Bengaluru

### Bengaluru (Agency)

In a horrific accident, a 45-year-old autorickshaw driver and his 24-year-old daughter were killed on the spot after a speeding lorry ran over several vehicles near Sumanahalli Junction under Kamakshipalya traffic police station limits on Saturday morning. The father-daughter duo was on their way to church. Another biker was injured, while a couple and their minor child travelling in a car narrowly escaped.

The deceased Yesu D and his daughter Mariya Jennifer were residents of Harohalli. According to the police, the duo was heading to church after Jennifer's recent engagement. The lorry, which was coming from an industrial area, lost control owing to suspected brake failure and ploughed into a bike, an autorickshaw, and a car at the junction.

The impact was so severe that the autorickshaw was crushed, killing Yesu and Mariya on the spot. While the car and the bike were completely damaged, the occupants of the car escaped unharmed, and the biker sustained serious injuries.

Kamakshipalya traffic police rushed to the spot, seized the lorry, and registered a case of death due to negligence and rash driving against the driver, who is absconding.

## NIA chargesheets 3 in Amritsar temple grenade attack case

### Chandigarh (Agency)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday filed a chargesheet against three people implicated in the grenade attack on Thakurdwara Sanatan Temple in Chheharta, Amritsar, on March 15, marking a significant step in unravelling a terror conspiracy aimed at disrupting communal harmony in Punjab.

The chargesheet, presented before the special NIA court in Mohali, Punjab, names Vishal Gill alias Chuchi, Bhagwant Singh alias Manna Bhatti, and Diwan Singh alias Sunny for their alleged roles in the attack's planning and execution.

Vishal Gill, one of two bike-borne assailants who hurled the grenade in the early hours of March 15, was charged for his direct involvement. The second assailant, Gursidak Singh alias Sidki, was killed in a police encounter two days later.

Bhagwant Singh is accused of providing critical

logistical support, including shelter, grenades, and motorcycles for reconnaissance, while Diwan Singh faces charges for harboring co-accused individuals and destroying evidence.

The NIA's investigation into the case has revealed a broader conspiracy involving terror operatives in India and abroad. The agency stated that it has uncovered the transfer of terror funds through UPI and MTSS channels, with ongoing investigations to trace these financial networks. On September 5, 2025, another key accused, Sharanjeet Kumar, was arrested in Gaya, Bihar, while investigations continue against Kumar and the absconding foreign-based operative Badalpreet Singh.

The attack, part of an alleged plot to instil fear and incite communal disharmony, has prompted the NIA to intensify efforts to identify other absconders and dismantle the terror module's international linkages. The agency said it remains committed to ensuring justice and preventing further threats to national security.



## Moving away from traditional crops, Hisar farmer transitions to horticulture profits

### Parbhuhwala (hisar) (Agency)

A farmer from Parbhuhwala village in Haryana's Hisar, in 2024, earned Rs 25 lakh from just bell peppers cultivated in one out of four acres of net house farming. The remaining three acres had a mix of other vegetables and fruits.

Encouraged by this success, "This year, I have planted bell peppers across all four acres, which will be sold in Delhi's Azadpur market just like previous years," says Shiv Shankar Khowal (49).

His journey with cultivating fruits — which then later transitioned to English vegetables — started in 2005, prior to which he cultivated traditional crops including paddy and cotton. Since then, he has continued expanding the area under fruits and

vegetables. Khowal, in 2005, began cultivating guava (amrud) on two acres of land, which earned him an impressive profit of Rs 2.5 lakh per acre. In the later years, he expanded guava cultivation to four acres. However, three years ago, he stopped cultivating guava altogether. He transitioned to other fruits, finding them more profitable than guava. Through time he expanded his horticulture ventures to 21 acres. Currently, his 21-acre fruit farm includes kinnow, lemon, jujube, sweet lime and date palm, all supported by drip irrigation. In 2020, Khowal purchased an additional five acres of land, with him owning 25 acres of land in total now, and significantly improved his financial condition.

A shocking early-morning accident two weeks ago, which claimed the lives of three members of a family who were returning home after seeing off a relative at Kochi airport, has served to further highlight the increased risk posed by driving at night.

The tragedy has also given rise to increased demands for deploying night services to airports using luxury sleeper buses being acquired by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), as previously promised by Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar. "Currently, there is no connectivity to airports and back at night or early morning, when most of the international flights operate. Deploying luxury semi-sleeper buses will greatly benefit travellers from central and north Kerala.

The services will also attract commuters as people are willing to pay more for comfort and convenience. Look at the case of Kochi Metro's feeder buses operating to the airport during the day," said Ramesh Mathew, a frequent flyer who largely depends on public transport system for first- and last-mile connectivity. In an interview to , the minister promised AC semi-sleeper night services to airports. "KSRTC will operate AC sleeper buses with sufficient luggage space for the benefit of passengers on red-night flights.

The buses won't have scheduled services and will leave only after flights arrive," he said last November, when KSRTC initiated the process of introducing luxury buses as part of fleet modernisation. Manufacturers have started handing



over the vehicles, including Volvo 9600s, premium AC coaches and sleeper buses. Ganesh Kumar also talked about placing orders for 30 buses, with services from Kochi airport to Malabar and Central Travancore regions.



over the vehicles, including Volvo 9600s, premium AC coaches and sleeper buses. Ganesh Kumar also talked about placing orders for 30 buses, with services from Kochi airport to Malabar and Central Travancore regions.

## The namesakes: How 6 X-ray technicians named 'Arpit Singh' went undetected in UP hospitals for nine years

### Lucknow (Agency)

In the list of 403 successful candidates put out by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission in 2016, according to a state health department official, the 80th name read: Arpit Singh, son of Anil Kumar Singh.

The only Arpit Singh in the list that year, the Agra resident was posted as an X-ray technician at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Hathras on a monthly salary of around Rs 35,000.

Nine years on, in August this year, the curious case of six more X-ray technicians with the same name, the same father's name and the same recruitment year working in six district hospitals and health centres started doing the rounds.

Accused by the health department of using forged documents to secure these postings in Shamli, Banda, Amroha, Balrampur, Farrukhabad and Rampur, all six accused are on the run since the fraud allegedly came to light recently. While the health department claims it became aware of these six fraudulent appointments following media reports, sources said the discrepancies were reportedly discovered during a scrutiny of the Manav Sampada portal, the state's online platform for maintaining personnel and service records, nearly a week ago. Following this discovery, the department allegedly sought

reports from the districts where the seven 'Arpit Singhs' were posted. A scrutiny of their documents by senior officials revealed that six of them had reportedly secured their appointments using fraudulent means.

Even as a departmental inquiry is being conducted to "fix responsibility", Dr Ranjana Khare, Director (Paramedical), Medical and Health Services, has filed a complaint at Lucknow's Wazirganj police



station. Accusing the six men of causing financial loss to the state exchequer, her complaint states that while one of the accused had listed a Mainpuri address on his Aadhaar card, the five others had mentioned Agra addresses.

According to Rajesh Kumar Tripathi, Station House Officer, Wazirganj police station, teams will be sent to the districts concerned to collect evidence soon.

## PM to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 36,000 Cr. in Bihar

### The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 14th September: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will visit Bihar on 15th September, 2025 to dedicate and inaugurate a wide range of development projects worth around Rs 36,000 crore, giving a major boost to infrastructure and connectivity in the state. A major focus of the visit will be on the railway projects, which will mark a historic step in strengthening Bihar's transport network. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the Araria-Galgali (Thakurganj) New Railway Line, fulfilling a long-pending demand for direct connectivity between Araria and Kishanganj districts. The project is a landmark initiative executed by N.F. Railway on behalf of Indian Railways, with expenditure of over Rs 4,410 crore. Covering nearly 111 km and comprising several major & minor bridges and 15 stations, this project after inauguration will provide a vital boost to passenger and freight connectivity in the Seemanchal region. It will also open up enhanced cross-border trade opportunities with Nepal, thereby

contributing to the socio-economic development of Bihar. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the Bikramshila-Katareah Rail Line project, worth over Rs 2,170 crore, which will provide a new rail link across the river Ganga. Alongside these projects, the Prime Minister will flag off four new train services that will open up new avenues of connectivity and convenience. The regular services of these trains include train No. 15701 (Katihar-Siliguri) Express via the Araria-Galgali New Line, that will depart from Katihar daily at 05:00 hrs from 17-09-2025 to reach Siliguri at 10:15 hrs, same day. Similarly, train No. 26301 (Jogbani-Danapur) Vande Bharat Express will depart from Jogbani from 18-09-2025, daily (except Wednesday) at 3:25 hrs to reach Danapur at 11:30 hrs same day. Two Amrit

Bharat Express trains - one between Jogbani -

will lay foundation stone of 3x800 MW thermal power project at Pirpainti, Bhagalpur. The new project will be Bihar's largest private sector investment worth Rs 25,000 crore. It is designed on ultra-super critical, low-emission technology. The project will provide dedicated power and strengthen Bihar's energy security. He will also inaugurate Interim Terminal Building at New Civil Enclave at Purnea Airport, providing improved aviation facilities for North Bihar. He will also launch the National Makhan Board, recognising Bihar's prominence in makhan cultivation and its potential to benefit farmers. The Prime Minister's visit thus reflects the Government's strong commitment to driving faster development in Bihar, with a special emphasis on connectivity, rural empowerment, and agriculture. The inauguration and foundation stone laying of these ambitious projects will mark a new chapter in the state's growth story, ensuring benefits for people across diverse sectors.

## From taunts to triumph: Pakhowal woman leads zero-budget natural farming with her husband

### Jalandhar (Agency)

To save herself from slipping into depression, Rupinder Kaur and her family in 2017 took back two acres of their land — on lease — which grew only wheat and paddy, in Punjab's Pakhowal village.

Rupinder, with an MA and B.Ed, decided to go ahead with natural farming instead. She planted apple saplings in one acre, and dragon fruit, papaya, and pomegranate on the other.

"Nobody had tried apple or dragon fruit here in our area," she recalls. And she decided to take the challenge owing to the lack of organic fruits in the local market.

And while her husband supported her natural farming, many in her village scoffed. "Why is she experimenting with crops that don't even belong to Punjab?" People taunted, "Why is she

working in the fields despite not having a comfortable life?"

But what began with taunts soon turned into community leadership. Rupinder — with her husband, Major Singh — set up Kulraj Natural Farm.

"In the beginning, some virus attacked our apple crops and we lost the first batch during the initial years. But we didn't give up and slowly found our way. We succeeded and have been growing apples successfully for the past five years."

"Our income is two to three times more than what a farmer earns from wheat-paddy in the entire year," she says, adding that their expenditure is almost zero. "Natural farming is like zero-budget farming, which the Centre had once promoted in its annual budget."



Together, they also formed several women's groups and merged them into the Pakhowal Farm Producer Company, with 300 members as of today. "We want to ensure that farmers, especially women, get better markets and recognition," she says.

## Accidents turn attention to min's vow on KSRTC night services to airports

### Kochi (Agency)

A shocking early-morning accident two weeks ago, which claimed the lives of three members of a family who were returning home after seeing off a relative at Kochi airport, has served to further highlight the increased risk posed by driving at night. The tragedy has also given rise to increased demands for deploying night services to airports using luxury sleeper buses being acquired by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), as previously promised by Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar.

"Currently, there is no connectivity to airports and back at night or early morning, when most of the international flights operate. Deploying luxury semi-sleeper buses will greatly benefit travellers from central and north Kerala.



over the vehicles, including Volvo 9600s, premium AC coaches and sleeper buses. Ganesh Kumar also talked about placing orders for 30 buses, with services from Kochi airport to Malabar and Central Travancore regions.

When contacted, a senior KSRTC official said priority is on deploying the new additions on inter-state routes and to replace revenue-earning take over services.

"We're examining the feasibility of proposed night services. Day services have not been generating the expected revenue as passengers continue to depend on private vehicles/taxis. Airport authorities are also promoting taxi services," the official pointed out. Last Thursday, a man and his two children died after their sport-utility vehicle (SUV) collided head-on with a KSRTC bus in Ochira, Kollam. According to police, the victims were returning home from Kochi airport when the accident happened.

In another incident in the wee hours of last December 15, four members of a family, including a newly-wed couple, lost their lives while on their way from Thiruvananthapuram airport. Their car collided with a bus at Murinjakkal in Pathanamthitta district.

The police initially assessed that both accidents happened as drivers fell asleep at the wheel. "In the first incident, the father, a businessman from Tevalakkara, was driving the vehicle. He drove for over 180km to the airport, waited there for three to four hours before driving back. Often in such cases, drivers are overcome by microsleep — the brief, uncontrollable episodes of sleep lasting a few seconds — induced by fatigue and sleep deprivation. Travelling during wee hours is very dangerous."

# Petition Sought Regular Special Intensive Revision. Poll Body's Response

**►The Election Commission said it has the "complete discretion" over the policy of revision of voter lists**

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Election Commission (EC) has told the Supreme Court that any direction to conduct special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout the country would "encroach" upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the poll panel. In a counter-affidavit filed in the apex court, the EC said it has the "complete discretion" over the policy of revision to the

exclusion of any other authority. It said through its July 5, 2025, letter addressed to all chief electoral officers (CEOs) of states and Union Territories, except Bihar, the commission has directed the initiation of immediate pre-revision activities for SIR of electoral rolls with reference to January 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. The affidavit said the EC is vested with constitutional as well as statutory powers to oversee the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

"Any direction to conduct a 'SIR' at regular intervals throughout the country would encroach upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the ECI," it said. The affidavit was filed on a plea by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who has sought a direction to the EC to conduct SIR of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout India, particularly before elections, to ensure that only Indian citizens



decide the polity and policy of the country. On September 8, the apex court had directed that the Aadhaar card "must" be included as an identity proof of voters in the SIR exercise of electoral rolls in Bihar and asked the EC to implement the direction by September 9.

In its counter affidavit, the poll panel said under Article 324 of the Constitution, the superintendence, direction and control of

the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to parliament and to the legislature of every state are vested in the EC.

"The said constitutional provision forms the bedrock of the Election Commission's plenary authority in all matters relating to the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections," it said. It said Article 324 has been consistently interpreted by the apex court to confer plenary powers upon the EC in relation to the preparation of the electoral roll and conduct of free and fair elections, including in matters where the statutory framework may be silent or insufficient. The affidavit said the enabling provisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provide EC powers to decide whether an intensive or summary revision is appropriate, based on prevailing circumstances.

**Woman Jumps To Death With Mentally-Ill Son, Leaves "Sorry" Note For Husband**

**Agency New Delhi.**

Upset over her son's prolonged mental illness, a 37-year-old woman jumped to death along with her 11-year-old son from their 13th-floor flat in Greater Noida yesterday.

Sakshi Chawla had been living with her husband, Darpan Chawla, and their son, Daksh, at Greater Noida's Ace City. Daksh, a chartered accountant by profession, was at home when the tragic incident took place. He has told police that he was in another room and heard a scream. On reaching the balcony, he saw his wife and son on the ground. Police reached the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them for autopsy. They later recovered a note from the Chawlas' home. In the note addressed to her husband, Sakshi Chawla wrote, "We are leaving this world... Sorry. We do not want to trouble you anymore. Your life should not be ruined because of us. No one is responsible for our death." Police officers have said the tragedy had shaken neighbours. While they suspect that mental stress drove the woman to the edge, a detailed investigation is on.

Shakti Avasthy, Deputy Commissioner of Police for central Noida, said, "A police team found a suicide note and learnt that the son was unwell for some time. We are taking necessary steps," he said.

**Most reservoirs become ineffective due to sedimentation, says study**

**Agency New Delhi.**

Most of the dams in the country are facing severe siltation, which reduces their effectiveness in flood control and water storage, a new study by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) has said, highlighting that Himalayan and Indo-Gangetic plain rivers are classified as highly vulnerable and require immediate attention.

The study analysed data from the Central Water Commission's recent report, 'Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India', and found that a majority of the dams have lost over 50% of their total reservoir capacity.

"By 2050, 10 reservoirs in east-flowing rivers and 7 in west-flowing rivers are projected to surpass 50% storage capacity loss, posing a severe threat to water security," said the study, 'Sedimentation-induced vulnerabilities of large reservoirs in India', published in the journal 'Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment'.

Researchers Uma Madhuri Mogili and Somil Swarnkar from the IISER, Bhopal looked at nearly 370 large reservoirs—capacity of over 100 million cubic metres—in seven regions, including the Himalayan and Indo-Gangetic plains.

Most of the analysed reservoirs were found to have become operational between 1939 and 1991. East-flowing rivers beyond Godavari, having nearly 160 reservoirs, are a critical zone in meeting south India's agricultural and industrial water needs, the researchers added. However, west-flowing rivers up to the Narmada were noted to have fewer, but larger reservoirs.

According to the research, several reservoirs in the Himalayan and Indo-Gangetic plains rivers are classified as high or very high vulnerability, requiring immediate attention and management interventions. "The limited number of reservoirs on rivers in the Himalayan region and Indo-Gangetic plains highlight terrain-related challenges in mountains in the former and a heavy reliance on natural river flows in the latter," the study said.

## NIA arrests banned PFI's Bihar unit chief in 2022 terror conspiracy case

**Agency New Delhi.**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested Mahboob Alam, the Bihar unit president of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) in connection with the 2022 Phulwarisharif terror conspiracy case.

Alam, a resident of Katihar district, was caught from Kishanganj. He is the 19th accused to be arrested and charged in the case, which was initially registered by the local police against 26 people.

The case involved PFI associates allegedly involved in unlawful and anti-national activities aimed at creating an atmosphere of terror by spreading religious enmity between

members of different religions and groups. The case is related to activities prejudicial to peace and

the people through the promotion of the PFI ideology, which seeks to establish the rule of Islam in India as

envisioned in the outfit's seized vision document titled "India 2047 Towards Rule of Islam in India, International Document: Not for circulation".

The accused was found to be part of the PFI conspiracy as stated in the said document, seized from Ahmad Palace, Phulwarisharif, Patna on July 11, 2022. Along with co-accused persons, he

was engaged in recruitment, training, meetings and anti-national activities of PFI, as per the NIA investigations. He had also raised funds and provided the same to the co-accused persons and PFI cadres.



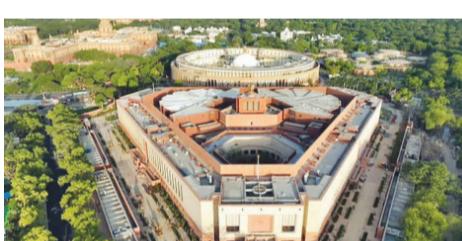
harmony, and intended to disrupt public tranquility and cause disaffection against India, justifying the use of criminal force.

According to the NIA, the PFI members had indulged in spreading fear among

## Opposition including Congress may boycott JPC on bill to sack tainted PM, Cms

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Opposition parties including Congress are likely to boycott the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that will scrutinize the three bills on the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for 30 days, according to sources. The government is yet to constitute the 31-member JPC to which the Lok Sabha referred the three bills during the recently concluded Monsoon session of Parliament. The Congress, principal opposition party in the INDIA bloc, after dilly-dallying on its decision to nominate members for the committee, decided to join forces with key allies Trinamool Congress (TMC), Samajwadi Party (TMC),



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and Shiv Sena (UBT), which have already announced their decision not to join the panel, said sources.

The committee has been mandated to submit its report in the winter session, which is likely to be convened in the third week of November. Reliable sources told that the Congress decided to jump on the bandwagon for the sake of Opposition unity ahead of

the Bihar election and to keep up the momentum that was built on the issue of 'Vote theft' during the Monsoon session. Earlier, the Congress, DMK, and CPI (M) were of the strong view that the Opposition should nominate members to the JPC and oppose the bill, which is deemed unconstitutional and undermines the country's federal structure. According to sources, Congress, DMK, and CPI were of the view that the TMC, which first made the announcement not to join the panel, took the decision without consulting with other parties.

"Though the TMC wanted the opposition to boycott the JPC, there was a dominant view that the government would bulldoze the bill without any dissenting voices.

## EC should have ordered probe instead of 'shouting' at Rahul Gandhi: Ex-CEC Quraishi on 'vote theft' charges

**The former election commissioner slammed EC for its handling of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, saying it has 'opened a pandora's box' and 'put its hand in a hornet's nest' that will backfire.**

**Agency New Delhi.**

Coming down hard on the Election Commission for its response on "vote theft" allegations, former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi on Sunday said the poll body should have ordered a probe into Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's charges instead of "shouting" at him in a language that was "objectionable and offensive".

In an interview with PTI, Quraishi said much of the terms used by Gandhi while making the allegations such as likening them to a "hydrogen bomb" were "political rhetoric" but asserted that the complaints which he was raising need to be investigated in detail. The former chief election commissioner slammed the Election Commission (EC) over the manner in which it carried out the Special Intensive Revision of electoral

rolls in Bihar, and said it is not only "opening a pandora's box" but the poll body has put its hand in the "hornet's nest" which will hurt it.

"You know when I hear any criticism of the EC, I feel very concerned and very hurt not only as a citizen of India but also because having been the CEC myself, I have also laid a brick or two in that institution," he told PTI ahead of the launch of his new book 'Democracy's Heartland' published by Juggernaut Books. "When I see that institution under attack or weakened in any way I feel concerned and the EC itself has to do introspection and has to feel concerned. It is up to them to stand up to all the forces and the pressures that may be influencing their decisions," said Quraishi, who was the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) between 2010 and

2012.

"They have to win the confidence of the people - you need the confidence of the opposition parties. For me, I always gave preference to the opposition parties because they are the underdogs," he said. Quraishi opined that the party in power doesn't need as much pampering as the opposition does because the latter is out of power. "So the instruction generally to my staff (when I was the CEC) was to throw the doors open, if they (opposition) want an appointment, give them immediately, listen to them, talk to them, if they want some small favour, do it if it is not at the cost of somebody else," he said. Here the opposition has to go to the Supreme Court every now and then and in fact, 23 parties have had to say they are not getting an appointment and nobody is listening to them.

Quraishi argued that the EC should have called for a probe into Gandhi's allegations instead of asking him to submit an affidavit. "Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of Opposition (LoP) after all, don't shout at him the way the EC did. I think it is not like the EC that we have known. He is after all the LoP, he is not a man on the street."



## NEWS BOX

**World Athletics Championship, Day 2: Men's 100m takes centre stage, India's Gulveer in action**

**GWANGJU (Agency)**

India's specialist T20I pacer Arshdeep Singh's exclusion from the playing XI has left Ravichandran Ashwin fuming ahead of the India vs Pakistan match in the Asia Cup. Previewing the game on his YouTube channel, Ashwin made a sharp quip about the bowlers, stating that Arshdeep's exclusion from the side should infuriate the bowling community.

The Indian T20I team, under the coaching of Gautam Gambhir, has shown an affinity towards one extra batter, who can roll their arm over if needed. This has meant that India play with both Hardik Pandya and Shrivam Dube in the playing XI, with only one specialist pacer operating in the line-up.s, and we tend to give a lot of importance to how we prepare ourselves, how we plan and how we are going to execute it. Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati. With Jasprit Bumrah returning to the T20I fray, Arshdeep sat out India's Asia



Cup 2025 opener against UAE. He is likely to miss out on the Pakistan match as well. The exclusion has not sat right with Ashwin, who recently called time on his international and Indian Premier League career.

"Arshdeep has to come into the playing XI. In my view, if you can lock Shubman Gill as opener, Suryakumar Yadav at No. 4 and Jasprit Bumrah at No. 11, then why can't someone who has been your best T20 bowler be locked? These rules for batters and bowlers have always been an issue in my head," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "These decisions pertaining to bowlers are sometimes taken by batters. These batters have never bowled a ball in their entire life. Bowlers are doing that forever. It is hard for the batters to understand the mindset of the bowlers. Think about the confidence in the bowlers. If you are consistently parking him out of the side because you want a No. 8, then think what he would go through. He is in a purple patch and bowling well."

**With hurdles removed, McLaughlin-Levrone tackles new race and maybe even a 40-year-old record**

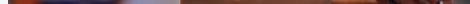
**HONG KONG (Agency)**

TOKYO: On the hallowed list of world records in track and field, most marks are, indeed, made to be broken. Others are perched there, seemingly set in stone, beckoning all comers to dream of knocking off a Usain Bolt or Florence Griffith-Joyner and becoming one of those instantly recognizable names themselves. Then there is this one: The women's 400 meters. Marita Koch, East Germany, 47.60 seconds. Oct. 6, 1985. As the 40th anniversary of that Communist-era record nears, the tantalizing prospect of it being broken rests in the talents of Sydney



McLaughlin-Levrone, a once-in-a-lifetime talent with a penchant for breaking new barriers every time she steps on the track for a high-stakes run. The four-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time world record breaker in the 400 hurdles is moving into the 400 flat for this year's world championships. "Over the past few years, the performances we've put on have created an appetite for records whenever I step on the track, which, to a degree, I guess is fair," she said. "But at the same time, those come when they come. It takes time. A lot of learning of the event."

A long-held record with roots in the Eastern Bloc. The history of Koch's record is well-documented. East Germany, as the world now knows, ran a sophisticated steroids program for its female athletes during the 1970s and '80s. Koch's record stays on the books because the drugs she was suspected of taking weren't detectable at the time.



**The World Athletics Championships is set for its showpiece event – the men's 100m final. The top names of the current generation are participating, and it is expected to be a riveting encounter.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The second day of the World Athletics Championships brings out exciting action on Sunday, September 14. If you're not interested in watching the India-Pakistan match in the aftermath of cross-border tensions, don't worry — you can watch some of the top Indian athletes at the World Championships instead.

# India vs Pakistan: A cricketing mismatch, but one Asia Cup number could shock us all

**India might dominate on the field, Pakistan might struggle to keep up, but in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, the real uncertainty of this Asia Cup isn't the scoreline. It could be the numbers off the screens—how many actually tune in to watch the rivalry unfold.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Cricket is a game of glorious uncertainties. But when it comes to India vs Pakistan, there is one certainty: people watch. They watch in droves, in numbers that dwarf every other sporting spectacle in this part of the world. Yet, as Asia Cup 2025 looms in Dubai, a strange paradox is at play. The cricketing contest feels increasingly one-sided, the rivalry dulled by class imbalance between the two teams, and yet, the debate isn't about whether India will win. It's about whether people will watch in the same dizzying

numbers — because, for the first time in years, the off-field context may tip the scales. Gone are the days when the on-field battle alone pulled in the crowds. Imran Khan vs Kapil Dev, Wasim Akram vs Sachin Tendulkar, Waqar Younis vs Sourav Ganguly, and even Misbah-ul-Haq vs MS Dhoni made people skip work, cancel meetings, and postpone family outings — all just to be glued to their television screens. Today, Pakistan have unfortunately fallen to newer lows. The gap is glaring, even in T20Is: while India rolls out a conveyor belt of batting stars and deep bowling options, Pakistan are still riding bullock carts in an era of Lamborghinis. Fragile batting, revolving-door captaincy, and shallow bench strength have all reduced the clash to a mismatch. Look at the lead-up to Sunday's game: can you spot even one preview that gives Pakistan a chance-let alone an edge? Suryakumar Yadav's India are playing a brand of T20 cricket Pakistan can only aspire to, but are far from reaching it right now. The drama is still there, but increasingly it's manufactured by the hype, not the cricket. Fans tune in

expecting fireworks, but often get a familiar script: India cruising, Pakistan stumbling. The numbers soar, even if the competition doesn't.

## GRIEF MEETS GAME

This time, though, the backdrop is heavier than



usual. The Pahalgam terror attack in April that left 26 dead, followed by Operation Sindoor with which India retaliated by targeting terror camps in Pakistan, has reignited questions about why India should play Pakistan at all. Voices are loud. Social

media is on fire. Former cricketers, political figures, and cricket administrators are weighing in. Hashtags like #BoycottAsiaCup, #BoycottBCCI, and #BoycottINDvsPAK are trending, reflecting widespread outrage. The official broadcaster

hasn't caught a break either. Every promo-no exceptions-has been panned as tone-deaf.

The official broadcaster hasn't caught a break either. Every promotional clip has been panned as tone-deaf. Even Suryakumar Yadav got caught in the crossfire. He merely did what any captain would do, a routine handshake, yet somehow it became newsworthy amid the outrage over India playing Pakistan. On one side, some are calling for a boycott. On the other, a few are trying to make sense of the situation more pragmatically.

Legendary Sunil Gavaskar, speaking to India Today, stressed that players are following orders from higher up—that the decision to play has been taken by the government and board, not by the players, in consideration of obligations tied to multilateral tournaments.

## Birthday battle for Suryakumar Yadav: Can India skipper rise against Pakistan

**DUBAI. (Agency)**

India captain Suryakumar Yadav will have a lot riding on his shoulders as he leads his men against arch-rivals Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2025 on Sunday, September 14, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai. The fixture is taking place under controversial circumstances, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) facing a nationwide backlash for agreeing to play with the arch-rivals in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The widespread protests are only going to add to the pressure on the India skipper, who will be playing his first match against Pakistan as captain. In cricket-crazy India, defeats against most teams are grudgingly accepted, but a loss to Pakistan is rarely forgiven. As a result, Suryakumar will be under immense scrutiny during the blockbuster clash, with both his on-field decisions and runs from his willow expected to be dissected closely, as has been the case with every India captain facing Pakistan. Heading into the fixture, his record against the rivals also doesn't paint a promising picture as the India T20I captain is yet to cross the 20-run mark against Pakistan. While India's own Mr

## Asia Cup 2025: Pakistan flips through India's spin playbook ahead of Dubai clash

**Asia Cup 2025: Pakistan appear to be following India's spin-heavy blueprint, with both teams' star spinners set to play a key role in what promises to be a high-stakes, spin-dominated encounter.**

**Dubai. (Agency)**

Pakistan appear to be following India's spin-heavy blueprint ahead of their Asia Cup 2025 group-stage clash in Dubai on Saturday, September 13. Under head coach Mike Hesson, they have revamped their bowling attack to mirror India's successful strategy in the UAE and now appear to be aiming to exploit slow, turning wickets and test their historic rivals. Both teams have started their campaigns with a win each, and with a win almost guaranteeing a Super 4 spot, the stakes are sky-high.

Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, and Axar Patel form the core of India's spin

attack. Kuldeep, a key figure in India's recent white-ball triumphs, including the T20 World Cup 2024 and the Champions Trophy, has 73 wickets in 41 games at an economy rate of 6.72. Varun, whose IPL resurgence earned him a national

taking this path, one only needs to look across the border. India's spin trio has become a weapon of choice in crunch tournaments, blending variety with control to dominate in the middle overs.

### PAKISTAN'S SPIN HEAVY APPROACH

#### MIRRORS INDIA

Since Hesson took charge in May 2025, Pakistan shifted from a pace-heavy attack of Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, and Naseem Shah to a spin-centric setup, closely mirroring India's blueprint. Recent results suggest progress — wins over Bangladesh, West Indies, and a three-series triumph against Afghanistan and the UAE.

Spin has become central. Saim Ayub has bowled 34 overs in 15 matches for 10 wickets at 6.73, Abrar Ahmad with 25.4 overs in seven games, and Mohammad Nawaz bowling 35.4 overs in 12 matches for 21 wickets, since Hesson took charge. Pakistan now fields a left-arm wrist-spinner in Sufiyan Muqeem akin to Kuldeep, a mystery-spinner in Abrar like Varun, and a dependable all-rounder in Nawaz similar to Axar.



comeback, was part of the Champions Trophy-winning side, taking 34 wickets in 19 games at an average of 6.87. Axar, a reliable all-rounder, adds balance and flexibility, with 72 wickets in 72 T20Is at 7.2 runs per over. Their experience and proven record make them one of the most feared spin combinations in white-ball cricket. To understand why Pakistan are

## Cancel it No. Pakistan needs cricket beatings from India



of India's superior firepower — Brahm Bumrah, Rafale Rohit, INS Virat, India's weapons of mass humiliation.

STORIES YOU MAY LIKE Stay updated on

Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. The laws of probability suggest it will be another snoozefest with Pakistan detonating at the end like those terror hubs at Muridke. Miracles, of course, happen, but only when India has a rare bad day. So, why bother with this cricket edition of Operation Sindoor, where the pitch could turn crimson again with Pakistan's tears?

### Indus Water Treaty Therapy

Forget riparian disputes, the real water crisis solver is on the field.

Every time India piles on 300, Pakistani rivers swell with collective sobs — the Ravi, the Chenab, they all get a tear-top-up.

360 has good numbers to show against every top side, his five innings against Pakistan have only yielded 64 runs at an average of 12.80 with a highest score of 18. In addition, Suryakumar's recent form has also seen a massive dip ever since he was appointed India's full-time T20I captain in July 2024.

### Is Suryakumar feeling the heat of captaincy?

After being given the responsibility of leading the side ahead of the Sri Lanka tour in 2024, he has scored 265 runs from 15 innings at an average of 18.92 with just two half-centuries to show for himself. While his record as captain has been unblemished so far, as India are yet to lose a series under Suryakumar's leadership, his diminishing returns with the bat are a major concern heading into next year's T20 World Cup.

## World Athletics Championship, Day 2: Men's 100m takes centre stage, India's Gulveer in action



It's going to be an exciting day in Tokyo, with the fastest sprinters in the world taking on each other in the showpiece 100m event. The 100m sprint, which has seen dramatic results in the last one and a half years, will once again brace for a photo finish. If the Paris Olympics 2024 and the Diamond League Final 2025 are

anything to go by, there won't be much separating the top five runners in the world.

Indian Athletes to Watch Today at the World Championships: While the 100m final is the last event of the day, the evening session will keep you engaged with India's Sarvesh Anil Kushare and Gulveer Singh, both participating in their

individual events. Sarvesh Kushare will compete in the men's high jump qualification, which starts at 3:10 PM IST. He recently won the Inter-State Championships with a best jump of 2.24m. He'll hope to better his personal best, which is just 0.03m higher than his winning jump in India. Gulveer Singh, on the other hand, is India's fastest runner in the 3000m, 5000m, and 10,000m categories. On Sunday, he runs in the final of the men's 10k event. Ranked 28th in the world, a podium finish is unlikely, but he'll aim to better his personal best in Tokyo today. When to Watch Indian Athletes? Sarvesh Kushare: 3:10 PM IST Gulveer Singh: 6:00 PM IST

The live stream of the World Athletics Championships is available on JioHotstar. World Athletics Championships: Events Today Sunday started with a dramatic final in the women's marathon. Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir beat Ethiopia's Tigist Assefa by just 0.02 seconds to win the event.

## Market Outlook: Fed Rate Decision, Trade Talks, FII Flows Likely To Drive Sensex, Nifty Next Week

### NEW DELHI.(Agency)

The coming week is expected to be crucial for Indian stock markets as investors look ahead to key global and domestic developments. The US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, progress on India's trade deals with the US and the EU, and the trend of foreign institutional investors (FIIs) will likely set the tone for market movements.

Market experts believe that the US Fed may cut interest rates by 25 basis points in its upcoming meeting. A deeper cut of 50 basis points, however, would be a surprise and could boost sentiment in global markets, including India. Updates on India's trade negotiations will also be closely tracked. Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that discussions on an India-US trade deal are ongoing and that the first phase could be finalised by November. He also noted that talks on the India-EU trade deal are at an advanced stage. FII activity will be another key driver for the markets. Out of the last five trading sessions, FIIs were net buyers in two, with inflows worth Rs 129.58 crore on Friday alone. This indicates that the FII trend is slowly turning positive. The previous week was strong for Indian equities. The Nifty gained 373 points, or 1.51 per cent, to close at 25,114, while the Sensex climbed 1,193.94 points, or 1.48 per cent, to end at 81,904.70. Looking ahead, experts maintain a positive stance on equities. They suggest focusing on domestic cyclicals such as autos, metals, and consumer discretionary, while keeping a balance with defensives like select FMCG and pharma stocks. On the technical front, analysts at Religare Broking said the Nifty has tested its previous swing high near 25,150. "While some consolidation cannot be ruled out, the outlook remains positive with the next upside target seen in the 25,250-25,500 range," Ajit Mishra said.

## ITR Filing 2025: Has ITR Filing Deadline Extended? Here's The Update

### New Delhi.(Agency)

With the ITR deadline just around the corner, taxpayers across the country are in a last-minute rush to file their returns. The Income Tax Department has revealed that over six crore ITRs for Assessment Year 2025-26 have already been filed, and the numbers continue to climb. With September 15 set as the final day to submit returns without penalty and no extension announced, taxpayers have just one day left to complete the process.

The Income Tax Department shared this update on Saturday through its official account on X (formerly Twitter). As the ITR deadline for 2025 draws closer, the Income Tax Department has urged taxpayers not to wait until the last moment. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the department thanked taxpayers and professionals for helping cross the milestone of 6 crore ITRs filed so far. It also reminded those who haven't filed yet to complete the process right away to avoid penalties.

Get 24x7 Support for ITR Filing

To make e-filing easier, the Income Tax Department offers a dedicated 24x7 helpdesk. Taxpayers can get assistance for ITR filing, tax audit report deadlines, payments, and other related queries through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions, and social media platforms. (Also Read: GST Reforms For MSMEs To Fuel Growth And Employment Across India)

Relief for Taxpayers

In a major relief for taxpayers across India, the Income Tax Department has extended the ITR filing deadline this year from July 31 to September 15. This extension applies to Income Tax Returns for Assessment Year 2025-26, covering income earned during the financial year 2024-25.

## On Govt table: How to help exporters not lose market share due to 50% US tariff

### New Delhi.(Agency)

TO PREVENT loss of market share following the high 50% US tariffs, the government is ready to extend a series of mitigating measures such as subsidised interest rates, collateral-free loans and credit guarantee, to labour-intensive exporters. Exporters also want government support in facilitating access to big domestic buyers — both public like the Railways, and private like Reliance Retail and Aditya Birla Group.

In the first half of this year, and just weeks before the 25% reciprocal US tariffs kicked-in on August 7, India managed a 12% growth in shipments of textiles and apparels to the US. This was, however, far lower than the export growth clocked by competitors Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia. With the additional 25% secondary tariffs for Russian oil purchases becoming effective August 27, there is little doubt the comparative advantage has reversed sharply for India, impacting shipments of leather and shrimps, apart from textiles and apparel. In New Delhi, policy makers had multiple rounds of deliberations with affected exporters, and a constant refrain in these meetings is: Shore up market share, whatever it takes... Losing market share will make it really difficult to recover it back as and when the tariff situation normalises. The message has been distilled down by government officials, who have tried to impress this upon exporters in their meetings. This exhortation, of course, has been alongside an assurance that the government is formulating a broad-based plan to mitigate, at least in part, the loss of competitiveness of exporters. This assertion is borne out of the implicit calculation within sections of the Central government that the 25 per cent secondary tariffs on account of Russian oil imports would be drawn down at some point, sooner than later.

## Centre notifies new rules for UPS: What are they; check details here

### Unified Pension Scheme, or UPS, guarantees a minimum pension for the employees of the Central government. It was approved by the Centre on August 24 last year and rolled out from April 1 this year. However, it has triggered less than lukewarm response among the intended beneficiaries so far.

### Kolkata. (Agency)

The Unified Pension Scheme, or UPS, guarantees a minimum pension for the employees of the Central government. It also guaranteed a monthly pension that is half of the last drawn salary of an employee. The government thought that it would attract a large number of its

employees but was surprised to find only a handful responding to the new scheme. Central government employees under the NPS will now get one-time option for inclusion under the UPS and a one-time, One-way switch from UPS to NPS. That was one of the reasons that motivated the notification. UPS is an alternative to the National Pension System which has been in operation for the past several years. Apart from having the provision of assured pension, it is indexed to the inflation, is predictable and benefits continue for the survivors of the employee after his/her death.

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has notified in the official Gazette on the Central Civil Services (Implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme under the National Pension System) Rules, 2025 for regulating the service matters relating to benefits under the Unified Pension Scheme in respect of Central Government employees opting for UPS as an option under the NPS," the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and

Pensions said in a statement on September 4.

What does the rules encompass? The Ministry said that the Central Civil Services (Implementation of the Unified



Pension Scheme under the National Pension System) Rules, 2025 will cover: Enrolment under Unified Pension Scheme Switch facility from UPS to NPS one year before the date of retirement or three months before the VRSC contributions by the employee and the

government Compensation to be paid to the government servant in case of delay in registration and credit of contributions to the NPS Account Option for benefits under the CCS (Pension) Rules or UPS regulations in the event of death or disability of Government servant during service Benefits payable on retirement on superannuation, premature retirement, voluntary retirement, absorption in autonomous body or PSU, retirement on invalidation and resignation from service

Effect of compulsory retirement/dismissal/removal from service Effect of departmental/judicial proceedings pending at the time of retirement. Employee association representatives were glad at the declaration. Manjeet Singh Patel, president of All India NPS Employees Federation was quoted by the media as saying the provision of retirement after completion of 20 years of regular services in place of 25 years, will be greatly beneficial for employees.

## Centre directs pharma firms to revise MRPs after GST rate cut on drugs, medical devices

### New Delhi.(Agency)

For many Indians, property is not just a home but also an investment. While real estate can bring long-term wealth, it also comes with a range of tax benefits that are often overlooked.

With the right planning, investors can save up to Rs 2 lakh or even more each year. Experts say the key is knowing what deductions are available and making sure you don't miss them. THE MISSED DEDUCTIONS

Many property owners forget some of the most valuable tax breaks. Jetaish Gupta, Founder and Director of Adore Group, points out, "Lots of people miss out on deductions like pre-construction interest, which you can claim after you get the keys. Stamp duty and registration fees can also be claimed under Section 80C in the year you pay them. A lot of investors also don't fully implement. Bernstein's research highlights that the merging of the 12% slab into 5% alone could wipe out ₹79,600 crore, while scrapping the 28% slab could cost another ₹1.12 lakh crore. Gains from shifting some items into higher slabs — ₹700 crore (12% to 18%) and ₹15,000 crore (28% to 40%) — would only marginally offset the damage, leaving an estimated net loss of ₹1.57 trillion for both Centre and states. HSBC estimates a net revenue loss of ₹57,000 crore for half a year. Gaura Sengupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank.



48,000 (crore) or 93,000 (crore), this money is going to remain in the hands of common man," said a senior official. Former finance and economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg dismissed these numbers as "gross under-estimation." He argued that the 2023-24 consumption-based loss of ₹93,000 crore, when adjusted to 2025-26 prices, works out to nearly ₹1.1 lakh crore annually. On top of that, the Centre will forgo the GST compensation cess, which yielded around ₹1.4 lakh crore a year. Even

after accounting for recovery of about ₹50,000 crore from items in the 40% GST slab, Garg believes the net shortfall would still hover around ₹2 lakh crore. Most economists TNIE spoke to said how the government arrived at the revenue loss estimate is not very clear, and therefore, they do not entirely agree with the figure.

Reports from Emkay Global, HSBC and Bernstein suggest the total revenue loss will likely be around ₹1.5 lakh crore once the new rate structure is fully implemented. Bernstein's

research highlights that the merging of the 12% slab into 5% alone could wipe out ₹79,600 crore, while scrapping the 28% slab could cost another ₹1.12 lakh crore. Gains from shifting some items into higher slabs — ₹700 crore (12% to 18%) and ₹15,000 crore (28% to 40%) — would only marginally offset the damage, leaving an estimated net loss of ₹1.57 trillion for both Centre and states. HSBC estimates a net revenue loss of ₹57,000 crore for half a year. Gaura Sengupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank.

## GST Exemption On Insurance: Here's Why You Can't Claim GST Refund After Sept 22

### New Delhi.(Agency)

If you've recently paid a multi-year insurance premium, here's an important update. Starting September 22, 2025, the GST on individual life and health insurance premiums will drop to 0 per cent, a big relief for new buyers. However, if you've already paid for a multi-year policy in advance, the 18 per cent GST you paid will not be refunded. This means the tax benefit applies only to premiums paid after the rate cut takes effect. No GST Refund on Prepaid Multi-Year Policies Even if your insurance coverage extends beyond September 22, 2025, there is no provision to refund the GST paid for future years. The tax is collected at the time of payment and deposited with the

government, which completes the transaction. GST Rules Apply to All Payment Modes

This applies to all types of payments, whether you pay your premiums in full upfront or in instalments. However, any monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual premium due on or after September 22 will no longer include GST. Premiums due before this date, even if paid later during the grace period, will still carry the 18 per cent GST.//

Start Coverage After GST Cut to Save Tax Some insurers are now letting customers start their policy coverage from September 22, even if the policy was purchased earlier. This allows buyers to lock in the same terms while taking advantage of the 0 per cent

GST. Use the Free-Look Period to Benefit from GST Cut If you're still in the free-look period usually 15 to 30 days from purchase—you can cancel your policy and get a full refund of the premium and GST, minus any processing fees or charges for the days you were covered. Many policyholders are using this option to cancel recent purchases and reissue them after September 22 to benefit from the GST reduction.

The GST exemption on life and health insurance premiums is a big win for policyholders, lowering the cost of essential financial protection. However, it's important to understand the details especially if you've already prepaid your policy.



urged to release advertisements in national and regional newspapers to ensure wide awareness and compliance.

To avoid disruption in supply, companies are not required to recall, re-label or re-sticker stocks already in the market before September 22, provided they can ensure price compliance at the retail level. However, firms opting to re-label or re-sticker may do so in a phased manner to prevent shortages.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSO) has already issued directions under Rule 104A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, to facilitate smooth implementation of the revised pricing framework.

## CBIC Clears Confusion Over ITC Treatment Of Post-Sale Discounts,

### CBIC clarifies buyers need not reverse ITC on discounts via post-sale financial or commercial credit notes.

### New Delhi.(Agency)

Dispensing the confusion in regard to input tax credit (ITC) when suppliers issue post-sale financial or commercial credit notes, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has clarified that in that scenario, buyers will not be required to reverse ITC even if payments are made at a discount. Even if the buyers pay the less after the discount, they don't need to reverse ITC. The supplier still pays full GST on the original invoice. In a circular dated September 12, 2025, CBDT said that the issuance of financial/commercial credit notes does not reduce the tax liability on the supplier. "...it is clarified that the recipient will not be required to reverse the Input Tax Credit attributed to



the discount provided on the basis of financial/commercial Credit notes issued by the supplier, as there is no reduction in the original transaction value of the supply and accordingly the corresponding tax liability would also not get reduced," CBDT said in the circular. There has been confusion among buyers that if they require to reverse ITC, given the supplier issues commercial or financial credit notes post the supply.

Under the GST, the supplier of goods can

distributors/dealers. "The tax treatment of such discounts has been a subject matter of dispute between the tax authorities and the industry and this circular clarifies the matter in favour of the industry," argued Karthik Mani, Partner- Indirect Tax at BDO India, praising the timing of the circular considering the upcoming festive season, giving the manufacturers clarity for giving support to lower the customer prices. The circular further distinguished between different types of post-sale discounts. Discounts offered by manufacturers to dealers merely for competitive pricing and sales push cannot be treated as consideration for any service. However, if discounts are linked to specific agreements with end customers, such benefits would be considered part of the overall supply consideration. CBDT also mentioned in the circular that these credit notes should not be treated as payment for promotional activities done by dealers, unless there is a clear agreement for distinct services such as advertising, co-branding, or customer support.



# Avneet Kaur

## Shantanu Maheshwari Mark Love In Vietnam Release With Romantic Pics

Avneet Kaur is enjoying the release of her Indian-Vietnamese romantic drama film, Love In Vietnam, which hit the theatres on Friday, September 12. Helmed by Rahat Shah Kazmi, it features Shantanu Maheshwari in the lead roles and has been generating significant anticipation before its release. As the film continues its theatrical run, Avneet has now dropped a string of romantic pictures with Shantanu from the promotions, leaving the fans in awe.

### Avneet Kaur-Shantanu Maheshwari Grab Eyeballs

The post shared on Instagram features Avneet and Shantanu's latest photoshoot pictures, wherein both of them are seen striking some romantic poses for the camera.

In the first picture, Shantanu lays his head on Avneet's arm as the two look straight into the camera, while the next one shows a tender moment between the duo as they stand close, facing each other with their foreheads gently touching. Both of them are smiling softly, sharing an intimate connection filled with warmth and affection. Another picture depicts Avneet lying her head on Shantanu's shoulder and the two holding hands. The next picture depicts a cute moment between the two as the actress adorably looks at her co-star with a smile, while he looks at the camera with a strange expression. Talking about their look, the actress looked pretty in a light blue jumpsuit, while Shantanu wore a beige shirt paired with black pants.

Sharing the post, Avneet wrote in the caption, "Soft launch of our fav love story, catch it in theatres. Love in Vietnam."

### Love In Vietnam Storyline

The film follows the story of Manav, a young man from Punjab who travels to Vietnam to study farming and becomes obsessed with painting of a Vietnamese girl named Linh. Their romance is cut short when Linh disappears, prompting Manav to embark on a frustrating quest to find her, while his childhood friend and admirer, Simmi, waits for him. The film, adapted from a Turkish novel, explores Manav's obsessive journey to find Linh and his eventual need to choose her and Simmi.

### Avneet Kaur And Shantanu Maheshwari's Work Front

The actress has been a part of several big films, including Mardaani, Tiku Weds Sheru and Luv Ki Arrange Marriage, among others. Shantanu, on the other hand, was seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi and Ajay Devgn's Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha.



# Malaika Arora

## Buy A Brand New Range Rover Worth Rs 3 Crore

Malaika Arora has just added a touch of luxury to her impressive car collection. The actor, known for her impeccable fashion sense and glamorous lifestyle, recently purchased a brand-new Range Rover, reportedly priced at around Rs 3 crore.

Malaika Arora, on Saturday, September 13, was spotted talking to the salespeople of her swanky new ride in Mumbai, turning heads. Dressed in casual outfits, photos and videos of the model-actor have been circulating on social media. Her dark grey Range Rover is the latest addition to the actor's already bejewelled garage. Here is the video:

The new Range Rover is among the most coveted SUVs in the country, offering a blend of elegance, power, and cutting-edge technology. Fans flooded the comments section with congratulatory messages, praising her taste.

### Malaika Arora sells Mumbai apartment for Rs 5.3 crore

Malaika Arora has reportedly sold her plush apartment in Mumbai's Andheri West for an impressive Rs 5.3 crore. The deal, finalised in August 2025, is recorded in property registration documents accessed through an online real estate marketplace. As per the records available on the Inspector General of Registration (IGR) website, the transaction incurred a stamp duty of Rs 31.08 lakh and registration fees of Rs 30,000. The apartment, which comes with a single car parking slot, offers a carpet area of 1,369 sq. ft. (approx. 127.18 sq. m.) and a built-up area of 1,643 sq. ft. (about 152.68 sq. m.).

Arora had originally bought the property in March 2018 for Rs 3.26 crore. With the recent sale, the home's value has risen by about Rs 2.04 crore, reflecting a gain of nearly 62% in just over seven years.

### Malaika Arora's career

Malaika Arora started her career as a VJ on MTV India, later venturing into modelling and appearing in a range of commercials and hit music videos, including Bally Sagoo's Gur Naalo Ishq Mitha alongside Jas Arora. Her breakout moment came with the unforgettable dance number Chaiyya Chaiyya from Mani Ratnam's 1998 classic Dil Se, which made her a household name. Over the years, Malaika carved a niche as the queen of chart-



topping dance tracks, delivering iconic performances in songs like Maahi Ve (2002), Kaal Dhamaal (2005), and the hugely popular Munni Badnaam Hui (2010). As an actor, she has been part of films such as Kaante (2002) and EMI (2008).

Beyond the big screen, Malaika has become a familiar presence on television, judging popular reality shows like India's Got Talent, MTV Supermodel of the Year, and India's Best Dancer, further cementing her status as one of India's most versatile entertainers.



## In Maldives, Ananya Panday Is On A Hunt 'To Find Some Sea Turtles'



After wrapping up the shoot of her upcoming romantic comedy Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, actress Ananya Panday treated herself to a relaxing getaway in the stunning Maldives. Sharing glimpses from her holiday on social media, the diva recently embarked on an adventurous hunt for sea turtles, adding more magic to her vacation diaries. Taking to Instagram, Ananya dropped a video on her stories from her Yacht showcasing the mesmerising view of the blue ocean. She captioned the post, "Let's go find some sea Turtles."

### Ananya Panday's Exotic Maldives Holiday

Recently, the actress shared a string of pictures from her Maldives getaway, giving us major travel goals. The carousel post begins with a picture of herself posing against the dawn sky, with hues of shades of blue, while in another snap, she is posing cutely with a bicycle. In another snap, she gave her fans a brief sneak peek of the lavish property she's staying at in the Maldives. The post caption reads, "Intoooo the blueeeeeeee." From early morning cycle rides along seaside paths to peaceful moments sipping coffee while watching the sunrise, the star is enjoying the simple pleasures of life during her holiday.

### Ananya Panday's Work Front

She was last seen in the period drama film Kesari Chapter 2: The Untold Story of Jallianwala Bagh, along with Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan. Helmed by Karan Singh Tyagi, the film garnered appreciation from fans and critics alike.

The Starkid has now completed the shooting for her upcoming romantic comedy Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, wherein she will be seen sharing the screen space with Kartik Aaryan. It marks their second on-screen collaboration after the success of Pati Patni aur Woh. Helmed by Sameer Vidhwans, known for Satyaprem Ki Katha, and produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Entertainment, it also features Neena Gupta and Jackie Shroff in significant roles and will be hitting the big screens next year.

## Louis Partridge Gushes About Girlfriend Olivia Rodrigo: 'All Is Good In Our World'



In a rare public statement, actor Louis Partridge has opened up about his romance with singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo and revealed that their relationship has been nothing short of amazing. During an interview, Partridge, 22, firmly mentioned that he was "very happy." The couple initially raised dating rumours after being spotted together in London in October 2023. The relationship appeared to be further solidified when they were spotted sharing a kiss in New York in December of the same year. Despite having notable public personas, Partridge and Rodrigo have mostly avoided the spotlight, sharing only a little information rather than the whole story.

In the latest interview with Variety, Partridge discussed how Rodrigo's live performances, particularly her 2025 Glastonbury Festival headline set, showcased her stage presence and work dedication, which he found admirable. During that show, Rodrigo gave a shout-out to her "boy from London," giving credit to Partridge. Although Partridge claimed he was not prepared for the remark, he called it "such a treat and a joy."

The singer-songwriter reportedly discussed the British customs she had come to adore during the performance, such as enjoying a "pint at noon" and "sticky toffee pudding." Rodrigo's familiarity with British customs "was my work," Partridge told Variety, but Glastonbury as a whole "was so, so surreal."

He stated that he had no issue with being referred to as Rodrigo's partner. He acknowledged the attention and public scrutiny that accompany dating a Grammy winner when he stated in the Variety interview, "I can handle that."

Partridge stressed that their love feels anchored even in the face of Rodrigo's growing celebrity and life in the spotlight. "I'm very happy, and I believe she is too," he told Variety, confirming his belief that their relationship is going well.

Partridge's comments imply confidence and contentment rather than feeling overshadowed, particularly in light of Rodrigo's developing star power and public awareness. These remarks provide one of the most thorough glimpses into their personal lives since they initially started dating.



# Things to Consider before quitting Your job

According to a recent study by LinkedIn, Indians are more proactive at job search and job switch on a regular basis. For Gen Z, a higher salary is the biggest draw. Getting a job and holding on to it is no longer a matter of pride; job hopping is no longer considered frivolous but as an opportunity to learn and climb the corporate ladder faster. Often, employees do not seem to think that an opportunity similar to the one they are seeking outside can exist in the company they are currently employed with. To avoid this, firms should encourage employees to be more open about their professional aspirations. Even in the digital age, there needs to be more focus on increased face time, which

would make everything else fall in place as the employees will be well-informed.

Here are a few perks you can miss out on when you plan to quit your current job for another opportunity:

## TRAINING SESSIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Before you make a switch, you need to think if the new company offers you training that is more like spoon feeding aimed at only skilling you enough to go by a checklist or does it have a learning centric environment that allows you to grow as a professional and add life

skills that can transferred in any type of setting.

## COMPANY CULTURE

Take a moment to think whether you feel disconnected to the company's culture. If you feel engaged in the work that you do and the space you are in and think highly of your peer group, do you really want to move? Given how much time you spend with your peers, good relationships at the workplace can boost your morale. Once you are in a comfortable zone with your peers, you are definitely more productive.

Changing to adapt to a culture and engage with a new workforce that you don't feel at ease with could lead to a difficult transition. Shift gears only if you are ready.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND OFFICE SPACE

This may seem trivial but note how it makes a difference to your day-to-day work and productivity. A healthy workspace layout and well ness initiatives offered on the job will keep you fit and productive for the long-term.

## DOES YOUR COMPANY TRUST YOU?

Think about the level of empowerment you have at your level. Do you feel confident in your independence to get things done and do you feel trusted by your seniors and team mates? An organisation that enables you to step up and interact with the leaders is an indication of the trust it places in you: How valuable are you to the company and does it appreciate and recognise that? Think over it before you take a leap.

## MEASURING PERFORMANCE

Pay attention to the performance management system of the organisation. Most follow a model that is based on the

**Higher salary should not be your only consideration while moving jobs. you need to carefully evaluate the perks your current job offers before deciding to finally make the switch.**

principle of forced rankings. This means your success will depend on how good or bad your peers on the project are. Firms that have performance review processes that are anchored in ongoing feedback and truly measure your impact and potential through a competency model are a better way of gauging your growth. The competency model of your firm must allow for your growth through learning opportunities.

## How to get Acquired

**Bala Parthasarathy, managing partner at seed-stage fund AngelPrime, an early investor in ZipDial, writes about the 7 things they learned from Twitter's acquisition of the Bengaluru-based venture**



Fortune favours the survivors -- The first rule in business is to survive. The longer you are around, the higher are your chances of being acquired or good things happening to you. Valerie Waggoner and Amiya Pathak (ZipDial founders) stuck it out through thick and thin. If they had folded their cards at the first hiccup, they would not have made history. Set your horizons for at least seven years. In the case of ZipDial, it happened to them in Year 5. If you want to start something and flip it in two years, you better be extremely lucky!

Traction, not just technology -- Amiya (Pathak) built an amazingly scalable architecture that wowed Twitter. But unlike most technology companies I see, they had 60 million users, a strong sales team, growing revenues and ubiquitous presence. These must have been compelling factors when someone inside Twitter did a build-versus-buy decision.

Armchair matchmaking never works -- At AngelPrime, I hear entrepreneurs telling me why Facebook or Google or some other company would acquire them because of this-that-or-the-other. It never works that way. Based on my own experience in selling Snapfish and being the acquirer of startups, most large companies operate like independent fiefdoms ruled by fiercely protective leaders whose idea of what is best for them and what is

best for the overall company are typically at odds. It is these leaders, not the M&A team, that makes buying decisions, especially in technology.

Sow the seeds and be patient -- You should cultivate a business relationship with the potential acquirer that makes business sense for you and the company. Specifically, you should engage with one or more teams for which your technology or product would be interesting. Think business first, not acquisition first. And focus on why partnering with you helps them. In the process, get to understand the company's internal goals, the people and culture. ZipDial had a two-year business relationship with Twitter where they had worked together on various campaigns, including Bollywood and Indian elections.

People, not companies -- People, not companies, do deals. Valley companies are generally very insular and rarely do deals outside Bay Area, let alone India (Israel is an exception to the rule). They first need to build a relationship with you as a person before they see the value in your technology and business. The ZipDial team had solid relationships at multiple levels with different teams at Twitter, long before the deal was conceived. Luckily, there are plenty of people who can help you connect, if you're not the networking

type. iSpirit M&A Connect is a very well designed programme which can formally help you forge relationships with many Valley companies.

Do many, marry one -- Though there might be one perfect company for you in the end, you should engage with multiple companies. And when I say engage, I mean build a business relationship.

There are some rational and irrational factors that go into an acquisition decision from the acquirer's end that you'll never know about and thinking that THE ONE will eventually scoop you up, is foolish. Plus, your chances of being acquired are much higher when multiple companies court you. ZipDial had plenty of other business relationships, each of which could have been THE ONE.

Don't sell, be bought -- This cliche is certainly obvious to anyone who has ever bargained in a bazaar. If you're desperately looking to be sold, your chances of being acquired are very, very low. And even if you do get acquired, the price will be pathetic.

Indeed, the best way to be acquired is to go around building a solid business with traction, being patient and cultivating the relationships. And then, let the Gods of Luck play their role!

In its bid to promote entrepreneurship in the National Capital Region, the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi's Entrepreneurship Development Cell will be conducting a placement programme for students across disciplines, a move touted as the first such in India.

EDC-IIT Delhi has brought on board some of the country's top startups, a list that includes, News Corp-backed real estate portal PropTiger, TouchTalent, an online marketplace for creative talent, and video-based platform Frankly.me, which could potentially hire close to 300 students during course of the job fair, scheduled to be held later this month at IIT campus.

"Startups are always on the lookout for talent, and this event also helps in fostering the entrepreneurial environment in the Delhi-NCR region," said Navratn



Singh, director of the IIT Delhi cell. The placement programme could see engineering students from Delhi College of Engineering, often preferred pick of startups looking to build further on technology platforms, duking it out with the best Delhi University has to offer, including students from high-profile colleges, such as Sri Ram College of Commerce, Lady Shri Ram College and Hansraj College.

"This isn't just for engineering students, or those with a tech background. It's for everybody who's looking to join startups in India," pointed out Ravish Ratnam, president, EDC-IIT Delhi. Additionally, SAIF Partners, Accel Partners and Matrix Partners -have signed up to participate in the programme.