

New India not afraid of nuclear threats: PM cites Jaish admitting Op Sindoor losses

►PM Modi said the confession by a top Jaish commander of losses during Operation Sindoor was proof that New India not only responds firmly to terror but also fears no one's nuclear threats.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a massive rally in Dhar on his 75th birthday, invoked India Today's exclusive expose that revealed Jaish-e-Mohammad had, for the first time, admitted to suffering losses in India's Operation Sindoor. He said the confession by a top Jaish commander was proof that New India not only responds firmly to terror but also fears no one's nuclear threats.

"Pakistani terrorists had wiped the sindoor of our sisters and daughters. We carried out Operation Sindoor and destroyed the terror camps. Our brave armed forces brought Pakistan to its knees within the blink of an eye. Just yesterday, the nation and the world witnessed another Pakistani terrorist tearfully narrating his ordeal. This is a new India. It does not fear anyone's nuclear threats. This is a new India that strikes terrorists inside their own homes," PM Modi declared to loud applause. His remarks followed India Today's report that top Jaish commander Masood Ilyas Kashmire, in a video now viral, admitted that family members of Jaish chief Masood Azhar were killed in the May 7 strike on the outfit's Bahawalpur headquarters - Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah. The operation was launched in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 25 tourists dead. Alongside Bahawalpur, eight other terror sites were also reduced to rubble in what has been

described as India's most daring airstrike deep inside Pakistan. In his confession, Kashmire, flanked by Pakistani security personnel, acknowledged that Azhar's family had been "torn into pieces" in the Bahawalpur



attack. He further admitted Jaish's role in the Delhi and Mumbai terror attacks, and revealed that Pakistan's Balakot region had long served as the base to run Masood Azhar's missions and programmes. Kashmire said, "Coming out of the bars of Tihar jail in Delhi, Amir-ul-Mujahideen

Maulana Masood Azhar returns to Pakistan. To carry forward his outlook, mission and programmes, it is the soil of Balakot that gives him shelter. The soil here and every bit of it is indebted to him The Amir-ul-Mujahideen Maulana Masood Azhar, who shook Delhi and Bombay (Mumbai), appears like this."

He also claimed that orders to attend the funerals of Jaish terrorists killed in Bahawalpur came directly from Pakistan's GHQ, with generals sent on the Army Chief's instructions. According to him, the DG ISPR then attempted to suppress evidence of the link between Bahawalpur and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Another revelation came when Kashmire spoke of panic among terror groups after Operation Sindoor, admitting that the strike had rattled militant networks. He publicly appealed to bring together different jamaats and missions under "Mission-e-Mustafa," urging fighters to revive jihad despite setbacks.

MK Stalin Urges PM Modi To Address Fertiliser Shortage In Tamil Nadu

Agency Chennai.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately ensure the supply of fertilisers to the State, warning that farmers could face a severe shortage during the crucial Kharif season. In his letter, Mr Stalin requested urgent steps to meet the shortfall and additional allocations to sustain higher cultivation this year. According to the Chief Minister, fertiliser manufacturers have supplied only around 57% of the allocation made by the Union Government between April and August 2025. This has left Tamil Nadu short of 27,823 metric tonnes of Urea, 15,831 MT of DAP, 12,422 MT of MOP and 98,623 MT of NPK Complex fertilisers. Mr Stalin cautioned that if the shortfall is not addressed promptly, farmers' prospects of a good harvest could be at risk.

Mr Stalin pointed out that the early onset of the monsoon and adequate storage in major reservoirs have enabled farmers to significantly expand paddy cultivation. As of September, paddy coverage has risen to 5.6 lakh hectares, which is 10% higher than the same period last year. With production prospects brighter than usual, demand for fertilisers has surged sharply.

To meet this rising demand, the Chief Minister also sought an additional allotment for September: 40,000 MT of Urea, 20,000 MT of DAP, 20,000 MT of MOP, and 40,000 MT of NPK complex fertilisers. He asked the Centre to issue immediate instructions to fertiliser manufacturers to supply both the pending shortfall and the additional requirement, so that farmers in Tamil Nadu are not left in distress during the ongoing Kharif and upcoming Rabi seasons.

CM Rekha Gupta, Ministers donate blood at camp to mark PM Modi's birthday

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 17 September 2025
Kartavya Path in New Delhi turned historic and memorable. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government transformed the celebration of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 75th birthday into a grand event with the active participation of Delhi's citizens. On this occasion, a 'Seva Sankalp Yatra' (Service Pledge March) was organised, a mega blood donation camp was held, and cultural performances brought colour and vibrancy to the celebrations. What stood out most was the spirited involvement of Delhiites, particularly the youth. Witnessing the festive atmosphere, the Chief Minister remarked, "Delhi wins hearts and achievements."

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also highlighted the schemes introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are playing a significant role in transforming Delhi into a developed capital. The event was attended by Delhi MPs, ministers of the Delhi Government Cabinet, MLAs, councillors, as well as senior BJP leaders and workers. The Chief Minister stated that the Prime Minister has paid special attention to the capital. "He is not only establishing India's name internationally but is also contributing fully to making Delhi a global capital. Over the past eleven years, Prime Minister Modi Ji has continuously provided for Delhi because of his commitment and vision to make the city exceptional," she said. On Kartavya Path, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta, her cabinet colleagues, public

representatives and youth participated in a blood donation drive. The mega camp held on the Prime Minister's 75th birthday collected 1157 units of blood, setting a new record. Historically, city-wide blood donation camps have collected 2,000 units, while the highest collection at a single site previously was 350 units. After donating blood, the Chief Minister said, "Every drop of my blood is for the nation." She shared that within the first two hours of the camp, 800 units were collected; a remarkable

example of service and dedication. She interacted warmly with donors, appreciating the enthusiasm of youth, women, and senior citizens, saying it reflects Delhi residents' commitment to realising the Prime Minister's vision. She told donors that their contribution is not just a donation of blood but a pledge to save lives, extending the spirit of service and dedication exemplified by Prime Minister Modi Ji. Mrs Rekha Gupta described the Prime Minister as the pride of the nation and the heartbeat of 1.4 billion Indians. "For the first time, Delhi has the opportunity to thank him for his relentless efforts," she said. She highlighted the multilingual wishes offered by school children as a beautiful example of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India).

Continued news page 2

'Wrote 3 Letters, Still Called BJP B-Team': A Owaisi On INDIA Bloc's Snub In Bihar

New Delhi.(Agency)

The AIMIM was ready to join the INDIA bloc if it was given six seats to contest in the upcoming Bihar election, party chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi told NDTV. Mr Owaisi said his party has repeatedly reached out to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leadership for an alliance, but never received a positive response. Asked about his poll plans, Mr Owaisi said, "We will fight the election. (MLA and AIMIM's Bihar chief) Akhtar Iman wrote two letters to Lalu Prasad Yadav and a third and last to Tejashwi Yadav. He wrote that we are ready to take six seats. You don't even have to give us a ministry if you come to power. Just set up a

Seemanchal development board. What more can we do?" The AIMIM had pulled off a stunner in the 2020 Bihar election, winning five seats in the politically sensitive Seemanchal region. Later, four of its MLAs switched to the RJD. Hitting out at the Tejashwi Yadav-led party, Mr Owaisi said, "They say we are the (BJP's) B-team. When they took our four MLAs, nothing happened. When the BJP took Shiv Sena's MLAs, all hell broke loose." The AIMIM's Bihar unit made a dramatic push for an alliance with the RJD last week. Its leaders reached Lalu Yadav's home and started beating drums and distributing posters outside the

premises. Akhtar Iman said AIMIM has repeatedly reached out to the INDIA bloc members. "We even sent a message through RJD MLAs, but the advice we got was that AIMIM should not contest this time. Despite this, we



premises.

Mr Owaisi said AIMIM has repeatedly reached out to the INDIA bloc members. "We even sent a message through RJD MLAs, but the advice we got was that AIMIM should not contest this time. Despite this, we

are ready for an alliance, even with the party that broke away four of our MLAs," he said. Mr Owaisi said AIMIM has a responsibility towards Seemanchal. "There is anger, outrage. And the people of Bihar know that we were falsely accused of being a B-Team. Four days back, we beat drums and gave them our letter. They still can't hear us?" he asked.

Owaisi Slams India-Pak Cricket Match

Questioning the decision to agree on the India vs Pakistan Asia Cup match, Mr Owaisi said nationalism should not be just a poll slogan and pointed to the pain of those who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam terror attack.

A Bharat Ratna Demand, Leadership Reminder: Inside EPS-Amit Shah Meet

Sources told NDTV the agenda was to 'strengthen the National Democratic Alliance' ahead of next year's Tamil Nadu Assembly election.

New Delhi.(Agency)
A Bharat Ratna for Pasupon Muthuramalinga, freedom fighter and Thevar community icon, and expedition of corruption cases - specifically those related to the alleged TASMAC liquor scam, sand mining, and drugs - against the ruling DMK were among the points raised by AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami in a 25-minute meet with Home Minister Amit Shah this morning. Sources told the agenda was to 'strengthen the National Democratic Alliance' ahead of next year's Tamil Nadu Assembly election. A significant aspect of that discussion point, sources said, was EPS' reminder to not antagonise the AIADMK by demanding the return of expelled leaders; this, he is understood to have told



Mr Shah, will not augur well for the alliance. EPS - battling discontent in the AIADMK over the expulsion of veteran KA Sengottaiyan last week - was told to 'take decisions suited to the interests of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.'

The apparent free hand to EPS has been seen as underlining the BJP's investment

in its renewed alliance with the AIADMK, particularly amid whispers the national party is pushing for previously exiled leaders, including former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam or OPS, Sasikala, and TTV Dinakaran, to be brought back to reinforce the cadre and support base before the election.

Mr Sengottaiyan had led those calls, arguing it is necessary for the AIADMK to win the poll. However, the return of these leaders is also being seen as a challenge to EPS' leadership. Last week Mr Dinakaran - expelled in 2017 during the power struggle after J Jayalalithaa's death - said he would only return if EPS were removed as the AIADMK-BJP chief ministerial face.

Front continued news

**CM Rekha Gupta, Ministers
donate blood at camp to mark
PM Modi's birthday**

She also announced that during the 15-day Seva Sankalp Fortnight, the Delhi Government will dedicate 75 public welfare schemes to the people. She added that through service and dedication, the message is clear: "Delhi wins hearts as well as achievements." During the Seva Sankalp Yatra, Delhi's cultural heritage was showcased in all its grandeur.

Artists performed traditional folk dances from Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, and other states, infusing the atmosphere with joy and enthusiasm. Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta herself participated in folk dances, boosting the morale of performers. Her involvement enlivened the event and inspired excitement among the attendees.

The Chief Minister emphasised, "Art and culture are the soul of any society, and folk dance is a beautiful example of unity in India's diversity." She shared heartfelt moments and selfies with cabinet ministers, MPs, MLAs, and artists, making the historic event even more memorable.

News box

**Shanties gutted as
cylinder leak sparks blaze
in Gurgaon, 15 evacuated****Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A fire broke out in makeshift huts built on a vacant plot in Sector 15 Part A on Monday afternoon. Bhim Nagar fire station received information about the blaze around 1pm, and two fire tenders from the station and one from Sector 29 were sent to the spot.

According to a fire officer, nearly 15 people, including four children, were in the slums at the time of the incident. They were evacuated. Locals said the fire broke out due to a gas cylinder leak during cooking. "The flames quickly engulfed four shanties, causing losses to the families residing there. We took the children outside and called the fire brigade. Their



prompt action prevented a bigger tragedy," an eyewitness said.

Officials said fire teams reached the site immediately after receiving the alert and brought the situation under control within an hour. "All the residents were safely evacuated," officials added. The fire destroyed belongings, clothes, and other essential items of the families living there. Officials confirmed that an inquiry has been initiated to determine the exact cause of the fire.

**Discharged from hospital,
Haryanvi actor Uttar Kumar
arrested for raping colleague****Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

Haryanvi actor and filmmaker Uttar Kumar was arrested on Tuesday morning — shortly after being discharged from hospital — following grave allegations of rape and intimidation made by a 25-year-old colleague.

The complainant, an actor who first met Kumar in Aug 2020 during a music project, alleged that he misused his influence to sexually harass and assault her, promising film roles in return. Upset with alleged inaction on the part of authorities, the woman attempted suicide outside the chief minister's residence in Lucknow, prompting the action against Kumar. Early on Monday morning, Kumar was detained from his farmhouse in Amroha for questioning. However, during the journey to Ghaziabad, he complained of health issues and was admitted to a private hospital, where he remained under observation for over 24 hours. At 11am on Tuesday, he was discharged and immediately taken to court. Kumar arrived at the hospital gate in a wheelchair and then travelled to court in a private car rather than a police vehicle. After being presented before the magistrate, he was sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Abhishek Srivastava, ACP (Indirapuram), said that police had gathered substantial evidence, including audio recordings and chats, supporting the allegations against Kumar. "On July 18, the woman lodged a complaint against the accused. An FIR was registered against Kumar at Shalimar Garden police station under sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and relevant provisions of the SC/ST Act," he added.

On Monday, the SC/ST special court of Gaurav Sharma granted a 14-day police remand of Kumar. Assistant district govt counsel Rajni Kanta said Kumar had consumed medicine after his arrest and required hospitalisation. "After clearance from the doctors, he was produced before the court and allowed police remand for not cooperating with the investigation," she added. Kumar's counsel maintained that he was being falsely implicated but asserted his willingness to cooperate with the investigation.

Not Pachgaon, Kherki Daula toll plaza to shift to Kukrola**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

After staunch opposition from locals on relocation of the NH-8 toll plaza from Kherki Daula to Pachgaon, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to shift it to Kukrola. NHAI on Tuesday wrote to the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), seeking formal handover of 28 acres of land to accelerate the relocation, which was promised over a decade ago. Kukrola emerged as the chosen site after NHAI abandoned its earlier plan to shift the toll plaza to Pachgaon, located 13km from the existing toll plaza at Kherki Daula. Locals had opposed the Pachgaon proposal, arguing that the area required a flyover to ensure traffic flow and road safety. "The new site is about two kilometres before the earlier proposed location and offers better feasibility," a senior NHAI official said on Tuesday.

Civil construction is expected to be completed within three months, following which the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) will install toll booths,



electronic toll collection systems and supporting infrastructure. Site preparation has begun for the administrative building and service road, with NHAI having sanctioned Rs 18 crore for construction. However, progress depends on formal land handover, as much of the area remains under cultivation and farmers have requested time to harvest their standing crops. "Although clearance at the site has started, we have written to HSIIDC to expedite the formal handover of the land. We are hoping to complete civil

construction within three months," the senior NHAI official said.

Relocation of the toll from Kherki Daula has been a long-pending demand from residents of new sectors along the Dwarka Expressway, and industrialists in Manesar. Commuters argue that the toll puts financial burden on residents, and impedes free movement of vehicles and goods to and from industrial hubs in the region. Haryana govt in 2014 promised to relocate the Kherki Daula toll, and a similar announcement was made by

Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari in Aug 2017. Multiple timelines were floated, but execution was repeatedly delayed due to inaction and land acquisition problems.

The opening of Dwarka Expressway last year also increased traffic in the area and gave fresh impetus to residents' and commuters' demands for shifting the Kherki Daula toll plaza. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha earlier this year, the road transport ministry admitted that toll collected on NH-8's Delhi to Gurgaon stretch — called the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway — was around Rs 2,775 crore, 11% higher than the cost incurred to build this portion of the highway. "Shifting of the toll from Pachgaon to Kukrola will benefit locals. Even those using the KMP will not end up paying the toll twice if they want to use the Delhi-Jaipur highway. What matters most now is that authorities expedite relocation of the toll. This toll plaza has blocked the growth in the industrial area," said Manoj Tyagi, general secretary of IMT Industrial Association.

**Gurgaon waterbody turns a
dumpsite, says plea; NGT
asks admin & HSVP to file
reply in 4 weeks****Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Over two years after a petition alleged that a three-acre waterbody in Sector 47 was reduced to a "waste dump and mosquito-breeding ground", National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday directed Haryana authorities to spell out the extent of encroachments and submit a detailed report on its condition.

Granting them four weeks, the tribunal asked Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) and the district administration to file their responses before the next hearing, scheduled for Oct 28. In his application, Virendra Tyagi said the water body was allowed to deteriorate without any systematic protection or upkeep. He alleged that it became a dumping site for waste, with jhuggies coming up along its edge and the space being used as a grazing ground for cattle. "Due to waste dumping, the pond became a breeding place for mosquitoes and other insects, resulting in unhygienic and unsanitary environmental hazards," he submitted. The matter was taken up by a bench of Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi (judicial member) and Dr Afroz Ahmad (expert member) on the letter petition filed by the resident. Sent by email in May 2023, the plea was treated as an original application and registered for hearing.

Tyagi had sought urgent intervention of the tribunal for protection, cleaning and preservation of aquatic life in the pond, pointing out that its neglect created serious health and hygiene risks for the surrounding neighbourhood. He urged the tribunal to issue directions for its protection and rejuvenation, along with greening of its periphery and active citizen participation to conserve its biodiversity. GMDA earlier informed the tribunal that restoration work on the pond was under consideration.

However, the case became complicated because of a status quo order passed by Punjab and Haryana high court in 2015 in a separate petition (Bheem Singh Kashyap vs State of Haryana).

That order directed no changes be made on the land and NGT sought clarification on whether it also covered



Dwarka Expressway remained the same in the pre- and post-ANPR periods — seven each in May-June and July-August, but fatalities increased from two to five. ASI Vikas Verma, traffic police spokesperson, attributed the number of fatalities to monsoon conditions. "The rainy season played a major role in road accidents. Waterlogged roads caused accidents, but the figures are likely to drop now," he said. Traffic police data also shows that accidents aren't uncommon on the two expressways. From Jan to Aug this year, the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway witnessed 153 accidents, killing 79 people and injuring 111 others. The

Dwarka Expressway recorded 32 accidents till the end of Aug, with 15 fatalities and 18 injuries. Rohit Sharma, a city resident, said zig-zag driving, especially by two-wheelers and speeding makes the drive on the expressways risky. "People tend to take shorter routes and drive on the wrong side. Wrong-side driving and speeding is common during the night time, which poses a major risk of accidents," he said.

To make the expressways safer, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in June asked Gurgaon traffic police to ensure that banned vehicles — two- and three-wheelers — don't take the speedways. The Authority also installed over 110 monitoring cameras on the expressways to assist in vehicle breakdowns. DCP (traffic) Rajesh Mohan said strict instructions have been issued to curb violations. "People are becoming aware of the special cameras installed on these national highways. They are receiving violation tickets, which will slowly prove fruitful in curbing accidents," he said.

**MobiKwik hit by glitch: Rs 40 crore sent from
its a/c in 48 hours via 5 lakh UPI transactions****Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Taking advantage of what is believed to be a glitch that blindsided city-based digital wallet company MobiKwik's systems, around Rs 40 crore were allegedly siphoned off over two days, Sept 11 and 12, from the company's account through a blitz of UPI transactions. The fraud came to light on Tuesday after the arrest of six men whose accounts contained Rs 9 lakh of this stolen money. Uncannily, this is the second time this has happened to MobiKwik. In Oct 2017, the company was allegedly similarly defrauded of around Rs 19 crore with the money being moved to thousands of personal bank accounts. This time, the glitch happened after the company updated its software earlier this month, investigators said. It apparently allowed MobiKwik users to send much higher

amounts of money than their wallet balances. Transactions, the investigators said, also went through if users entered incorrect PINs. Police said how scammers came to know about this glitch is under probe. Officials said they suspected insiders' involvement. The fraud was reported on Sept 13 by a MobiKwik employee, citing an audit that had detected suspicious transactions on Sept 11 and 12. According to cops, fraudulent transfers over those two hours amounted to Rs 40.2 crore. "Nearly 5 lakh transactions took place on Sept 11-12, and so far, 2,500 bank beneficiary accounts have been identified. We have managed to freeze Rs 8 crore out of the total fraud amount. This money was deposited in these bank accounts," said a source. Five of the arrested men are from Nuh. The other is from Palwal. The

accused have been identified as Rehan, Waqar Yunus, Wasim Akram, Mohd Amir, Mohd Ansar and Mohd Sakil. All six have been sent to judicial custody.

Police spokesperson Ashok Kumar said if any company employee is found to be involved in the scam, strict action will be taken against the individual.

Nuh police on Tuesday, meanwhile, asked people to report by Sept 23 any unexplained cash transfers they might have received in their accounts. "If anyone received transactions on Sept 11 and 12 due to technical security lapses or other reasons via the MobiKwik app or received unauthorised payments through the app and wishes to return them, or has any complaints related to such transactions, they can visit the office of the SP.

**Noida to resume demolition
drive on floodplains this mth**

alongside the Noida Authority, Greater Noida Authority, and YEIDA to ensure the drives.

These operations will be overseen by the respective sub-divisional magistrates and supported by police, irrigation department engineers, and officials from the UPPCB. Reports of each operation will be submitted to the additional district

magnitude (F/R), Gautam Budh Nagar, who will present consolidated findings before the DM every Friday evening. To avoid delays, the administration has warned that any negligence by the committees will lead to personal accountability of their chairpersons, with recommendations for govt action. Lekhpal has been directed to be present

in flood-prone villages during every demolition exercise.

Officials said the move was necessitated by the recurring risk of flooding, waterlogging, and ecological damage in submerged areas during monsoon months.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar

Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhtimes.in

Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Ayodhya once saw bullets for devotees, now it showers them with flowers: CM Adityanath

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: At an Aam Aadmi Polyclinic in Surajmal Vihar in East Delhi, painters hurry to finish their work. Walls that once carried the familiar blue and white of an Aam Aadmi Party-run Mohalla Clinic are now splashed with bright orange, yellow and red. The board still read "Aam Aadmi Polyclinic". "We have been asked to complete this renovation quickly before September 17...this board will go soon," a worker appointed through the Public Works Department (PWD) said. The Delhi Government plans to inaugurate around 150 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the Capital on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday on September 17. The transformation from Mohalla Clinics to Arogya Mandirs, however, raises questions

over continuity, capacity and expansion of services. During a field investigation that The Tribune conducted across four centres

- Shahzada Bagh in Inderlok, Shahdara, Karkardooma Village and Surajmal Vihar - what stood out was a major cosmetic revamp. Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are part of a larger effort to expand primary healthcare across the Capital. These clinics, called Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (U-AAMs), are part of the Delhi Government's plan to set up 1,139 such centres in phases. At several of these centres, basic diagnostic tests such as haemoglobin, blood sugar, malaria and dengue are now available on-site, according to the doctor overseeing one of the facilities. While some centres are refurbished versions of the Mohalla Clinics set up by the previous AAP government, many are

entirely new constructions aimed at widening healthcare access across the city. But the promises of

fever, diarrhoea, skin

problems, respiratory

infections and provide first

aid, wound management

hospitals. Yet, many

patients visiting the

centres today see little

difference. At the U-AAM loca-

to come after 2 pm," she

said, adding that the

Arogya Mandir's official

timing is from 8 am to 2

pm. Kamlesh, who runs a

small stitching shop near

by, expressed his frustra-

tion over the lack of ser-

vices. "For sputum tests,

they sent me to Hedgewar

Hospital. For X-rays too,

they send us there. Many

times, we don't even get

medicines," he said. "This

has happened to me sever-

al times. I've been living

here for 10 years. Earlier,

there was a Mohalla Clinic

under the previous gov-

ernment. Now, it's just a

repainting job and the

board has been changed

to 'Arogya Mandir.'

Earlier, we used to get

medicines, but now they

often refuse. Sometimes

we get medicines, but

expensive ones are never

provided. They tell us to

buy them from outside,"

he added. An ASHA worker

in the area said, "Only

the name has changed...

earlier medicines used to

come, now even iron and

calcium tablets are miss-

ing for pregnant women."

"The staff is same...only

the doctors and this board

have changed," added

another ASHA worker in

the area who works with

380 houses and around

1,800 people in the area,

said, "It's clean now...ear-

lier the clinic used to be

dirty." She said, "The clin-

ic now has a private lab. To

avail of the tests, one must

have a voter ID of Delhi."

On diagnostics, she said,

"Ultrasounds cannot be

done here. Medicines are

provided for 2-4 days. For

anything beyond that, we

refer patients to bigger

hospitals. Pregnancy tests

are done here, small injec-

tions are given, and iron or

calcium supplements are

provided. Lab tests

include Venereal Disease

Research Laboratory

(VDRL), HIV, sugar, thy-

roid, urine, calcium, ma-

laria and typhoid. Sometimes, though, not all

tests can be performed, so

patients are denied treat-

ment." She also highlight-

ed, "Though the centre

runs till 2 pm, prescrip-

tions are only made till 12

pm. I often bring pregnant

women after 12 pm, and they

refuse treatment. Then I am blamed in the

locality for wasting their

time."

NAME CHANGE

I, SHUBHAM S/O LAJIT PAKASH R/O HOUSE NO. 20, BUDHPUR, BUAPUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110036, have changed my name from SHUBHAM to SHUBHAM SHARMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANANT KUMAR S/o SHIV NAND PRASAD R/o A-378, Indera Phase-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Dist. North West Delhi, Delhi-110081, have changed my name from REKHA KUMARI to my daughter name AAYUSHI KUMARI aged 14 years in her School Records and Birth Certificate. Registration No. MCDLR083696. The actual name of my wife is REKHA DEVI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Abdul Wahab S/o Ayub R/o C-58/127, Mata Sundri Road, New Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Abdul Wahab.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Abdul Wahab S/o 13-D, DDA Flats, Mata Sundri Road, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Mohd Shaib.

Lost & Found

I, MR GURBACHAN SINGH S/o SHRI UJGAR SINGH (FIR LR NO 3215686) residing at C - 76, Malviya Nagar, NEW DELHI do hereby inform to the General Public that I have lost the original land document No' 2376/2007/Survey No 60/3-9.67, Extension-9 Acre 67 cents, Village Naklapatthal, Thalak Ursilampatty, District Madurai state Tamilnadu. If anyone Person finds the said document, please contact me over phone no 9958168128.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Rishabh Kumar is purchasing the Plot no. 31 & 34, land admeasuring 92.6 Sq. yards, out of Khasra no. 586, situated in the revenue estate of village Hastsal, Delhi State and the colony Known as Mohan Garden, Block - L-3, Utam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Mrs. Arti Singh who is the owner of the property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 28.08.2025 which is registered as doc. no. 2025/25/24603, book no.1, vol. no. 15792, Page no. 181 to 190, on 29.08.2025, SRO-West Janakpuri and Intend mortgaghe the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

NAME CHANGE

I, Anita Chaudhary s/o Ravinder Chaudhary r/o 42/19, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi - 110018 have changed my name to Anita Chaudhary for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shivang Chaudhary s/o Ravinder Chaudhary r/o 42/19, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi - 110018 have changed my name to Shivang Chaudhary for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Salma Wahid Ansari D/o Abdul Aziz W/o Wahid Hussain Ansari R/o A-120, First Floor, Abul Fazal Enclave-II, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SALMA WAHID ANSARI to KM. SALAMA BEE for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Azahar S/o Mohn Tahir R/o R-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Mohn Azahar for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Binish R/o Mohd Azahar Mubeen W/o Mohn Azahar R/o A-2 Second Floor Plot No 76 Modern Public School Sec 4 Shahrab Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301 Have Changed My Name to Binish Mubeen for All Future Purposes.

NEWS BOX

Estimated 16,500 climate change deaths during Europe's summer: Study

World. (Agency)

PARIS Scientists estimated Wednesday that rising temperatures from human-caused climate change were responsible for roughly 16,500 deaths in European cities this summer, using modelling to project the toll before official data is released.

The rapidly-produced study is the latest effort by climate and health researchers to quickly link the death toll during heatwaves to global warming -- without waiting months or years to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. The estimated deaths were not actually recorded in the European cities, but instead were a projection based on methods such as modelling used in previously-peer-reviewed studies.

Death tolls during heatwaves are thought to be vastly underestimated because the causes of death recorded in hospitals are normally heart, breathing or other health problems that particularly affect the elderly when the mercury soars. To get a snapshot of this summer, a UK-based team of researchers used climate modelling to estimate that global warming made temperatures an average of 2.2 degrees Celsius hotter in 854 European cities between June and August. Using historical data indicating how such soaring temperatures drive up mortality rates, the team estimated there were around 24,400 excess deaths in those cities during that time. They then compared this number to how many people would have died in a world that was not 1.3C warmer due to climate change caused by humans burning fossil fuels. Nearly 70 percent -- 16,500 -- of the estimated excess deaths were due to global warming, according to the rapid attribution study.

This means climate change could have tripled the number of heat deaths this summer, said the study from scientists at Imperial College London and epidemiologists at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

A rushed rescue saves Gaza archeological items before an Israeli strike on a warehouse

JERUSALEM. (Agency)

Nine hours of frantic negotiation with the Israeli military. A last-minute scramble to find trucks in a devastated Gaza Strip, where fuel is in short supply. Six hours of frantic packing, carefully stacking cardboard boxes on open flatbed trucks.

With an Israeli airstrike looming, aid workers carried out a last-minute rescue mission to salvage thousands of priceless artifacts from a Gaza warehouse before the building was flattened.

The warehouse contained artifacts from over 25 years of excavations, including items from a 4th-century Byzantine monastery designated as a World Heritage Site by the UN cultural organization UNESCO, and some of the oldest known evidence of Christianity in Gaza. The Israeli military said the building housed Hamas intelligence installations and planned to demolish it as part of their expanded military operation in Gaza City. "It's not just about Palestinian heritage or Christian heritage, it's something important to the world heritage here, protected by UNESCO," explained Kevin Charbel, the emergency field coordinator for Première Urgence Internationale, a humanitarian organization which has worked in Gaza since 2009. PUI is a health organization that also works toward the protection of Gaza's cultural heritage.

Negotiating against the clock

COGAT, Israel's defense body in charge of humanitarian aid, notified PUI of the demolition plan last Wednesday morning. The warning was triggered by a notification system managed by the international NGOs to let the Israeli military know that a specific area is a sensitive site such as a school, hospital, or warehouses holding humanitarian aid.

All You Need To Know About TikTok, Its Algorithm, And US-China Deal

world. (Agency)

A central question to TikTok's potential shutdown saga has been whether the popular social video platform would keep its algorithm - the secret sauce that powers its addictive video feed - after it's divested from Chinese parent company ByteDance.

Now, it appears that it can. Wang Jingtao, deputy director of China's Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, told reporters in Madrid Monday there was consensus on authorisation of "the use of intellectual property rights such as (TikTok's) algorithm" - a main sticking point in the deal.

The sides also agreed on entrusting a partner with handling U.S. user data and content security, he said. But while China has agreed that a divested TikTok could use its algorithm, it's uncertain how that would work. Little is known about the actual deal in the works, including what companies are involved and whether the United States would have a stake in TikTok. Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative, said the two sides have reached "basic framework consensus" to properly solve TikTok-related issues in a cooperative way, reduce investment barriers and promote related economic and trade cooperation. The sides now have until December 16 to hash out the details, following the latest deadline extension by the Trump administration. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a press conference this week after the latest round of trade talks between the world's top two economies concluded in Madrid that U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping would speak Friday to possibly finalise the deal. He said the objective of the deal would be to switch to American ownership. He did not disclose the terms of the deal, saying that it is between two private parties, but added that "the commercial terms have been agreed upon."

It's a spectacle with a purpose: to bolster ties with a world leader known for a love of bling at a time when his America First policies are putting pressure on global trade and security arrangements.

WINDSOR. (Agency)

It's the sort of experience you just can't buy. The carriages are being polished, the family silver is being laid out, and diamonds are being dusted off as King Charles III prepares to offer a royal welcome to Donald Trump for what will be the highlight of the US president's unprecedented second state visit to Britain. Hundreds of soldiers, gardeners and chefs are putting the finishing touches on their preparations to make sure the president and first lady Melania Trump get the full royal treatment. But it's a spectacle with a purpose: to bolster ties with a world leader

known for a love of bling at a time when his America First policies are putting pressure on trade and security arrangements globally. The second leg of the visit will take place on Thursday, when Trump and Starmer meet at Chequers, the 16th-century redbrick pile in the Chiltern Hills northwest of London that serves as the official country estate of British prime ministers. The government hopes a technology deal to be signed during the trip will underline the trans-Atlantic bond remains strong despite differences over Ukraine, the Middle East and the future of NATO. The backdrop for day one will be Windsor Castle, an almost 1,000-year-old royal residence with gilded interiors, crenelated towers and priceless artworks. It's a scene that has seemed to enchant Trump, who ditched his trademark bluster and described the invitation to Windsor as "a great, great honor." "I think that also is why he seems so visibly excited about the second meeting, because it isn't an invitation given to (just) anyone," said George Gross, an expert on the British monarchy at King's College



London. Trump said Tuesday after arriving in London that he loved being back in the United Kingdom, calling it a "very special place." Asked if he had a message for Charles, he said the king was a longtime friend of his and well-respected. While Britain's royals long ago gave up real political power, their history, tradition and celebrity give them a cachet that means presidents and prime ministers covet an invitation to join them. That makes the invitations, handed out at the request of the elected government, a powerful tool to reward friends and win concessions out of reluctant allies. State banquet No US president, or any other world leader,

Chinese and Philippine ships collide near disputed shoal in South China Sea

BEIJING. (Agency)

China's coast guard accused a Philippine ship of deliberately ramming one of its vessels on Tuesday near the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea. The Philippines denied it, saying China's forces used powerful water cannons that damaged its ship and injured a crew member. A Chinese coast guard statement said more than 10 Philippine government ships coming from various directions entered the waters around the shoal, which is called Huangyan Island in Chinese. It said it deployed water cannons against the vessels. The encounter came six days after China announced it was designating part of Scarborough Shoal as a national nature reserve. The Philippine government, which calls the shoal Bajo de Masinloc, filed a diplomatic protest. China and the Philippines have clashed repeatedly around outcroppings in the South China Sea, which China claims almost in its



entirety. The two countries are among several that have competing claims to territory in the waters, which are of strategic importance and home to valuable fishing grounds. The Philippine coast guard said two Chinese coast guard ships hit a

that affected electrical outlets and five outdoor air-conditioning units, it said.

A Chinese navy warship also broadcast a radio notice "announcing live-fire exercises" at the shoal which caused panic among Filipino fishermen, said the Philippine coast guard. The Philippine coast guard and fisheries ships were deployed to the shoal on Tuesday to provide fuel, water, ice and other aid to more than 35 fishing boats in the area. Several friendly countries have backed the Philippines on the nature reserve. A statement from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the Chinese action "yet another coercive move to advance sweeping territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea at the expense of its neighbors." The UK and Australia also expressed concern, and the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines said it opposed attempts to use environmental protection as a way to take control over the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

Delays to Mike Waltz's UN bid make it all but impossible he'll be in role for major world meeting

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

Mike Waltz almost certainly will not make his debut as President Donald Trump's US ambassador to the United Nations during a gathering of world leaders next week after delays and procedural hurdles postponed his confirmation. Waltz's nomination was sent back to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week after Democrats blocked more than two dozen of Trump's executive branch nominees. His bid will face another committee vote on Wednesday before heading to the Senate floor, but it is all but impossible that he would be confirmed by the full chamber before the high-level General Assembly meeting starts on Monday.

"Senate Democrats' extension of their blockade on President Trump's nominations is a deterrent to bipartisan committee work and has hurt America's standing on the world stage," Sen. Jim Risch, GOP chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement. "Republicans are getting the

Senate back to work, and I'm confident Mr. Waltz will be in place in the coming weeks." Waltz served for mere weeks as Trump's national security adviser before he was ousted in May after mistakenlyly adding a journalist to a private Signal chat used to discuss sensitive military plans. He has denied being removed from the post, instead claiming he was tapped for the UN role and stating that the chat met the administration's cybersecurity standards. The Pentagon inspector general is investigating. By the time the White House sent the Florida Republican's paperwork to the Senate for the confirmation process to begin, the UN position had been vacant for nearly six months. It is the last one to be filled in Trump's Cabinet following months of delay, including the withdrawal of the previous nominee, Rep. Elise Stefanik, over concerns about the Republicans' House majority.

It is unclear why Waltz wasn't advanced before Democrats employed the procedural move, given that his nomination moved out of committee

last month with bipartisan support. A Democratic congressional aide said the White House had shown "no urgency" in getting Waltz confirmed before next week's major UN gathering. He would have been representing the United States alongside Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who now also serves as national security adviser. A White House official said Trump "has been clear" that he wants all of his nominees confirmed as quickly as possible. The official — who, like the aide, spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly — did not comment on Waltz's nomination specifically.

Republicans on Wednesday are likely to vote to confirm Waltz and more than 25 other Trump nominees who had been sent back to committee en bloc, deploying a new tactic to make it easier to confirm large groups of people picked to fill administration positions after last-minute negotiations with Democrats fell apart.

Suspect left note saying he planned to kill Charlie Kirk, later confessed in texts, prosecutor says

PROVO, Utah. (Agency)

Prosecutors brought a murder charge Tuesday against the man accused of assassinating Charlie Kirk and outlined evidence, including a text message confession to his partner and a note left beforehand saying he had the opportunity to kill one of the nation's leading conservative voices "and I'm going to take it." DNA on the trigger of the rifle that killed Kirk also matched that of Tyler Robinson, Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray said while outlining the evidence and announcing charges that could result in the death penalty if Robinson is convicted.

The prosecutor said Robinson, 22, wrote in one text that he spent more than a week planning the attack on Kirk, a prominent force in politics credited with energizing the Republican youth movement and helping Donald Trump win back the White House in 2024.

"The murder of Charlie Kirk is an American tragedy," Gray said. Kirk was gunned down Sept. 10 while speaking with students at Utah Valley University. Prosecutors allege Robinson shot Kirk in the neck with a bolt-action rifle from the roof of a nearby building on the campus in Orem, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City. Robinson appeared briefly Tuesday before a judge by video from jail. He nodded



slightly at times but mostly stared straight ahead as the judge read the charges against him and said he would appoint an attorney to represent him. Robinson's family has declined to comment to The Associated Press since his arrest. Was Charlie Kirk targeted over anti-transgender views? Authorities have not revealed a clear motive in the shooting, but Gray said that Robinson wrote in a text about Kirk to his partner: "I had enough of his hatred. Some hate can't be negotiated out." Robinson also left a note for his partner hidden under a keyboard that said, "I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk and I'm going to take it," according to Gray.

The prosecutor declined to answer whether Robinson targeted Kirk for his anti-transgender views. Kirk was shot while taking a question that touched on mass shootings, gun violence and transgender people.

"That is for a jury to decide," Gray said.

Israel strikes Yemeni port of Hodeida as Houthi rebels activate air defenses

Bangladesh. (Agency)

ADEN: Israel on Tuesday launched airstrikes on the Yemeni city of Hodeida as Iranian-backed Houthi rebels activated air defenses. The Israeli military said in an update that it struck "military infrastructure" used by the Houthis at Hodeida port. "The Hudaydah Port is used by the Houthi terrorist regime for the transfer of weapons supplied by the Iranian regime, in order to execute attacks against the State of Israel and its allies," the statement read. "Our air defenses are currently confronting the Israeli aircrafts that are launching an aggression against our country," Houthi spokesperson Yayah Saree posted on X. Saree said in a statement that the Houthi air defenses "caused great confusion" for Israeli aircraft and forced some combat formations to leave Yemeni airspace before carrying out the attacks, thwarting Israel's incursion deep into Yemen.

Earlier Israeli strikes targeted Sanaa. The latest strikes came as hundreds attended funeral services for 31 Yemeni journalists

who were reported killed in Israeli airstrikes last week that targeted Houthis in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. The strikes last Wednesday followed a drone launched by the Houthis that breached Israel's multilayered air defenses and slammed into a southern Israeli airport, blowing out glass windows and injuring one person. In Yemen, dozens were reported killed, including the journalists, in the strikes that hit Sanaa, including residential areas, a military headquarters and a fuel station, according to the health ministry in the rebel-held northern part of the country. The National Museum of Yemen in Sanaa was also damaged, according to the rebels' culture ministry, with footage from the site showing damage to the building's facade. A government facility in the city of Hazm, the capital of northern Jawa province, was also hit. The Israeli army said last week that it struck sites used by the Houthis to gather intelligence and attack Israel, a fuel storage facility, and a "public relations department responsible for distributing propaganda messages in the media."

Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV broadcast the funerals Tuesday, showing dozens inside a mosque and the caskets being carried ahead of the burial. An honor guard stood beside the coffins. The turnout was lower



than expected for such a "huge loss," according to Khaled Rageh and Ahmed Malhy, who attended the funerals, likely because heavy morning rain kept some away. The two men spoke to The Associated Press by phone. Threats to journalists working in Yemen Israel has previously launched waves of airstrikes in response to the Houthis' firing

missiles and drones at Israel. The Houthis say they are attacking in solidarity with Palestinians amid the war in the Gaza Strip. The Houthis have also targeted ships in the Red Sea for over 22 months.

The Committee to Protect Journalists told The Associated Press on Monday that the organization is still actively looking into the reported deaths of Yemeni journalists but was having difficulties in verifying facts on the ground in rebel-held Sanaa. "The information environment is highly restricted — Houthis authorities have imposed strict censorship, including a ban on sharing photos or videos related to the airstrikes," the CPJ said. The New York-based Human Rights Watch in a Monday post said Israeli airstrikes in Sanaa also hit a media center housing the headquarters of two newspapers, describing it as another example of the dangers facing journalists in Yemen. "The recent Israeli forces' attack further highlights the threats journalists are facing in Yemen, not just by domestic authorities but also by external warring parties," said HRW.

Car hits two motorcycles in Vanagaram; two killed, one critical



Chennai .(Agency)

Three people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Chennai on Tuesday. In Vanagaram near Maduravoyal, two persons died and one was grievously injured after a motorist allegedly panicked following a minor accident and sped through traffic, hitting several vehicles and killing two.

The driver, Srinivasan (33) of Thiruverkadu, was returning home with his three-year-old daughter after buying food when his car hit an autorickshaw. Confronted by motorists at the spot, he reportedly panicked and fled at high speed.

While fleeing, Srinivasan first struck a two-wheeler at the Vanagaram signal, fatally injuring Krishna Prasad (63) of Noombal, who later succumbed to multiple fractures. Moments later, he rammed another two-wheeler near the Vanagaram fish market, killing Arjunan (34) on the spot and leaving his father Jagadeesan (60) critically injured.

Traffic police and bystanders chased and intercepted the car at Velappanchavadi signal. Srinivasan, who was allegedly agitated and unruly, was beaten up by the crowd.

Police rescued him and the child and later detained him. Medical tests confirmed he was not under the influence of alcohol. Srinivasan has been booked under Section 281 (causing death by rash or negligent act) and Section 125 (causing hurt by rash or negligent act) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. His car has been seized and further investigation is ongoing.

Meanwhile, in Madhavaram, 33-year-old taxi driver Madhusoothan was killed when his car was hit by a truck on Tuesday morning. The passenger, Priyamani, sustained injuries. Madhavaram police have lodged a case against the 29-year-old truck driver, Ajith, and are conducting further investigations.

UP man uses iron plate to steal money from ATM, arrested in Chennai



Chennai .(Agency)

A man from Uttar Pradesh was arrested on Monday from JJ Nagar for allegedly stealing cash from an SBI ATM at Pari Salai in Mogappair East using an iron plate.

The suspect, Shiva (20) of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, who was among the three men loitering around the ATM, was handed over to the police by Srinivasan, a senior executive with a private firm monitoring ATMs. Srinivasan went to the spot following complaints from customers. When Srinivasan questioned the three youth loitering near the ATM, two fled the spot, while Shiva was caught.

Inquiry revealed that the gang had fixed an iron plate inside the ATM's cash dispenser slot, blocking the notes. When the customers, assuming a malfunction, leave the kiosk, the men would remove the plate and collect the money. The police recovered Rs 2,000 in cash and a 30 cm iron plate used for the crime. Shiva was remanded in judicial custody on Tuesday.

Gujarat: Notice 'prohibiting' garba near religious structures in Kheda locality sparks row; two booked

After police issued instructions to the Muslim Panch to clear the notice, a fresh coat of black was painted over the board

Vadodara .(Agency)

Police on Tuesday booked two persons and began a probe into a "contentious" board, allegedly put up in Nani Baghol area of Matar taluka of Gujarat's Kheda district, "prohibiting" garba near certain religious structures in the minority neighbourhood.

The row comes a week before Navratri festivities are scheduled to begin in the state.

Based on the complaint of local Bajrang Dal volunteer Dhavalsinh Zala, the Matar police station booked Ayubkhan Usman Khan Pathan and Yusufmiya Khokhar — President and Vice President of the Muslim Panch of Nani Baghol — for "outraging religious feelings".

After police issued instructions to the Muslim Panch (a local body of the community) to clear the notice, a

Central Railway conducts first KAVACH trial in state at Solapur Division

KAVACH, developed indigenously by Indian Railways, is designed to prevent accidents such as Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), over speeding, and collisions

Mumbai .(Agency)

The Central Railway conducted its first trial of the indigenous "KAVACH" automatic train protection (ATP) system in Maharashtra on Sunday, marking a milestone in railway safety. The trial in Solapur Division, led by general manager Dharam Veer Meena, was carried out on a 26-km stretch between Dhavalas and Bhalwani stations.

KAVACH, developed indigenously by Indian Railways, is designed to prevent accidents such as Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), over speeding, and collisions. It works by exchanging real-time signalling information and locomotive location between



station equipment and on-board units via radio link, enforcing speed restrictions and movement authority limits. The system is being rolled out nationwide on "mission mode" to strengthen passenger safety.

During the Solapur trials, critical features of the system were tested, including SPAD protection, emergency SOS generation by station masters and block sections, as well as overspeed prevention at turnouts.

Senior railway officials including Maninder Singh Uppal, principal chief signal & telecom engineer and Dr Sujit Mishra, divisional railway manager, Solapur, were

present during the trial. Speaking on the occasion, Meena said, "The successful testing of KAVACH in Solapur Division is a pivotal moment in the rollout of this indigenous safety system. It demonstrates Indian Railways' unwavering focus on ensuring the highest levels of passenger safety and operational efficiency."

Alongside the trial, the first KAVACH stimulation lab and training centre of Central Railway was inaugurated at Kurudwadi. A new factory acceptance test (FAT) setup was also operationalised, creating what officials described as a "complete ecosystem" for training and implementing future technologies.

Phones off, no online transactions: Khedkar family vanishes as Navi Mumbai, Pune police launch manhunt

An official said that they suspect the accused will soon apply for anticipatory bail and may try to remain on the run till the time they secure it.

Mumbai .(Agency)

Three days after rescuing a truck cleaner from sacked IAS officer Puja Khedkar's Pune residence, the Navi Mumbai police are still on the lookout for her family members, who have allegedly switched off their mobile phones. The family members have also not made any online transactions since Sunday, an official said. "We are trying to trace the family, but they have switched off all their devices and are off the grid. We are now looking at CCTV cameras around the bungalow to trace what vehicle was used to escape," a police official said.

While the Navi Mumbai police booked Puja's parents and their bodyguard for allegedly abducting the truck cleaner after his vehicle brushed the SUV they were driving, the Pune police lodged a separate FIR for allegedly obstructing the police team from entering their residence.

An official said that they suspect the accused will soon apply for anticipatory bail and may try to remain on the run till the time they secure it. Several teams have been formed by Navi Mumbai and Pune police to track down the accused.

The alleged road rage incident took place on September 13 at a traffic junction on the Mulund-Airoli road when a concrete mixer truck brushed a car bearing a Pune registration number. According to the police, two men in the car had an altercation with truck driver Chandrakumar Chavan and the cleaner, Prahlad Kumar, 22, a resident of Turbhe MIDC in Navi Mumbai. They allegedly forced Kumar into their vehicle, saying they were taking him to the police station. Chavan kept calling Kumar on his phone, but there was no reply, following which a kidnapping case was registered at Rabale police station based on a complaint by Vilas Dherange, the truck owner.

Opposition set to corner Odisha government over fertiliser crisis, women's safety in assembly session

Bhubaneswar .(Agency)

With the Opposition training guns at the state government over acute shortage of fertiliser and increasing crime and atrocities on women, the upcoming Assembly session is expected to be stormy.

These issues were the major agenda of discussion at the meeting of the council of ministers chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday at his official residence, ahead of the all-party meeting convened by Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy.

While no official statement on discussions in the meeting has been forthcoming, sources said the government has no clear answer to the two issues which the Opposition want to exploit the treasury benches. The fertiliser crisis is visible across the state as long queues of farmers are being seen at PACS and LAMPS for days together to get a bag or two. The state

government's claim of having sufficient fertiliser stock across districts sounds hollow when farmers are struggling to get chemical



soil nutrients as per their requirements, they said. "All the PACS in the state are still under the control of BJD people and they have created an artificial crisis. The government has not been

able to break their nexus. The party MLAs are aggrieved as they could not come to the rescue of farmers," sources claimed. The BJD, which staged a demonstration near Raj Bhavan on the issues, will certainly get traction, they said.

The BJP legislature party meeting scheduled on Thursday, before the start of monsoon session, is also set to be a tough one for the government as there is a visible dissatisfaction among party MLAs over various issues. Inordinate delay in cabinet expansion and appointment of chairpersons to different corporations and boards are the issues likely to be raised in the BJPLP meeting.

The party MLAs are also complaining about lack of any development works in their constituencies even after 15 months of the BJP government. The block-level officials are not cooperating with the elected representatives and the ministers concerned are not heeding their complaints, the sources said.

Karnataka HC reserves interim order on pleas against Rs 200 cap on cinema tickets

The petitioners stated that the impugned rules will destroy their business model and will have devastating consequences for them.

Bengaluru .(Agency)

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday reserved the interim order on a batch of petitions against the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025, issued by the state government, fixing a Rs 200 cap on cinema tickets.

Justice Ravi V Hosmani reserved the interim order sought by the petitioners, including one filed by Multiplex Association of India, for the impugned Rules dated September 12, 2025, issued by the state government. They have sought a stay as an interim order for the impugned rules.

The petitioners' counsel argued that the impugned rules are arbitrary and contrary to the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1964. There can't be a direction to fix the price of the ticket since they have spent money on movie halls. There is no

provision under the Act. The cost of land and the cost of building in



contended that the impugned rules arbitrarily restrict the petitioners' right to trade and business guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g), without serving any legitimate public interest under Article 19(6).

Cinema is a discretionary activity, not an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Consumers have alternative choices, including OTT platforms, and market forces already balance pricing.

The petitioners stated that the impugned rules will destroy their business model and will have devastating consequences for them. The cap threatens direct loss of tax revenue (approximately annual GST from ticket sales is Rs 225 crore; Rs 112.5 crore accrued in SGST alone), reductions in property tax via depressed cinema rentals, and multiplier effects on local economies.

Bengaluru are more than 10 times that of tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Earlier, in 2017, a similar government order was issued, and the same was withdrawn consciously, they argued. They



The many maladies of Manipur can't be healed in a day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his short Manipur visit on September 13 that came after more than two-and-a-half years of confounding silence since a violent conflict had broken out between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo group of tribes, announced nothing to appease either side in the conflict. At the two public meetings he addressed—one at the Peace Ground in Churachandpur and the other at Kangla in Imphal—there were no hints that the demand of the Kuki-Zos for a separate administration of Union territory status would be considered, nor was there a mention of dismantling of the buffer zones created after the trouble broke out, or to ensure free movement for all along the highways, which the Meiteis want. He did meet children from relief camps at both the venues. Although in his speech he made no mention of internally displaced persons (IDPs), Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who accompanied him to both the places, did say in his address that a three-phase plan for having the IDPs return to their original homes is being worked out. The expectations of the parties in conflict were dashed, but equally disappointed are the legions of commentators standing on presumed moral high grounds who have been pronouncing their verdicts on what is and what should be in all that has been happening in Manipur. However, to be fair, what the PM ended up doing was somewhat inevitable. Unlike what many presume, this is not a bilateral matter between the warring groups. The Meiteis and the Kuki-Zos. Manipur is a multi-ethnic state, with 33 recognised Scheduled Tribes and several non-tribal communities that include the Meiteis, who form a thin majority. Continual adjustments of the frictions and tensions among these communities have been the fabric of Manipur's long history. Quite tragically, a sinner of sanity snapped in this process between Meiteis and Kuki-Zos on May 3, 2023, and a lot of the blame for this would have to go to populists who dangerously stoked and amplified the insecurities of either side. If not for this catastrophic turn of events, all of the immediate causes of the nightmare the state is in could have been settled without resorting to violence. Eviction of encroachers from forest lands, the demand for Scheduled Tribe status among a section of the Meiteis, the fight against the spread of poppy plantations, illegal immigration from across the border—all of this could have been handled legally and consensually in ways where nobody ended up demonised or dehumanised.

Given this multiplicity of interests among Manipur's many communities, even now, any plan for a lasting resolution to the present depressing crisis can only be after bringing all stakeholders on board, in particular the Nagas, who are the second largest ethnic group after the Meiteis. This is especially so if the deemed settlement is territorial. Nagas and Kukis share virtually the same living space in the hills—with the Nagas claiming that most of the land Kukis are now settled on were and are theirs. Unless such matters are first put to rest, bigger trouble can be expected if nonconsensual settlements are pushed. If the PM's avoidance of matters directly related to the present conflict can be understood as inhibited by this constraint, what remains unforgivable is his two-and-a-half-year delay in coming here. Had it been otherwise, and had his government ensured the law remained strictly and solely in the hands of the administration, even if it meant dismissing the then BJP state government that was obviously not up to the challenge, the wounds suffered by so many ordinary people would not have been as deep, making reconciliation far easier. But better late than never.

GST 2.0 provides fiscal roadmap to green growth

By reducing GST rates on renewable energy technologies, effluent treatment services, biodegradable bags and buses, India is putting its fiscal priorities where its international commitment towards net-zero emissions is. This model of balancing growth and sustainability can be widely replicated

When India pledged net-zero emissions by 2070 at COP26, it was a blueprint for a new development model where growth and sustainability rise together. Four years later, the 56th GST Council meeting provided a powerful new instrument to advance that vision. The introduction of GST 2.0—which included a rationalisation of tax rates on renewable energy devices, green technologies and sustainable transport—has embedded climate action into the heart of fiscal policy. This is not merely about making green products cheaper. It is about re-engineering economics so that clean power and sustainable choices become the most viable pathway for citizens and industries. The decision to reduce GST on solar panels, photovoltaic cells and wind turbines directly cuts the capital costs of renewable energy projects. This translates into more affordable tariffs for households and industries, accelerating adoption. For farmers, lower taxes on solar pumps mean reduced irrigation costs. For manufacturers, the reform strengthens the domestic supply chain under the government's production-linked incentive scheme. By enhancing competitiveness, India can position itself as a global hub for renewable energy manufacturing. For consumers, this will mean tangible savings on power costs and easier access to clean energy options. In essence, GST 2.0 ensures that renewable power is no longer an aspirational option but an accessible reality for all sections of society.

The impact of this reform goes beyond the domestic arena. As the world prepares for COP30 in Brazil, there is unprecedented scrutiny on whether nations can align fiscal, industrial and climate policies in ways that are credible and durable. Europe is moving ahead with its carbon border adjustment mechanism, which taxes carbon-intensive imports. The US is leveraging its Inflation Reduction Act to back clean manufacturing and ensure strategic leadership in the green economy.

India's rationalisation of GST on green technologies is a uniquely indigenous response to these global shifts. It creates affordability for domestic consumers while aligning India's trade and industrial ecosystem with the realities of an emerging low-carbon global economy. By making renewable technologies cheaper and scaling domestic production, India is future-proofing its exports against carbon tariffs and ensuring that its manufacturing sector remains competitive in a world where sustainability standards are increasingly non-negotiable. Equally significant are the reforms in waste management and green transport. The decision to reduce GST on effluent treatment services from 12 percent to 5 percent provides a clear incentive for industries and municipalities to adopt cleaner waste management



solutions. This will cut pollution and simultaneously create green jobs in plant operations and maintenance.

Lowering GST on biodegradable bags from 18 percent to 5 percent accelerates India's transition away from single-use plastics, a shift that directly aligns with international commitments under the UN Environment Assembly's Global Plastics Treaty. With these steps, India positions itself among countries taking systemic measures to combat plastic pollution and moves closer to building a circular economy. The transport sector, responsible for nearly 12 percent of India's emissions, has also received a major green push. Passenger buses and minibuses—now taxed at 18 percent, instead of 28 percent—will encourage the modernisation of fleets, expand public transport and reduce congestion and emissions. Trucks and goods carriers, which move nearly 70 percent of India's freight, will become more affordable. This will help phase out ageing, polluting fleets and reduce emissions across the logistics chain. Importantly, it also aligns with global supply chain decarbonisation efforts that multinational corporations increasingly expect from their partners and suppliers. GST 2.0 sends a powerful signal to international investors and policymakers that India is aligning its fiscal architecture with its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and its

nationally determined contributions. It reassures trade partners that India's manufacturing ecosystem is moving towards lower emissions and greater sustainability. This reform also strengthens India's role in the Global South. Many developing countries are grappling with the same challenge that India faces—of balancing growth with sustainability at a time when green technologies remain costly. Each nation is at a different stage of development, but all need low-cost, scalable and sustainable solutions. By showing how fiscal policy can make renewables affordable, India has created a replicable model that can inspire climate-positive taxation across the developing world. It is a model India can proudly champion at COP30 and beyond. These reforms will be remembered as the moment when India gave fresh depth and direction to the idea of green growth. It marks the stage where fiscal and climate policy were woven into a single framework, and when India's green transition derived strength from the vitality of its own economy. With GST 2.0, India has shown that a nation can aspire to grow, compete and lead while advancing decisively along the path of sustainability. This reflects not only the essence of genuine climate leadership but also the vision of an India whose future will be defined by its unwavering commitment to green development.

Must punish frequent traffic offenders

If the penalty system is designed to act as a deterrent against traffic offences that lead to the loss of numerous lives and property, it is not clearly working. Most owners know challans just pile up

The Odisha government last week cleared a proposal to allow traffic law violators a window of six months to settle their penalties issued via e-challans. The one-time settlement scheme, to be rolled out shortly, intends to encourage traffic offenders to not just pay up, but also respect road safety norms. Prompting the decision to offer the settlement was the bulge of pending e-challans. By the end of July, the state had issued 77 lakh penalty notices, of which only 23 lakh had been settled; the rest had elicited no response. E-challans are issued by the transport department as well as the police, besides the Intelligent Enforcement Management System.

If a notice is not settled within 180 days, the agencies are supposed to submit a prosecution report before a court. This adds to the pendency. About 1.8 lakh e-challans are issued monthly and the resources required to prepare prosecution reports for them is huge. What is worrying is that most violators seem not to care about challans. If the penalty system is designed to act as a deterrent against traffic offences that lead to the loss of numerous lives and property, it is not



clearly working. Most owners know challans just pile up and non-payment is a problem only when the vehicle is being sold.

This is a matter of national concern. The latest ministry of road transport and highways data shows at least 34.35 crore challans have been issued across India, though only 13.09 crore stand disposed. In financial terms, they translate to a staggering 251,161-crore claim, of which 231,913 crore is waiting to be collected. Such a massive sum can fund a large infrastructure project. More than the money, what's at stake is life and property. Annually, India reports more than 1.68 lakh road fatalities, while 4.4 lakh people suffer injuries. The socio-economic cost of road accidents translates to 3 percent of the GDP, according to a study. This means the government has to look for fresh options. Apart from raising awareness, suspension and cancellation of registrations and driving licences must become the norm, not an aberration, for frequent violators. Mandatory community service should also be introduced. Regular, definitive action—not leniency and administrative sloth—has to be the way forward.

Modi mantra: Nurturing cadres, strengthening organisation

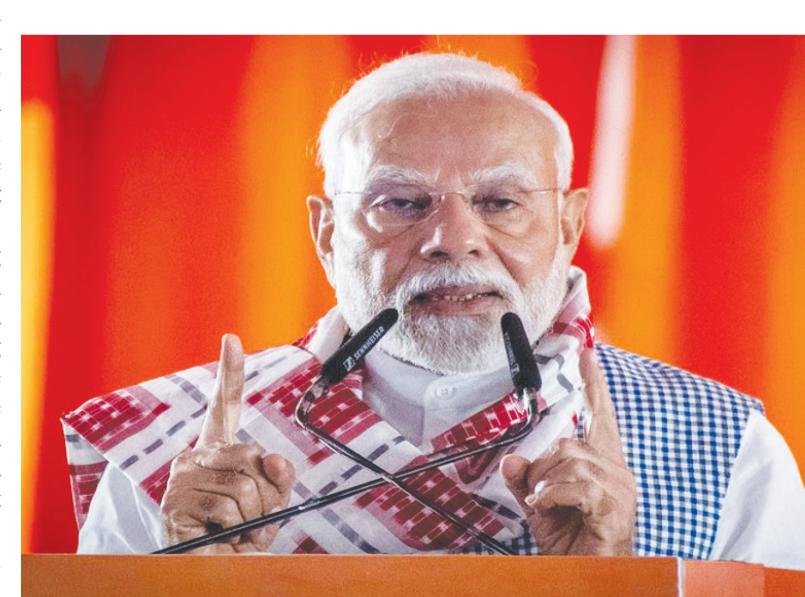
Narendra Modi became a 'pracharak' (full-time worker) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the early 1970s.

It takes the towering devotion of its cadres to make an organisation truly bloom in all its glory. This has been the guiding mantra of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life and his organisational vision. Modi has always considered cadres as the heart of the organisation. Nurturing them, training them, and empowering them has remained among his foremost tasks. He believes that the organisation is not just a framework, its real strength lies in the ability, discipline, and dedication of its cadres.

Narendra Modi became a 'pracharak' (full-time worker) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the early 1970s. After the Emergency in 1977, when he emerged as an able organiser in the role of vibhag pracharak, his working style was rooted in cadre-building. The early 1980s was a period when RSS had very limited spread in Gujarat. Even setting up a single 'shakha' (branch) in a taluka was considered a big achievement in those days. But the young Modi had a different vision: "Every village should have a shakha," he would say. He would assign responsibility for setting up of each branch to a cadre and periodically take progress reports — who the chief instructor was, what activities were conducted, who remained absent and why — every detail was monitored carefully. In 1985, when the RSS completed 60 years, a massive camp was organised in Karnavati (Ahmedabad). Nearly 5,000 cadres attended the camp. In its run-up, Modi went from village to village, meeting youth and motivating them to purchase uniforms. As a result, hundreds of new young people not only reached the camp but also became permanently associated with the

organisation. This infused fresh energy into the Gujarat unit and marked the beginning of large-scale cadre-building. Modi taught cadres to work systematically and in an organised manner. For example, participants of the RSS training camp held at P.D. Malaviya College in Rajkot in the early 1980s still recall how he had them conduct a survey among locals to assess the organisation's image and present the results using statistical methods. This was not only an innovative learning exercise but also a message that modern techniques and systematic thinking were essential to strengthening the organisation. He inspired cadres with practical examples of behaviour and etiquette. Small habits — such as being organised, knocking on doors before entering, and warmly enquiring after the well-being of family members — turned them into responsible and respected workers. His training moulded cadres not just as members of the organisation but as model representatives in society. Modi also extended personal moral support to cadres and their families during tough times and unfortunate incidents — something many workers still remember with gratitude. When he became the organisation secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat in 1987, he carried forward the same practice of cadre-building in the political sphere. Through the BJP's 'Organisation Festival' during the 1980s, thousands of new cadres were drawn

into the party. Discipline and accountability formed the foundation of Modi's working style. He taught cadres that these values, along with dedication, are the cornerstones of a strong organisation. He himself never came late to meetings, not even by a



minute, and if anyone else arrived late, he would make them stay outside and still participate. Modi also gave new direction to both social balance and electoral strategy within the organisation. While selecting office-bearers, he ensured social inclusivity. In the 1987 Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation elections, with his 'Win the Booth' strategy, cadres became active at the grassroots and

worked with a focused approach. Additionally, through his personal conduct, Modi instilled confidence and capacity in cadres. He would reassure first-time entrants into the party and explain the significance of booth-level organisation, membership details, and collective effort. As a result, within just a few months, lakhs of new members were enrolled and strong cadres were raised. As BJP's organisation secretary, he also initiated 'Tiffin Meetings', through which cadres and their families were emotionally connected with the organisation. In cadre-building, Modi did not restrict himself to structure and strategy alone. He taught cadres to become sensitive and farsighted leaders. He urged senior cadres to cooperate with juniors and to take responsibility. Balanced responses to criticism and restraint in the face of praise — these were integral parts of Modi's cadre-building strategy. Modi's perspective has always been clear: the true strength of the organisation lies in its cadres. Cadres filled with discipline, dedication, and a spirit of service, keep national interest above all else in any circumstance. This is why today the organisation is not just a political power but a vibrant cultural consciousness. His journey of cadre-building conveys a lasting message to future generations: if the roots are nurtured, the branches will naturally blossom and the tree will stand strong for ages.

Parks become classrooms as elderly in Chandigarh embrace second chance to literacy

Devi's commitment has deeply impressed her tutor, Dr Ramesh Chand Sharma, a teacher at Government Girls Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 18. Sharma

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Several Chandigarh teachers are busy these days, not just in classrooms, but in public parks too. These teachers are conducting literacy sessions for elderly individuals in government schools and public parks, preparing them for an assessment test scheduled on September 21.

The initiative is part of the central government's "ULLAS" (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme, which aims to provide educational opportunities to individuals aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling, using community-based learning as its foundation.

At a public park in Sector 7A, Geeta Yadav (60) attends classes with a group of elderly women, with her enthusiasm evident. Originally from Haryana's Narnaul district, Geeta now lives in Chandigarh with her son, who works at the ordnance factory in the city.

"In my childhood, I couldn't study due to family circumstances. Now, I want to make



the most of this opportunity so I can count money, dial a phone number, and read the destination board on a bus to know where it's headed," she said.

Suresh Devi (55), whose daughter-in-law

Chand Sharma, a teacher at Government Girls Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 18, Sharma, who is teaching 13 learners — all above the age of 45 — said, "Devi writes several pages daily as part of her effort to become literate as early as possible."

Rajbala, principal of Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 33, noted that both school teachers and NSS volunteers are actively involved in conducting literacy sessions for elderly learners.

Director of UT School Education, Harsuhinder Pal Singh Brar, told The Indian Express that all government schools are participating in the ULLAS campaign. According to the government, the programme focuses on promoting functional literacy, vocational skills, and essential life competencies such as financial, legal, and digital literacy, while empowering citizens to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Minor dispute over fishing turns violent in Meerut, five injured

Meerut .(Agency)

A minor dispute over fishing turned violent in Salawa village of Meerut district, leaving five people injured, police said on Wednesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Vipin Tada said the clash broke out on Tuesday night when youths from one group assaulted members of the other group during fishing.

"Five people were injured in the incident. They have been admitted to the hospital and are out of danger," he said.

On the basis of a complaint from the victims, a case under various sections has been registered and eight accused have been arrested and sent to jail, the SSP said, adding additional police personnel have been deployed in the village as a precautionary measure and the situation is fully under control.

According to local police, the incident took place around 9 pm near a drain outside the village where some youths of one community were fishing. Members of the other community opposed it, leading to an exchange of words, which soon escalated into abuses and a violent clash.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rakesh Kumar Mishra said heavy police deployment has been made in view of the tension in the village. Statements from both sides are being recorded and a detailed investigation is underway. The village is currently peaceful, but police are maintaining strict vigil, he added.

Teakwood makeover gives Kempegowda Council hall a new look ahead of maiden budgets

Bengaluru .(Agency)

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Pourasabhangana, the venue of monthly Council meetings all these years, has been completely revamped with a new look. Except for the final touches, the hall is ready for use. Complete teakwood executive seats and flooring, acoustics for sound clarity and a mic system for each seat, which allows only one speaker at a time are the major highlights of the new Council hall.

As there are no council halls for the five corporations, all the monthly meetings will be held at the Pourasabhangana, with each corporation allocated two days each. It is likely that the first meeting will be held on October 10, when the corporations are expected to present their maiden budgets.

Sharing details about the upgradation done in a budget of over Rs 10 crore, Girisha from Dreams Interiors, Mysuru, who led the makeover, said, "We were supposed to complete work in six months. But the makeover took more than two years as we had to source teakwood from the Karnataka forest department through auction, and seasoning the wood itself took more than six months. The teakwood seats are of executive type and will have premium cushions facilitating long-hour sitting, and the entire hall has teak flooring that gives a classy look."

"Earlier, during the council meetings, the hall would echo. Now, it is remodelled with acoustics and soundproofing for sound clarity. Also, the entire mic system is replaced with new ones, which allows only one speaker at a time," Girisha said. The hall's previous seating capacity was 270, when Bengaluru had one corporation with 198 wards. The renovator said he was asked to make provision for 225 seats, when the city's wards were capped at 225. "Now, there are 324 seats that can accommodate 225 corporators, 28 MLAs, six MLCS, 5 MPs, 25 nominated corporators and 35 officials," Girisha said. The waiting hall adjacent to the council hall is laid with Italian flooring, which gives a rich look, and there are also CCTVs installed, Girisha said.

Chandigarh: One dies in hit-and-run accident

Chandigarh .(Agency)

A man lost his life in a road accident near the Airport Light Point on Monday evening after his motorcycle was hit by an unidentified speeding vehicle. The victim, identified as Gagan, a resident of Ambala Cantt, was riding a motorcycle with his friend Satinder when the accident occurred. Both were rushed to GMCH-32, Chandigarh with serious injuries, but despite medical efforts, Gagan succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Satinder was under treatment at the hospital. Police have registered FIR under sections 281, 125(A), and 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the police station in Sector 31 against the unknown driver, who fled the scene. The investigation is underway to trace the vehicle and its driver. The Chandigarh Police also registered two more accident-related FIRs over the past two days. In one case, an FIR has been registered at the police station in Sector 11 against Harwinder, a

resident of Sector 23/B, who was driving a car (Zen). He allegedly hit the motorcycle of Vinod Kumar, a resident of Sector 42/B, at the Sector-15/16 light point on September 14. Vinod, along with his wife and daughter, sustained injuries and was admitted to GMSH-16 Chandigarh. The accused was arrested during investigation and later granted bail. In another case, an FIR was registered at the police station in the Industrial Area against Anurag Verma, a resident of Daria, for rash driving of a car. On September 15, he hit the bike of Ashok Kumar of Behlana near the Poultry Farm Chowk slip road. Ashok, along with his son and daughter, suffered injuries and was admitted to GMCH-32.

The accused was arrested and subsequently released on bail. Police officials said investigations in all three cases are in progress, and efforts are being made to identify the vehicle responsible for the fatal accident near the Airport Light Point.

Punjab now looks at Aerotropolis extension — the conventional way

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Having scrapped the land pooling policy, the Punjab government is now planning to follow the conventional land acquisition policy for the extension project of Aerotropolis residential project near IT city in Mohali.

Under this policy, forced acquisition will be done instead of voluntary acquisition as was promised in the voluntary land pooling policy.

Sources said that the government has set the ball rolling to conduct the social and environment impact study. In the voluntary land pooling policy, the government was faced with major criticism for not getting these studies done.

After the social and environment impact study, the government will invite objections from landowners and follow the procedure set down by the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

The Greater Mohali Area

Development Authority (GMADA) and Punjab's Housing Development department are waiting for the nod from the government to allow the permission to start the study.

"Once permission is granted, the study will be handed to an institution. We would like to finish the project before December 2026, before this government's term comes to an in March 2027. We are now following the procedure under the Parliament Act of 2013," said a government functionary, adding that the 3,400-acre project is worth Rs 17,000 crore.

He added that after acquisition, the government plans to follow the land pooling policy alone.

"Gone are the days when acquisition was done after paying cash. Now, the governments do not have money. With land pooling, both the governments and the landowners benefit. There will

be no issue in this extension project as we have already banned sale and purchase of land in these areas and no registrations are being done," he said.

Landowners will be given developed piece of plot and commercial space in lieu of every acre of land acquired. "The government will develop six more blocks in the residential project. Already A, B, C and D blocks have been developed but block A has not been developed yet due to alleged guava scam taking place on this land. The land is caught up in a Vigilance case now. Six more blocks including E,F,G,H,I and J will be developed.

Earlier, 1700 acres were already acquired under the land pooling in blocks A,B,C and D. The plot allottees will be required to pay to GMADA in instalments only. If all goes well, it could earn the government Rs 5,000 crore," the functionary said.

Punjab and Haryana High Court tells Haryana to honour former Indian Navy serviceman's skills in jobs

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar warned Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam against blocking ex-servicemen's rehabilitation through rigid rules.

Chandigarh .(Agency)

The Punjab and Haryana High Court Monday pulled up the Haryana power utility for denying appointment to a naval veteran despite him clearing the recruitment test for junior engineers, stressing that the "services rendered by ex-servicemen must also be honoured in a practical manner."

While hearing the plea of Vinod Kumar, a former Indian Navy serviceman who had applied for the post of Junior Engineer (Electrical) under the ex-servicemen quota, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar directed the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam to explain its stand in detail during the hearing. Kumar had secured higher marks than the required cut-off but was denied appointment after the Nigam questioned the validity of his naval trade equivalence certificate. The judge noted that two other ex-servicemen with similar naval qualifications had already been appointed in the state-owned power distribution company under the same advertisement.

It goes unsaid that technical skills gained during service with the armed forces involve the most rigorous forms of training available.

The precision demanded by naval operations ensures that the candidates trained in the same are able to acquire mastery over advanced technologies and perform their duties even in high-pressure situations," Justice Brar observed.

The court made it clear that while it usually refrains from interfering with recruitment processes and prescribed qualifications, the matter here required intervention since it involved the rehabilitation of a qualified ex-serviceman. "The services rendered by ex-servicemen must also be honoured in a practical manner, i.e. by providing them opportunities for civil employment," the ruling stated.

Justice Brar also highlighted the broader

social concern, noting that large numbers of defence personnel retire each year at a relatively young age. "The opportunities of



their civil employment are not always proportional to the rate at which ex-servicemen are discharged. As such, it is the

duty of every employer not to create any unnecessary hindrances to their rehabilitation by denying them employment opportunities under the ex-servicemen quota," the court said. He warned that if recruitment rules were applied so rigidly that they effectively nullified the benefit of reservation for ex-servicemen, "the whole exercise would have been in vain." The judge stressed that the rules "must be adequately relaxed to deliver the intended benefits of the reservations made in favour of ex-servicemen."

Directing the managing director of the Nigam to file a detailed affidavit, the court sought clarity on two points: when the essential conditions for recruitment to junior engineer posts were implemented, and how many ex-servicemen had been selected since then. The matter will be heard again on October 15.

Bengaluru corporations to unveil budgets by October 10

Bengaluru .(Agency)

The maiden budgets of the five city corporations, formed after the creation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), are likely to be presented on or before October 10. The budget size for the remaining months of the financial year is expected to be around Rs 1,700 crore, all five corporations put together.

GBA chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao has instructed the corporations to begin budget preparation. According to an official from the GBA, the budgets will be planned until March 31, 2026, for the five city corporations—Bengaluru North, Bengaluru East, Bengaluru West, Bengaluru Central and Bengaluru South. Garbage management and major infrastructure projects have dedicated agencies such as Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSMILE). As a result, the corporation's budgets will be reduced in scope.

"The salaries of staff, ceremonial expenses, welfare programs, developmental works, maintenance of roads, parks, playgrounds, schools, colleges, hospitals and Indira canteen maintenance expenses will only be taken into consideration, and a budget will be prepared," said a GBA source.

As per the sources, the total budget size is Rs 1,707.98 crore for the remaining months in the running financial year. The West City Corporation has estimated the budget estimation of Rs 533 crore; South Rs 316.28

crore; North Rs 364.58 crore; East Rs 155.50 crore and Central Rs 313.25 crore. These corporations will soon send the proposal to the GBA Chief Commissioner for his approval.

After scrutiny, he may send it to the government for its approval from the finance department. Once these process is completed, the corporations will announce the budget as they are financially



independent. "On 28 March 2025, Rs 19,930 crore was announced for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (which, after cessation on September 2, 2025, is split into five corporations and is being monitored by Greater Bengaluru Authority).

About Rs 6,000 crore worth of works have been taken up and some are in the tender stage. In the remaining Rs 13,000 plus crore, about Rs 9,000 crore (80 percent) will be diverted to BSWML and BSMILE, which GBA is monitoring and supervising.

assembly constituencies which PCC president has not even bothered to focus upon and which lack a proper Congress leadership at local level. We also pointed out that in many constituencies there are two to three contenders for the MLAs ticket and that this scenario will harm Congress as the state inches towards 2027 assembly polls," the leader said. It is learnt that an example of Tarn Taran assembly constituency was given where there are at least three candidates being propped up from three different camps and which has already caused discord among the party cadres. "We have told the high command that we will take part in Tarn Taran poll process in whatever capacity that the party wants us to be, but we have also apprised the central leaders about the confusions which exists on the ground," the leader said.

be no issue in this extension project as we have already banned sale and purchase of land in these areas and no registrations are being done," he said. Landowners will be given developed piece of plot and commercial space in lieu of every acre of land acquired. "The government will develop six more blocks in the residential project. Already A, B, C and D blocks have been developed but block A has not been developed yet due to alleged guava scam taking place on this land. The land is caught up in a Vigilance case now. Six more blocks including E,F,G,H,I and J will be developed.

Earlier, 1700 acres were already acquired under the land pooling in blocks A,B,C and D. The plot allottees will be required to pay to GMADA in instalments only. If all goes well, it could earn the government Rs 5,000 crore," the functionary said.

ISIS Modules Planned To Attack Religious Sites, Carry Out Targeted Killings

►The first module was uncovered by the Delhi Police Special Cell through raids in Jharkhand, Telangana, Bengaluru, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh.

Agency New Delhi.

Weapons, chemical bomb-making materials and a plan to attack religious sites. In a major success, investigative agencies have busted two pan-India ISIS modules, allegedly planning targeted killings, in a week. The investigators found digital evidence linking these modules to Pakistani terrorists. The two modules were reportedly working on the Khilafat model and the

Ghazwa-e-Hind agenda. The "Khilafat" model refers to occupying a place and then carrying out "jihad".

Two ISIS Modules Busted

The first module was uncovered by the Delhi Police Special Cell through raids in Jharkhand, Telangana, Bengaluru, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. Five members of the module - Ashar Danish, Aftab Qureshi, Sufian Abubakar Khan, Mohammad Huzain Yaman, and Kamran Kamran Qureshi - were arrested. A large quantity of weapons and chemical bomb-making materials were recovered from them. The terrorists were planning target killings and attacks on religious sites, according to the sources.

The second ISIS module is linked to Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided 16 locations across eight states - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

Maharashtra, and Delhi - and recovered a large quantity of digital devices, documents and chemical bomb-making materials.

Digital evidence revealed that two suspected terrorists, Siraj and Sameer, incited young people through Instagram, Facebook,

was arrested on August 27 while he was attempting to flee to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Investigation revealed that he and his associates were conspiring to supply weapons through the Nepal border.

How Do These Modules Work

Run by Pakistani handlers, terrorists connect with youngsters on the Signal app through several groups. They are told that Muslims are being oppressed in India, and if they continue to tolerate this behaviour and remain silent, they will be doomed.

Videos of extremists are shared in groups, and then Pakistani handlers initiate one-on-one conversations through apps with any member of the group who shows interest in such videos and inflammatory statements.

According to the investigators, the four faces of terror whose speeches are used to prepare Indian youngsters for jihad (fight enemies) are Masood Azhar, Tariq Masood, Tariq Jameel, and Zakir Naik.



Pak Army chief sent officers to attend terrorist funerals: Jaish militant

Agency New Delhi.

In a shocking confession, Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, a top Jaish-e-Mohammad commander, has said that Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir had directed officers to attend funerals of terrorists killed in Operation Sindo. The revelation comes months after images emerged of uniformed Pakistani personnel attending a slain terrorist's funeral.

Ilyas Kashmiri further stated that the order to attend the funerals of terrorists killed at the Jaish camp in Pakistan's Bahawalpur city during Operation Sindo was directly issued by the Army chief to his generals.

He also claimed that Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media and public relations wing of the Pakistan Army, made attempts to hide links between the UN-proscribed terrorist group and the camps in Bahawalpur.

The Jaish commander's confession comes as Pakistan has repeatedly said that there were no terrorist camps operating on its soil. The Islamabad government, as well as the Army, had also denied the existence of Jaish camps in Bahawalpur. Just days after more than 100 terrorists were killed in India's precision strikes as part of Operation Sindo on May 7, the Indian Army released the names of the Pakistani Army personnel and key police officials of the Punjab province who were at the funerals of the slain militants. The precision strikes under Operation Sindo were carried out in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Delhi government seeks Ganga water from UP, offers treated supply in return

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi is exploring a fresh water-sharing arrangement with neighbouring Uttar Pradesh as the city struggles to meet its growing demand, with the Delhi Jal Board proposing an exchange of treated wastewater for additional Ganga water.

According to officials, city currently produces about 990-1,000 million gallons per day (MGD) of potable water, up from 927 MGD in 2020-21. Yet, the latest economic survey places demand at nearly 1,290 MGD, leaving a shortfall of almost 300 MGD. To bridge part of this gap, the DJB has sought 50 MGD of raw Ganga water from UP and, in return, offered to supply 100 MGD of treated water.

The treated water, processed in Delhi's sewage treatment plants, has been proposed for non-potable uses such as irrigation in agriculture and landscaping of public spaces like parks and gardens. "No decision has been taken yet, but discussions are in progress," a DJB official said. At present, the capital draws about 240 MGD of water through the Upper Ganga Canal. This supply is treated at the Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar plants before being distributed to parts of South Delhi. Officials said additional supply is necessary to maintain equitable distribution and ensure stability in the system as population pressures increase.

The Delhi government has also begun drafting a new water policy, its first since 2016. Officials said the exercise focuses on modernising infrastructure, expanding production capacity, and addressing the persistent imbalance between supply and demand. The DJB has been directed to study reports and assessments from the past 10-15 years on water transport and management to guide this framework.

Apart from sourcing more raw water, the utility is also working to plug losses in the transmission network. Officials noted that minimising leakages and optimising distribution are as critical as expanding production to ensure the capital's long-term water security.

Govt begins drafting a new water policy

The government has also begun drafting a new water policy, its first since 2016. Officials said the exercise focuses on modernising infrastructure, expanding production capacity & addressing the persistent imbalance between supply and demand.

Delhi BMW crash: Court notice on plea to preserve CCTV footage, no bail for accused

Agency New Delhi.

A Delhi court on Wednesday issued a notice on a plea filed by the accused in the BMW accident case that killed senior Finance Ministry official Navjot Singh and injured his wife, seeking preservation of CCTV footage of the incident. Meanwhile, the accused, Gaganpreet Kaur, remains under judicial custody without bail. The petition, which was moved by Gaganpreet Kaur's lawyer today at the Patiala House Court, sought that CCTV evidence of the accident spot in Dhaula Kuan should be secured. In response, the court said it would hear the application tomorrow.

Appearing for the accused, lawyer Ramesh Gupta said that the accident case has been converted to a culpable homicide case. "When the investigating officer registered the

case, he was of the view that the accused was driving in a rash and negligent manner," he told the court.

The lawyer requested the court to grant Gaganpreet Kaur bail, saying that "if it is a woman, bail can be given in



death sentence cases as well."

"The FIR was registered 10 hours later. It's an unfortunate incident, 5,000 accidents happen every year and that's also unfortunate," he said, adding that the woman's children were also inside the car at the time of the accident. In

counterargument, Delhi Police claimed that the Nulife Hospital in north Delhi where the victim was taken to 19 km away from the accident spot, is owned by a relative of the accused.

"According to the statement of the taxi driver who took the victim, the accused insisted that he be taken to the other hospital. While the injured was on a stretcher, the accused was admitted to the ICU. What kind of hospital is this?" the counsel queried.

"Something has to be malafide if he was taken so far away," the lawyer said and claimed that there has been tampering of evidence.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court decided to hear the matter on Thursday. Earlier in the day, Delhi Police recorded the statement of Parikshit Makkhar, husband of accused Gaganpreet Kaur.

"Send A Few Behind Bars": Supreme Court On Farmers Burning Stubble

Agency New Delhi.

Sending some farmers behind bars for burning stubble can send a strong message to others and act as a deterrent, the Supreme Court said today as it heard petitions linked to choking air pollution in Delhi-NCR every October.

Earlier, Amicus Curiae Aparajita Singh told the bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran that farmers have been offered subsidies and equipment to address the stubble burning issues. "But farmers have the same story. Last time, farmers said that they were asked to burn at a time when the satellite does not pass over that area. I am sorry to say that since 2018, the Supreme Court has passed extensive



orders, and they only plead helplessness before you," she said. The Chief Justice questioned why the authorities are not thinking about penal provisions to address this issue. "If some people are behind bars, it will send the correct message. Why don't you think of some penalty provisions for the agriculturists? If you have a real intention of protecting

the environment, then why shy away?" Farmers are special, and we are eating because of them... but it does not mean that they can take advantage," the Chief Justice added. Stubble burning in neighbouring Punjab and Haryana is among the main contributors to Delhi's toxic air days in October and November every year.

Farmers burn stubble to clear the fields of crop residue. The alternatives are using manual labour to clear fields or specialised machines.

Farmers argue that these options are cost-intensive, and stubble burning continues to be reported every year, although there has been a reduction in reported cases.

Maoists Offer "Temporary Suspension Of Armed Struggle", Call For Talks With Centre

Agency New Delhi.

The banned CPI Maoists, operating from shadows for decades, depleting the country of its life blood, are apparently suing for peace - cornered after sustained crackdown by security forces. A month-old press note that recently surfaced has offered a unilateral and "temporary suspension of armed struggle", saying they are ready for peace talks with the Central government.

The note, dated August 15, 2025, accessed by , was issued by Maoist central spokesperson Abhay. It declares that they are ready to suspend violence for a month, during which peace talks can be initiated with a government-appointed committee.

The note said the jailed Maoist leaders be allowed to take part in the talks and warned that police pressure and continued encounters in this period would undermine the dialogue process. An email ID has been shared asking the

Centre to respond.

The group has also demanded the release of political prisoners, safe passage for cadres, and assurances that talks will be meaningful. They have sought a month to coordinate with their jailed and underground members.

Timing Of The Note

The note comes as security forces made massive headway over the last months in stamping out Maoism, in line with the promise of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

This year saw some of the deadliest blows to Maoists in decades.

In February, security forces killed 31 Maoists in Indravati National Park in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur.

The big push in Chhattisgarh's Abujhmad, one of the oldest strongholds of Maoists, came in May. Security forces neutralized 28 Maoists -- including top leader Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju - crippling the insurgency's leadership.

On Monday, in a fierce encounter in Jharkhand, the elite CRPF CoBRA commandos killed Central Committee member Sahdev Soren, who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore. In Maharashtra's

Don't worry about us: Bombay HC dismisses plea against 'Jolly LLB 3' movie

Agency New Delhi.

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea against Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi's courtroom drama "Jolly LLB 3" alleging mockery of judges and lawyers, noting the court was used to such mockery.

"Don't worry about us," the HC said. The petition filed by the Association for Aiding Justice through advocate Chandrakant Gaikwad sought a stay on the release of the movie and also deletion of the song, 'Bhai Vakeel Hai', which it claimed was derogatory towards the legal profession.

The petitioner's lawyer, Dipesh Siroya, said the movie and song make a mockery of not just lawyers but also judges, as in a scene, the judges are referred to as "mamu", a slang he said was derogatory and insulting to the judiciary.

A bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad appeared amused and said it was not worried about the same.

"We have been facing mockery since day one. Don't worry about us," the court said, dismissing the plea. The filmmakers informed the bench that a similar plea against the movie was filed before the Allahabad High Court, and the same was dismissed. The movie is slated for release on September 19.

National capital's 70L plantation drive faces survival test

Agency New Delhi.

In early June, the government launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, with CM Rekha Gupta announcing a target of planting over 70 lakh trees this season.

"I am pleased that every Delhi department and school is joining the second series of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. We are requesting every person and social organisation to plant at least one tree in the name of Mother Nature and Earth. We have set a target of planting 70 lakh trees this season and expect to improve environment by doing this," she said.

However, activists and experts have questioned the effectiveness of such drives, noting that few



saplings eventually survive. Green activist Bhavleen Kandhari argued that mass plantations rarely succeed. "Even when we plant trees at home, it is difficult to ensure survival. During these drives, saplings are planted in far-off locations without proper care," she said.

In March, the MCD planted thousands of bamboo saplings on five acres near the Bhalswa landfill to create a bamboo park. Within weeks, most had dried up in the heat.

Court documents also reveal poor survival rates of compensatory plantations. At NTPC Eco Park, Badarpur, where 5,100 trees were felled, survival was just 50-70%. Similar trends appeared on the Yamuna floodplain and Delhi Ridge. National audits show long-term survival often falls below 50%, with transplanted trees in Delhi averaging only 41-42.5% between 2022-24.

Farmers burn stubble to clear the fields of crop residue. The alternatives are using manual labour to clear fields or specialised machines.

Farmers argue that these options are

cost-intensive, and stubble burning continues to be reported every year, although there has been a reduction in reported cases.

rights groups and civil society intermediaries to open talks. But New Delhi has made it clear: the goal remains to end Left-Wing Extremism by March 2026.

What Officials Say

Senior government officials from Chhattisgarh, however, have cautioned that the authenticity of the letter is still under verification.

"If confirmed, it would mark a major change in their stance," a source said. There is also concern that the proposed ceasefire, if genuine, could be a ploy of the Maoists to regroup and grow.

Maoism - End In Sight?

The Maoist insurgency started with the 1967 uprising in Bengal's Naxalbari and grew into India's longest internal security challenge. For decades, it spread - stretching from Andhra Pradesh to Nepal - creating the dreaded Naxal corridor.



Gadchiroli, CRPF and Maharashtra Police Commandos have neutralized several long-standing PLGA guerrillas, breaking one of the Maoists' oldest formations. Government sources have welcomed the ceasefire as a "positive step" and may use

NEWS BOX

Champions League: Real Madrid edge Marseille, Juventus and Dortmund share goal fest

New Delhi. (Agency)

"The opening night of the 2025-26 UEFA Champions League lived up to its billing, delivering high drama across Europe as giants stumbled, favourites sweated, and late twists defined the first round of group-stage matches. At the Santiago Bernabeu, Real Madrid needed every ounce of Kylian Mbappe's brilliance to survive a spirited Olympique de Marseille. The French forward converted two penalties, including a nerveless spot-kick in the 87th minute, to secure a 2-1 win despite Madrid finishing with 10 men. Dani Carvajal's dismissal for a reckless headbutt on goalkeeper Gerónimo Rulli had threatened to derail the record 15-time champions, who had already been



rocked by the early injury loss of summer signing Trent Alexander-Arnold. Marseille struck first when Timothy Weah pounced on Arda Gler's error midway through the first half. Madrid quickly restored parity after Rodrygo was fouled in the box, allowing Mbappe to bury his first penalty. For long stretches, Marseille's resistance was anchored by Rulli's superb goalkeeping, but a late handball call against Facundo Medina gifted Mbappe the chance to complete the turnaround. Xabi Alonso's men looked far from flawless, yet their determination underlined why they remain one of the tournament's most feared sides.

Juventus vs Dortmund: A goalfest If Madrid's win was about survival, the clash in Turin was a showcase of chaos and attacking verve. Juventus and Borussia Dortmund produced one of the most breathless matches in recent Champions League memory, sharing eight goals in a wild 4-4 draw that only exploded into life after the interval. Karim Adeyemi's precise strike opened the floodgates before Kenan Yıldız, Felix Nmecha, and Yan Couto all found the net in a dizzying 15-minute stretch. By the 86th minute, Dortmund appeared to have sealed the points when Ramy Bensebaini converted from the penalty spot to make it 4-2. But Dusan Vlahovic had other ideas.

India bowling duo RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha in line for India selection panel: Reports

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India pacer Rudra Pratap Singh and spinner Pragyan Ojha are reportedly set to join the senior national selection panel, following the exit of S Sharath and Subroto Banerjee from the committee led by Ajit Agarkar. RP Singh played a key role in India's 2007 T20 World Cup-winning team and has a rich domestic career with Uttar Pradesh. He was also part of the Gujarat squad that lifted the 2016-17 Ranji Trophy. Ojha, a former South Zone player with more than 100 Test wickets, is expected to represent the Southern zone in the panel. Sharath is likely to take charge of the junior selection panel, taking over from Tilak Naidu. Both Singh and Ojha are set to bring a mix of international experience and domestic insight to the selection process. A



BCCI source confirmed to PTI that the Cricket Advisory Committee, made up of Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe, and Sulakshna Naik, has invited the two former cricketers to apply. The CAC will conduct interviews before recommending the appointments to the BCCI, and the new selectors are expected to assume their roles next month. "RP and Pragyan are two players who have been asked to apply and it is clear that Cricket Advisory Committee is likely to clear the two names ahead of BCCI's AGM," the source told PTI.

RP Singh, who turns 40 this December, played 14 Tests, 58 ODIs, and 10 T20Is for India, taking 124 wickets across formats. He was part of the inaugural T20 World Cup-winning squad under MS Dhoni and also impressed during India's Test series in England. Ojha, a red-ball specialist, claimed 113 of his 144 international wickets in Tests, including a memorable 10-wicket haul in his final match, which coincided with Sachin Tendulkar's farewell. He represented Hyderabad domestically and also had stints with Bengal and Bihar.

Luka Doncic opens up on shock trade from Dallas Mavericks to Los Angeles Lakers

Luka Doncic was surprised with his trade from Dallas Mavericks to Los Angeles Lakers. He stated that he respects both fanbases and is focused on his future with the Lakers.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Luka Doncic has opened up about his shock trade from the Dallas Mavericks to the Los Angeles Lakers. Speaking over 7 months after the trade, Doncic in a candid interaction, described his feelings as surprise, confusion, and mixed emotions. Talking to Wall Street Journal Magazine, Doncic said, "I didn't know how to react, how to act, what to say." He added that feeling crept in because he had many friends in the team, and that the team felt like home to him. Not just that, the fans have always supported him, and he didn't want to upset them. He also understood that he was embarking on a new phase in Los



Angeles and didn't want to insult Lakers fans from the start. For the majority of Luka's career, he lived, played, and built his identity in Dallas. And he had bought a house in Dallas for \$15 million just before the trade. "It was a lot of shock. I felt Dallas was my home. I had many friends there. The fans always supported me. I didn't want to upset Dallas fans. And I didn't want to upset Laker

fans," he added. After the trade, he continued to look for homes in LA, buying a property in Manhattan Beach for \$25 million.

Even though the trade was unexpected, Luka is not turning his back on the spotlight he is receiving. He has used the summer to reform himself and also changed his routine. He shed some weight, revamped his workout, and performed brilliantly in the EuroBasket

2025—averaging 34.7 points per game.

Balancing respect and ambition

With the way Lucas has responded to the trade, he has maintained the respect of Dallas fans and is looking forward to the future he has in Los Angeles. He acknowledges that Mavericks fans will be sad and understand their displeasure. But he has accepted the transition as a part of his career at this moment.

"It was a lot of shock. I felt Dallas was my home. I had many friends there. The fans always supported me. I didn't want to upset Dallas fans. And I didn't want to upset Laker fans," Doncic said. With the 2025-26 season starting soon, Doncic is looking forward to playing alongside the likes of LeBron James. He enters his first full season in Los Angeles under pressure, with big expectations. His style during EuroBasket this summer showed he is still capable of being one of the best players. Now, fans and analysts will wait to see how he reacts to this new chapter, how hard he works at his game, how well he fits with his teammates, and if he can meet the expectations that come with a new beginning.

Asia Cup, Super 4 Scenario: How can Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka qualify

Asia Cup 2025 sees a key Group B clash between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan in Dubai. The match will decide who advances to the Super Four and could lead to surprising eliminations.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Asia Cup 2025 has reached a thrilling stage, with all eyes on Dubai where Sri Lanka and Afghanistan face off in one of the most anticipated group matches on Thursday, September 18. A place in the Super Four is at stake. Sri Lanka, the defending champions, have gone about



their campaign with quiet discipline. They top Group B with four points and a healthy net run rate of +1.546 after back-to-back wins. Their batting has thrived on consistency at the top and composure in the middle overs, while their varied bowling attack has delivered at crucial moments. Afghanistan, meanwhile, have shown glimpses of their growing strength. They

thrashed Hong Kong in their opener before suffering a narrow eight-run defeat to Litton Das' Bangladesh. They are currently third with two points and a net run rate of +2.150, the best amongst all three teams in the group. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. The stakes in Dubai are immense. With Bangladesh also in the mix, the result of this clash will determine

Group B's final standings and the two teams advancing to the Super Four. Bangladesh beat Afghanistan but cannot control their own destiny; their fate now rests on the outcome of this final league game. Remarkably, even Sri Lanka—unbeaten so far—could still face elimination depending on how results unfold.

World Athletics Champs Day 5 schedule: Neeraj Chopra and Animesh Kujur headline busy day for India

US Open champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz were put together in a TV programme. In the show, Sabalenka had a hilarious fumble when she mistakenly addressed Alcaraz as Jannik Sinner.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Day five at the Tokyo National Stadium will see seven Indian athletes in action on Wednesday, with Neeraj Chopra and Animesh Kujur drawing the most attention. Chopra, India's Olympic javelin gold medallist, will feature in the Group A qualification for the men's javelin throw, while Kujur, a rising sprint star, takes on the 200m heats. All eyes will also be on Chopra's eventual showdown with Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, the Olympic

champion, though both athletes compete in separate qualification groups on Wednesday. Alongside Chopra, the javelin group includes Rohit Yadav, making his debut at a major championship with a season-best of 83.65m; Yash Vir Singh, who has returned to form with 82.57m; and Sachin, the national silver medallist at the



Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi. On the track, Kujur has already made history as the first Indian male sprinter to compete in both the 100m and 200m at the World Championships, setting national records of 10.18s and 20.32s respectively

this year. Praveen Chithravel and Abdulla Aboobacker will represent India in men's triple jump, ensuring the country has multiple chances to reach finals across disciplines. Neeraj Chopra: Back to where history began

Neeraj Chopra will spearhead Group A in the men's javelin qualification, returning to the very stadium where he clinched India's first Olympic javelin gold in 2020. Four years later, he is no longer the sport's rising talent but the benchmark for Indian javelin. The two-time Olympic medallist and reigning world champion arrives in Tokyo looking to assert India's presence early in the World Athletics Championships. Fresh from a second-place finish at the Zurich Diamond League Final, Chopra will be eager to give a bigger push to his momentum and get a strong start. While he will not face Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem in the opening round, the well-established rivalry between the two adds an extra layer of anticipation to Chopra's campaign.

quickfire 35-ball 77. 'Got to carry this momentum' With Suryakumar Yadav's India already through, this fixture effectively acts as a knockout for the Super Four. Rajput stressed that a single inspired display could script a landmark moment in UAE cricket.

Also Read: Asia Cup: Under-pressure Pakistan face resilient UAE in tricky do-or-die clash "Yeah, a win is always good. We've got to carry this momentum forward. The best thing is that we've already played Pakistan in the tri-series, so we know where we stand. It just takes one good performance, and on that particular day, we can definitely make it as a team to the Super Four," Rajput told the reporters in the pre-match press conference. "We played very good cricket today, and we'll try to make sure we bring our best again tomorrow because that's a do-or-die game for us. It would be huge if we qualify for the last four," Rajput added. As for Pakistan, they started their campaign with a comfortable win over Jatinder Singh's Oman but faltered badly against India, exposing concerns over their middle order.

Noah Lyles heading into his favorite race at world championships, the 200: 'I don't plan to lose'

TOKYO. (Agency)

Noah Lyles had a simple message about his favorite race, the 200 meters. "I don't plan to lose," he said. Anyone who calls that brash, arrogant or unsportsmanlike would fit right in with the sprinters trying to prove him wrong at world championships this week. There's been a lot of chirping, some shoving and at least one not-well-received glare over the past year in sprinting's longer and sometimes less-appreciated race. The 200 meters has become a three-man drama between Lyles, the three-time defending world champion, along with his American counterpart Kenny Bednarek and Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo. Opening heats for the 200 start Wednesday, with the title being settled Friday. Though all three runners were in the 100, it's the 200 that's their specialty and that has overtaken the shorter race as the marquee sprint of these worlds—and maybe the next ones and the Los Angeles Olympics, too. "Sports breeds tension, it breeds competitiveness," Lyles said. "If there's only one goal and multiple people, you can't be all

nice and smiling and say 'Yeah, I'm OK with somebody else winning.' No, that's not how it goes." A glare and a shove Lyles and Bednarek made headlines last month when Lyles stared down his rival as he passed him at the end of the 200-meter title race at U.S. championships, then Bednarek responded by giving him a two-handed shove. "Unsportsmanlike (expletive) and I don't deal with that," Bednarek explained in the heat of the moment after the race. The racer nicknamed "Kung Fu Kenny" also explained that he took issue with Lyles preening when he hadn't run through the rounds in the 100 the way Bednarek had. "A respect factor," Bednarek called it, then reminded everyone that he had beaten Lyles at the last two Olympics—they finished 2-3 in both—and "next time we line up, I'm going to win." A brief moment in the interview area after an early heat in this week's 100s stood out. Lyles was talking with reporters while Bednarek breezed behind him. "Good job, bro," Lyles said, as he turned around and quickly slapped hands

with Bednarek. They are expected on the U.S. relay team later this week, so there's certainly some benefit to building chemistry in a race where the American men are sometimes a disaster. But that tension has been the talk of the meet, so much so that even Usain Bolt fielded a question about trash talk early in the week. "I don't think Noah's as crazy as dealing with Justin" Gatlin, the American who pushed Bolt the furthest over the years, he said. "I think Gatlin, over the years, was a different breed because he came up in an era where trash talk was just normal. For me, it wasn't really an issue. I know when I'm prepared, and you could say whatever you want and it would never be a problem." A surprise winner from Botswana who stays under the radar. The third runner in this drama is Tebogo, a surprise winner at last year's Olympics in a race Lyles ran despite being afflicted with COVID. Tebogo was asked, after that race, if he could see himself as a front man for track and field. He said he probably couldn't because he wasn't "an arrogant or loud person like Noah." He later clarified, saying he and Lyles were friendly off the track but "when you get onto the track, it's all about business." Earlier in these championships, when asked about the relationship with Lyles, Tebogo said he preferred to stay out of the spotlight and let my legs do the talking." Regarding a widely held sentiment from that race—that Lyles would have coasted.

Sebi rents 5-BHK apartment for chairman Pandey at Rs 7 lakh/month

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board has rented a 3,000-sqft, 5-bedroom apartment in the tony Rustomjee Crown towers in the Prabhadevi area of central Mumbai for chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey and his family. According to the property registration documents accessed by portal Zapkey, Sebi will be paying a starting monthly rent of Rs 7 lakh, with a 5% annual increase. The apartment also comes with four covered car parkings. The rent agreement was registered on September 3, and the Sebi also paid a security deposit of Rs 42 lakh. The three-year lease also has a lock-in period till September 4, 2026, according to the lease documents. The apartment is owned by three people based in Mumbai and Raipur. A Sebi official said the nature, size, and the lease amount of the apartment for the chairman is in line with its policy. "Sebi has a board-approved policy for providing leased accommodation to the chairman, whole-time members, executive directors and all other officers. The lease amount varies according to the rank/designation of the officers," Sebi said, adding the size of the premise and the lease amount in this present instance is also within the approved limit. The lease amount was determined in line with a valuation report of a leading property valuer.

GST reforms injected Rs 2 lakh crore into economy: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



VISHAKAPATNAM.(Agency)

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Next Gen GST reforms have infused Rs 2 lakh crore into the economy, which has left people with more cash on hand, which otherwise would have gone to taxes.

Addressing the Outreach and Interaction Program on Next Gen GST Reforms, she also said, following the tax reforms, 99 percent of goods under 12 percent GST slab have moved to five percent. The rejig has resulted in 90 percent items under 28 percent tax slab slipping into the 18 percent bracket. "With this New Gen Tax regime, with only two slabs (5 percent and 18 percent), Rs 2 lakh crore is injected into the economy. People will have cash on hand," she said. The minister said the GST revenues grew to Rs 22.08 lakh crore in 2025 from Rs 7.19 lakh crore in 2018 when it was introduced. According to her, the taxpayer's number grew to 1.51 crore from the earlier 65 lakh.

Stock markets rally in early trade amid US trade talk optimism

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied in initial trade on Wednesday following positive day-long discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal with both sides agreeing to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 262.74 points to 82,643.43 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 85.25 points to 25,324.35.

From the Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, UltraTech Cement, Trent, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Infosys and Tech Mahindra were among the major gainers.

However, Adani Ports, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel and Eternal were among the laggards.



"The ongoing rally in the market is being driven by a combination of positive sentiments and fundamentals. The market expects the renewed India-US trade talks to result in an agreement, culminating in the withdrawal of the 25 percent penal tariffs imposed on India. If expectations translate into reality, that would be a huge sentiment positive," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Fundamentally, the GST reform is expected to trigger an impressive demand spurt led by automobiles, he added. The day-long discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal were positive, and both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement, the Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday. It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement," the ministry said in a statement after a day-long meeting with the US officials.

BEL share price: Why is it rising today and should you buy

BEL shares rose during the trading session on strong Rs 712 crore order inflow, supported by robust backlog and bullish technicals, keeping investor sentiment positive and suggesting potential further upside in the near-term trading sessions.

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Shares of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) jumped nearly 3% in early trade on Wednesday after the defence PSU announced fresh orders worth Rs 712 crore since its last disclosure on September 1, 2025. The stock hit a day's high of Rs 409.65 on the BSE, reflecting investor optimism on continued strong order inflows. In its regulatory filing, BEL said the latest contracts span a wide range of technology and defence-related projects, including IT infrastructure, cybersecurity solutions, Electronic



Support Measures (ESM) systems, block chain-based platforms, communication equipment, spares, and other services. The company noted that these orders underscore the growing demand for its high-tech offerings across government and defence establishments. With this latest contract,

BEL's cumulative order inflow for FY26 year-to-date has reached Rs 11,300 crore. The company's order backlog now stands at around Rs 78,600 crore, roughly 3.3 times its FY25 revenue, providing strong visibility for future revenue growth. The order pipeline remains robust, with several key contracts expected in FY26,

India's exports to US falling due to high tariffs: GTRI

August shipments to the US plunged to USD 6.7 billion, down 16.3 percent from July—the steepest monthly fall of 2025—as US duties doubled to 50 percent by month's end, it said.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's exports to the US are falling as high tariffs imposed by the Trump administration have started eroding the price competitiveness of domestic goods in Washington, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday. August shipments to the US plunged to USD 6.7 billion, down 16.3 percent from July -- the steepest monthly fall of 2025 -- as US duties doubled to 50 percent by month's end, it said. In July, exports dipped 3.6 percent to USD 8 billion over June. The month of June had also seen a decline of 5.7 percent to USD 8.3 billion over May. May 2025 was the last month of growth, as shipments to the US rose 4.8 percent over April to



USD 8.8 billion. In April, exports to the US stood at USD 8.4 billion. "The slide in exports closely tracks the rapid escalation of tariffs," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Founder Ajay Srivastava said. Until April 4, Indian goods entered the US at normal

began "eroding India's price competitiveness", Srivastava said, adding orders shifted to alternative suppliers, pulling exports own by nearly 6 percent. "The decline deepened in July under the same tariff regime," he said. The real blow came in August when the tariffs shot up to 25 percent on August 7, and then doubled to 50 percent on August 27, for most products, he said. "This left little room for exporters to adjust, resulting in the sharpest month-on-month contraction yet. September is expected to show an even steeper fall, as it will be the first month fully exposed to the 50 percent rate," he said. He also said that roughly one-third of India's exports, including pharmaceuticals and smartphones to the US are tariff-exempt, which means the effective hit on tariff-exposed goods is far deeper than headline figures suggest. Labour-intensive sectors like apparel, gems and jewellery, leather, shrimp, and carpets are under severe stress because the US accounts for 30-60 percent or more of their global exports, he said.

Urban Company shares list at 58% premium: Should you book profit or hold

New Delhi.(Agency)

Urban Company made a blockbuster debut on Dalal Street on Wednesday, delivering strong listing gains for investors who participated in its much-awaited initial public offering. On the NSE, the stock opened at Rs 162.25 per share, a hefty 58 percent premium over its issue price of Rs 103.

The strong debut reflects the high demand for Urban Company's IPO, which had been among the most closely watched offerings of 2025. Market watchers say the listing not only mirrors investor appetite for consumer-tech firms but also signals growing confidence in businesses catering to India's expanding urban services market. Urban Company, a pioneer in the online home services space, currently operates in 51 Indian cities and has extended its footprint to the UAE and Singapore. Analysts point out that the company's scale, technology-driven model and brand visibility provide it with a unique edge over competitors.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta



Equities Ltd, highlighted that Urban Company is effectively the only organised player in what has long been a fragmented industry. "Urban Company stands out as the only organised player in this space, which makes it a preferred choice for consumers," he said.

Tapse recommended that investors allotted shares in the IPO hold onto their positions, seeing the company as a long-term structural story. For those who missed out, he suggested patience, noting that post-listing volatility could create more attractive entry points in the near future. Meanwhile, Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said: "Urban Company, formerly known as UrbanClap, made a remarkable debut today at Rs 162.25, reflecting a 57.5% premium over its IPO price of Rs 103." "The company reported FY25 revenue of Rs 1,144 crore, up 38% YoY, and a net profit of Rs 240 crore, a turnaround from a Rs 93 crore loss in FY24. For those allotted shares, consider booking a partial profit and hold the rest for long-term gains with a stop loss of Rs 120," Nyati added.

Urban Company shares list at 57% premium, m-cap above Rs 23,000 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

NEW DELHI: Urban Company shares made a stellar debut on the stock exchanges on Wednesday, listing at more than 57% above their issue price. On the NSE, the stock opened at Rs 162.25 per share, marking a 57.52% premium to its IPO price of Rs 103.

On the BSE, the stock was listed at Rs 161 apiece, a 56.31% premium, giving the company a market valuation upwards of Rs 23,000 crore. Urban Company, an app-based beauty and home services platform, was poised for a robust stock market debut as its shares were trading at over 50% premium in the unofficial grey market. The company's initial public offering (IPO), which closed recently, received an overwhelming response, drawing subscriptions 103.63 times the issue size. Urban Company's Rs 1,900 crore IPO was a mix of a fresh issue and an

offer-for-sale. The fresh issue comprised of 4.58 crore shares worth Rs 472 crore and the offer-for-sale portion saw 13.86 crore shares, amounting to Rs 1,428 crore. The portion for retail investors was subscribed 39.25 times while the Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) quota was subscribed 74.04 times. The highest demand came from Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), who bid 140.2 times the shares reserved for them. The company had already raised Rs 854 crore from marquee anchor investors such as SBI Funds, Monetary Authority of Singapore, HDFC MF, Fidelity Securities, Nomura, ICICI Prudential Life, SBI Life, Citigroup, and Goldman Sachs. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart, said that for those who received Urban Company's share allotment in the IPO, consider book partial profit and hold

rest for long-term gains with stop loss of Rs 120. Shringar House of Mangalsutra also made an impressive debut on the stock market with a listing gain of approximately 63% over its issue price of Rs 83, getting listed at around Rs 135. The company is engaged in designing, manufacturing, and marketing a diverse range of Mangalsutra using 18k and 22k gold along with stones like American diamonds, cubic zirconia, pearls, and semi-precious stones for its B2B clients. Nyati said that investors are advised to book partial profits near current levels while holding the balance with a stop-loss set at Rs 115 to manage downside risk. Dev Accelerator shares were also listed today. Listing at Rs 61 per share on the NSE, matching its IPO issue price, reflecting a slight premium of 0.49% over the issue price.

Gems & Jewellery exports rises 9.67% in August

Imports of gems and jewellery have grown marginally by 5.17% from 12,887.18 crore in August 2024 compared with 16,896.04 crore in August this year

New Delhi.(Agency)

The exports of gems and jewellery have grown by 9.67% on year-on-year basis from 16,896.04 crore in August 2024 to 18,259.08 crore, said the data released by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) on Tuesday. According to the industry body for gems and jewellery, the primary growth trigger is the rush by Indian exporters amid US tariffs. Meanwhile, the imports of gems and jewellery have grown marginally by 5.17% from 12,887.18 crore in August 2024 compared with 16,896.04 crore in



August this year, reflecting a steady demand for raw and semi-finished products in the country to support production for the upcoming holiday season internationally as well as domestic festive demand. The overall gross export of cut and polished diamonds decline by 2.2% from 8,705.35 crore to 8,508.66 crore in August this year. The decline in exports of cut and polished diamonds in August 2025 can be attributed to the

rising affinity towards yellow metal in the US and Europe, where sluggish spending on luxury items caused overall demand fall. Retailers across major market are also witnessing a slump in sales, inflating the unsold inventory which slowed down new purchases. Parallelly, the continued increase in the global demand for lab-grown diamonds on the backdrop of being environment-friendly and cost-effective have also eaten up some share of natural

diamond from the demand pie. The overall gross imports for the products rose by 0.49% from 981.40 crore in August 2024 to 986.18 crore for the same period this year.

The total export of plain gold jewellery rose to 3672.77 crore in August 2025 against 2155.95 crore, growing at 70.36%. Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewelry, said in a statement, "The Indian gems & jewellery sector is evolving with sheer agility to absorb the jitters of US tariffs and economic uncertainty it has created. There were strong numbers in August 2025 showing growth and density of exports to international markets, highlighting the rush among the exporters community to conduct trade early and get saved from the tariffs. Parallelly, fresh opportunities as close alternatives to the US due to trade deals (eg: India-UAE CEPA), and consumers are increasingly gravitating toward sustainable, premium, and custom jewellery. Highly priced gold, global volatility, and volatile metal markets are persistent challenges, but coming out of the upcoming festive and wedding season will bring new energy to the sector."



Nikki Tamboli

Stuns In A Red Bikini While She Soaks Up The Sun On The Beach

Nikki Tamboli is raising the mercury levels once again — this time by the beach. The Bigg Boss 14 fame beauty dropped a stunning video that looks straight out of Dubai, where she's seen frolicking by the sea and owning every frame with her confidence and charm. Dressed in a fiery red bikini top paired with breezy white pants and a shrug, Nikki exudes the perfect mix of sexy and chic. The bold red cut sets off her sunkissed skin, while the flowing white layers add that effortless beach-goddess vibe.

With the waves crashing behind her, she walks barefoot on the sand, her beach-ready look bringing attention to her toned midriff and enviable curves. Fans can't stop gushing over her glowing tan, her carefree aura, and the way she blends glamour with easy holiday energy. Nikki, who made waves as one of the most talked-about contestants on Bigg Boss 14, proves yet again why she remains a social media sensation.

Nikki Tamboli Is Supporting Arbaz Patel For His Stint In Rise And Fall

On her personal front, Tamboli has been dating Arbaz Patel, whom she met during their stint on Bigg Boss Marathi Season 5. After meeting for the first time on the sets of the show, the two developed a strong bond. In February 2025, ahead of Valentine's Day, the lovebirds confirmed their relationship.

As Arbaz Patel is participating in the reality show Rise and Fall, his girlfriend has been constantly supporting the actor's gameplay from outside the show. As she has been cheering for Patel, the actress also received criticism for the same. But without wasting any time, she slammed the trollers in her style.

Nikki Tamboli's Work Front

The diva recently participated in Celebrity MasterChef India, where she emerged as the first runner-up, while Anupamaa star Gaurav Khanna took home the trophy. Before that, she finished as the second runner-up in the popular reality show, Bigg Boss Marathi Season 5.

Additionally, she has appeared in several television shows and movies. Next, she has a Punjabi film titled Badnaam in her pipeline. Directed by Manesh Bhatt and written by Jassi Lohka and Siddharth-Garima, the movie follows the story of a person after his release from prison. It stars the actress alongside Jai Randhawa, Jasmin Bhasin, Mukesh Rishi, Nirmal Rishi, Vrajesh Hirjee, among others.



Jannat Zubair

Channels Her Inner Alia Bhatt In A Yellow Chiffon Saree

Television actress and social media star Jannat Zubair has emerged as one of the most influential fashion icons of this age. With her irresistible charm and captivating presence, the actress makes a statement in every attire she chooses to wear. In her latest Instagram post, Jannat was seen exuding traditional glam in a vibrant yellow saree, capturing the hearts of her fans.

Jannat Zubair Stuns in Vibrant Yellow Saree

Taking to Instagram, the Traitors contestant shared a series of pictures channeling her inner desi girl. In the pictures, Jannat was seen wearing a bright yellow chiffon saree with beige lining at the border. The actress paired the saree with a matching sleeveless blouse and accessorised her look with silver jewellery. Jannat opted for heavy jhumkas, a stack of bangles, and a matching waist chain to complete her look. She kept her makeup minimal and dewy with a coral hint to make her yellow saree pop better.

Jannat Zubair Sparks Dating Rumours with Elvish Yadav

Jannat Zubair has been in the news for sparking dating rumours with Elvish Yadav. The speculations began after YouTuber and Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav shared a series of romantic pictures with Jannat Zubair, leading fans to wonder if they are actually dating. In the pictures, Elvish was seen wearing a white printed kurta, while Jannat was stunning in a gorgeous red saree. Sharing the affectionate pictures, Elvish

wrote, "Tere dil me haq mera hai." Additionally, Elvish added another comment, which read, "Na yeh suraj dhalta hai, na aapke chehre ka noor," further heightening the curiosity among the fans. As of now, neither Elvish nor Jannat has officially confirmed their speculated relationship.

Jannat Zubair on the Work Front

Jannat Zubair has been working as an actor for over a decade, and throughout these years she has been a



part of multiple widely popular television series, including Matti Ki Banno, Best of Luck Nikki, Fear Files: Darr Ki Sacchi Tasvirein, Code Red, Stories by Rabindranath Tagore, and Aap Ke Aa Jane Se, among others. Jannat has also made appearances in reality shows like Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 12, Laughter Chefs – Unlimited Entertainment, and The Traitors India. Jannat was last seen in The Traitors hosted by Karan Johar, where she finished in 8th place.

'Yaad Rakho Hum Kaun Hain': Ishitta Arun And Sonu Nigam Reunite To Recreate Bijuria Magic



Ishitta Arun and Sonu Nigam reunited after years to recreate the magic they once did in 1999 with their iconic song Bijuria. Years later, after the song has been remade for Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, starring Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor, the duo has come together to recreate the magic — but could they pull it off with the same vibe? Let's find out.

In the video, Ishitta and Sonu say, "Bachchon ne accha kiya hai" (The kids have done well), to which Sonu adds, "Bohot mast kiya hai, bohot accha kiya hai" (They've done a great job, really good). The conversation continues, and he then says, "Humne bhi accha hi kiya tha" (We also did it well). "Hamare zamane ke hisaab se bohot accha tha. Red jacket, green dress... yaad hai na, Sonu?" Ishitta replies. Sonu, looking exhausted, sighs, "Ab nahi ho payega yaar" (We can't do it now). A stunned Ishitta asks, "Kya matlab?" (What do you mean?), before pulling him by the arm and asserting, "Yaad rakho hum kaun hain... karke dikhayenge!" (Remember who we are... we'll make it happen!). While dropping the video, Ishitta captioned it, "26 years later and the answer is still the same, of course we can do it."

Bijuria was initially released in 1999 on Sonu Nigam's hit album Mausam. The song, with its memorable melody and signature beat, was a huge hit during the early 2000s. The iconic singer has now once again given his voice to this new version, which has been fitted into the Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor-starrer. The new version maintains the original's magic with a shot of fresh Bollywood chic, crisp choreography, colourful visuals, and modern production. Varun's live performance featured the overhauled hook step, which won instant fan approval.

About the film

Directed by Shashank Khaitan, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari features Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor in the lead roles alongside Sanya Malhotra and Rohit Saraf. The supporting cast of the film includes Maniesh Paul, Akshay Oberoi, Abhinav Sharma, and others. As per IMDb, the film follows: "Two former lovers in Delhi [who] try to rekindle old flames, leading to amusing mix-ups and deceptions. As chaos unfolds, a new, unexpected romance blooms. Who will find their happy ending amid the confusion?" The film is scheduled to hit theatres on 2 October 2025.

Veer Pahariya, Like A True Gentleman, Opens Door For Ladylove Tara Sutaria. Fans 'Can't Stop Blushing'



Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya are making hearts flutter, one joint appearance at a time. On Tuesday, it was just another date for the rumoured couple, a glimpse of which is now circulating online. The duo was spotted making a love-filled entry at what seems like a lavish entry in Mumbai and we can't help but stop and stare, thanks to their adorable chemistry. Veer, like a true gentleman, opened the door of the car for Tara who was seen blushing as she exchanged a glance with her rumoured beau. As she made her way straight to the venue, Veer simply walked past her, showcasing what love looks like.

Keeping it low-key, both Tara and Veer decided to skip posing but made sure to greet the paparazzi with a sweet smile and even waved their hands at them before exiting the spot. It wasn't just their sweet gestures that won hearts but the stylish fits and on-point fashion also captured the attention. In an all-black ensemble, Veer exuded effortless charm whereas Tara's stunning backless copper brown dress made her look like a total smokeshow.

Tara Sutaria And Veer Pahariya's Relationship

Speculation around Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya's relationship have been creating buzz for months now. Fuelling the rumours, the two would often step out together for parties, screenings and casual outings.

Earlier, a source spoke to Zoom about the couple and shared, "They're not making an effort to keep it a secret, but they're not showcasing it either. Their chemistry was undeniable — they couldn't stop laughing, and there were sparks everywhere."

'I Am Elated': Tara Sutaria

Later, Tara herself hinted at being in a good space during an appearance on Ranveer Allahbadia's podcast. The actress said, "I'm very happy right now! Yes, I'm elated, over the moon." Fans were quick to connect the dots as they believed she was hinting at her relationship with Veer.

Meanwhile, Tara and Veer have yet to make their relationship public but their playful social-media exchanges have fans buzzing with excitement. On the professional front, Veer Pahariya made his acting debut earlier this year in January. He was seen alongside Akshay Kumar in Sky Force. While he is yet to confirm his next project, Tara Sutaria is reportedly gearing up for Toxic opposite KGF star Yash. Reports suggest she will portray one of his love interests in the film.

A new study has found that kids from high socioeconomic background are more likely to rely on parental help as adults.

Author Anna Manzoni of the North Carolina State University said that she wanted to know how young adults become independent of their parents, adding that she ended up focusing on what he called 'partial independence,' when people don't live with their parents but still get financial support from them.

In the study, Manzoni looked at data on 6,471 people between 18 and 32 who participated in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health and found that 41.4 percent of the participants who were between the ages of 25 and 32 when the study conducted its most recent interviews in 2008 still relied on financial support from parents.

Manzoni said that those who attended four-year colleges and those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds were much more likely to be partially independent in their early 20s.

However, people who attended college were more likely to become financially independent as they reached their late 20s and early 30s.

She said that this was especially true for people who paid their own way through college, adding people whose parents supported them financially throughout college were also more likely to move back in with their parents at some point.

Kids from wealthy families more dependent on Parents



Dad's diet key to wellbeing of Offspring

A dad's diet before they conceive could be genetically passed onto the children, with a subsequent impact on those children's mental health, the team from Melbourne-based RMIT University reported.

While mothers' diet and impact on children has been widely



Even if your five-year-old kid does not know what money can buy for him or her, the moment he or she gets to know the value of it, chances are the knowledge may make him or her less philanthropic in nature, says an interesting research.

In other words, the act of handling money makes young children work harder and give less.

This effect was observed in children who lacked the concrete knowledge of money's purpose and persisted despite the denomination of the money.

"Money is a double-edged sword. It produces good outcomes in terms of concentration and effort but bad outcomes when it comes to helping, taking, and donating," said professor Kathleen Vohs from the University of Minnesota and co-author of the study.

For this, the researchers conducted five experiments and one study involving 550 children (ages three-six) in Poland and the US.

In one experiment, the children were asked to either sort



The kind of food your father relished may have a direct impact on your health and overall wellbeing, according to new research.

The environmental factors could also have an effect on sperm production in men in the days leading up to conception, posing an additional risk to the health of their children.

"This makes it important for both mothers and fathers to consider their environment and things such as diet, alcohol consumption and smoking, before conceiving," the authors noted.



Learning value of money may make kids less kind



money or buttons before completing a challenging puzzle.

After sorting money or buttons, the pre-schoolers were asked to help the experimenter prepare a task for another child.

The children who had sorted money were less helpful in terms of gathering crayons for the experimenter than those who had first handled buttons.

An additional study tested whether candy might elicit a similar response to money.

After sorting money, buttons or candy, the children were informed that they could take up to six Disney stickers. All of the children who sorted money took at least three stickers, whereas only 78 percent of children who sorted candies and 76 percent who sorted buttons took as many.

The children were then told they could give some of their stickers to other children who did not participate. Kids who sorted money prior to receiving their stickers donated half as many stickers compared to kids who sorted buttons or candy.

"Our findings with children as young as three years old suggest potentially significant implications for achievement, generosity, and interpersonal harmony," added Lan Chaplin, associate professor of marketing at the University of Illinois.

According to Vohs, the results with children mirror patterns from European, Asian and North American adult samples.