

Condolences on recent deaths: PM speaks to Nepal counterpart, reaffirms support

This is PM Modi's first conversation with Sushila Karki, a former Chief Justice who was sworn in as Nepal's first woman Prime Minister on September 12 at the recommendation of the Gen Z protesters to head the interim government.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that he spoke to interim Nepal Prime Minister Sushila Karki and "conveyed heartfelt condolences on the recent tragic loss of lives" in the wake of the massive anti-corruption protests across the Himalayan nation that toppled the previous KP Oli Sharma-led government. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said that he also "reaffirmed India's steadfast support for her efforts to



restore peace and stability".

This is PM Modi's first conversation with

Karki, a former Chief Justice who was sworn in as Nepal's first woman Prime

Minister on September 12 at the recommendation of the Gen Z protesters to head the interim government. She assumed office on Sunday. The unrest was triggered by a government ban on social media and quickly evolved into a larger campaign against corruption and perceived political apathy. At least 74 people have died in the unrest. Karki's appointment to lead the Himalayan nation ended days of political uncertainty after Oli stepped down on September 9 shortly after hundreds of protesters entered his office demanding his resignation.

She has declared all those killed in the protests as "martyrs".

On Wednesday, Nepal observed a national day of mourning to honour the protest victims. While all government offices and educational institutions remained closed, candlelight vigils were held in several parts of Nepal, including Maitighar Mandala in Kathmandu, where protests took place on September 8.

All government offices and Nepali missions abroad flew the national flag at half-mast.

"Can't Blackmail Government": DK Shivakumar On CEO's Bengaluru Roads Post

Bengaluru. (Agency)

Bengaluru is growing rapidly, and the Karnataka government will ensure that no company leaves the IT capital over infrastructure-related issues, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar assured today.

Mr Shivakumar, minister for Bengaluru Development and Town Planning, spoke exclusively to NDTV at a time when the Congress government is facing criticism for the poor condition of roads. The latest flashpoint, which has given ammunition to the opposition, BJP, is a logistics firm CEO's announcement that it had decided to shift its office out of the city's Outer Ring Road due to traffic snarls.

Asked about the state government's roadmap for India's Silicon Valley, he said, "Bengaluru became too big, so more needed to be done. To meet these demands, we formed five corporations. And for bigger projects, we decided to bring in the Greater Bengaluru Authority."

Mr Shivakumar said many areas in the city that house the "IT crowd" -- meaning techies -- are still under panchayats and not the Greater Bengaluru Authority yet, complicating civic response. "We are trying to bring them under GBA. There are big challenges, and we have formed a separate corporation for this area to fix the problems."



Mamata Banerjee Writes Theme Song For Kolkata's Durga Puja Committee

The Tala Pratoy Durga Puja committee in north Kolkata said it is their centenary year, and they are honoured to have the CM as the lyricist of their theme song.

Kolkata. (Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written the lyrics of the theme song of a Durga Puja committee in Kolkata, which was sung by a state minister.

The Tala Pratoy Durga Puja committee in north Kolkata said it is their centenary year, and they are honoured to have the CM as the lyricist of their theme song. Their theme is 'Bij Angan' (seeds in the courtyard).

"As we celebrate a century of Tala Pratoy, 'Bij Angan' is a tribute to the enduring spirit of



Durga Puja, Bengal's heritage. We were honoured that the honourable chief minister wrote this special song for our

centenary year, beautifully rendered by Indranil Sen," Dhrubajyoti Bose Suvo said on behalf of the organisers.

Sen, the minister of state for tourism and information and cultural affairs, launched the music video of the theme song on Wednesday. The seeds of life embody nature and mother goddess which will be manifested in the Puja pandal interiors, the installations and the idol in the courtyard, Suvo said.

Writing theme songs for puja committees is not new to the chief minister who does it for several organisers every year.

The Durga Puja of Tala Pratoy has won several awards in the past.

"Rahul Gandhi wants to create Bangladesh and Nepal-like situation in India," BJP's Anurag Thakur clapped back at the Congress leader after his explosive press conference on 'vote chori'. Gandhi, who had warned of dropping a 'vote chori hydrogen bomb', today came all guns blazing with "undeniable proof" of systemic voter fraud by the BJP and the Election Commission.

"While the Election Commission of India is functioning without bias, Rahul Gandhi is busy weakening democracy, misleading citizens, and trying to create a situation like Bangladesh and Nepal," Thakur said.

He further slammed Gandhi and said that he was frustrated as Congress lost 90 elections under him and is now resorting to "baseless and incorrect allegations". Further, he said that while Gandhi was supposed to drop a

'hydrogen bomb' in today's press conference, he came only with firecrackers.

The Congress has lost approximately 90 elections under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. His frustration is increasing day-by-day... It has become a habit of Rahul Gandhi to make incorrect and baseless allegations.

Seeking apology and being reprimanded by the courts have become a routine of Rahul Gandhi," Thakur said.

RAHUL GANDHI VS POLL BODY

Gandhi, who came prepared with a Power Point presentation and

"proof" of the alleged voter theft alleged that names were being struck off electoral rolls through software manipulation and fake applications. Minorities were being specifically targeted, he said, before presenting case studies from Karnataka's Aland.

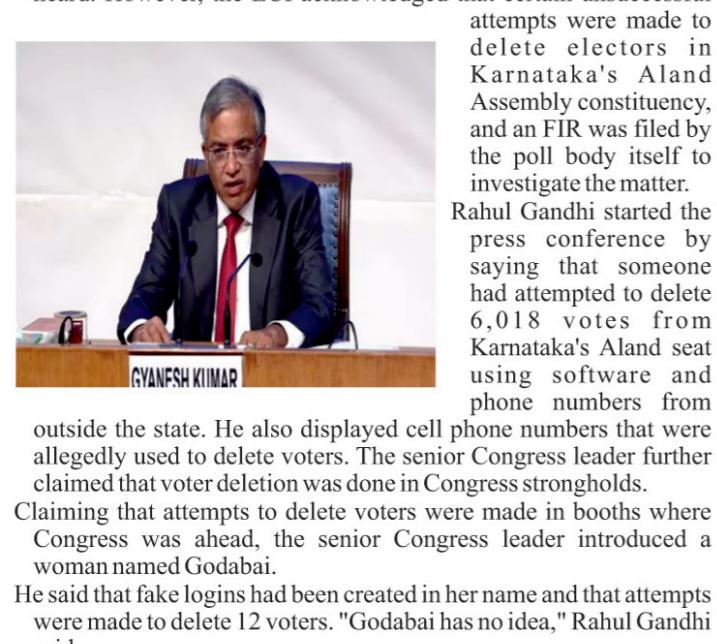
Baseless: Election Commission on Rahul Gandhi's charge against CEC Gyanesh Kumar

The poll body acknowledged that certain unsuccessful attempts were made to delete electors in Karnataka's Aland Assembly Constituency, and an FIR was filed by the Election Commission India to investigate the matter.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission on Thursday dismissed allegations by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi that names of voters were being systematically deleted ahead of elections as "incorrect" and "baseless". Taking umbrage towards Gandhi's claim that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was protecting "vote chors", the poll body clarified that no deletion can take place without giving the affected person an opportunity to be heard. However, the ECI acknowledged that certain unsuccessful attempts were made to delete electors in Karnataka's Aland Assembly constituency, and an FIR was filed by the poll body itself to investigate the matter.

Rahul Gandhi started the press conference by saying that someone had attempted to delete 6,018 votes from Karnataka's Aland seat using software and phone numbers from outside the state. He also displayed cell phone numbers that were allegedly used to delete voters. The senior Congress leader claimed that voter deletion was done in Congress strongholds. Claiming that attempts to delete voters were made in booths where Congress was ahead, the senior Congress leader introduced a woman named Godabai. He said that fake logins had been created in her name and that attempts were made to delete 12 voters. "Godabai has no idea," Rahul Gandhi said.



Ahead Of Bihar Polls, Nitish Kumar Announces Rs 1,000 Monthly Allowance For Unemployed Graduates

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday announced a Rs 1,000 monthly allowance for each unemployed youth, in a move seen as a major outreach to young and first-time voters ahead of the Assembly elections.

In a post on X, CM Kumar reiterated his government's commitment to youth empowerment, noting that since 2005, job creation and employment have been a top priority.

He stated that the state has set a target of providing government jobs and employment to one crore youth in the next five years, with large-scale opportunities to be created in both

government and private sectors. The Chief Minister said that under the Chief Minister's Self-Help Allowance Scheme, part of the state's flagship 7 Nischay programme, benefits will now be extended to unemployed graduates. Previously, the scheme was available only to intermediate pass candidates.

Now, graduates aged 20-25 years, who are neither studying, employed, nor self-employed, will receive an allowance of Rs 1,000 per month for up to two years.

Kumar expressed hope that the assistance would help young people pursue skill training and prepare for

competitive examinations.

"This visionary initiative of the state

employable, enabling them to contribute significantly to the development of the state and the nation," the Chief Minister said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Nitish Kumar transferred Rs 5,000 each to 16.04 lakh construction workers as a direct financial assistance to construction workers across the state, a move being described in political circles as a major step ahead of the upcoming elections. The financial assistance was given on the occasion of Vishwakarma Puja and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.



government aims to provide maximum employment opportunities to the state's youth. Educated youth here will become self-reliant, skilled, and

The aim is to prepare and empower students for the future: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 18 September 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday formally launched three new academic curricula NEEEV (New Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Development Scheme), Science of Living, and Rashtraneeti (National Policy). The Chief Minister stated that this initiative marks a revolutionary step in the field of education, designed not only to impart academic knowledge but also to empower students with life skills, entrepreneurship, emotional intelligence, and a sense of responsible citizenship. The programme held at Bharat Mandapam was attended by

Delhi's Education Minister Mr Ashish Sood, senior officials of the concerned department, and other distinguished guests. The Directorate of Education, Delhi has developed these curricula. On the occasion, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta remarked that the purpose of this initiative is to prepare students for the future by combining academic learning with essential life skills and civic responsibility. She explained that these three curricula have been introduced across all government schools in Delhi for millions of students, with the broader aim of nation-building. The Chief Minister highlighted that the new courses are intended to instil a business mindset in children from an early age,

introduce them to artificial intelligence (AI), and enable them to become competent and self-reliant. The goal, she emphasised, is to shape students not merely as job-seekers but as future job-creators. She further noted that

through the Science of Living curriculum, children's personalities would be refined in all aspects, while nurturing sensitivity and compassion towards society. The Chief Minister added that these curricula have already been shared with the teaching community and form a key component of the Seva Pakhwada (Fortnight of Service), aligning with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Mrs Rekha Gupta made it clear that the government would ensure no shortage of resources for schools, whether in terms of toilets, laboratories, playgrounds, or other facilities.

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The aim is to prepare and empower students for the future: CM Rekha Gupta

She reiterated that her priority is not the construction of large buildings or flyovers, but the creation of better schools and the guarantee of quality education. She urged teachers to carry forward this educational mission so that Delhi's government schools set new benchmarks, produce capable citizens, and play their rightful role in nation-building. The Chief Minister further assured that government schools would in no way lag behind private institutions; rather, they would excel, nurture talented students, and build a stronger future. She announced that this initiative will remain ongoing, with more new programmes to be introduced in the coming months.

Delhi Education Minister Mr Ashish Sood shared that a 15-day Seva Pakhwada is being organised to mark the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He called upon teachers to actively support the effective implementation of these initiatives and to disseminate the message across the teaching community. He emphasised that every student is not merely a learner, but also a potential future Prime Minister, scientist, entrepreneur, judge, soldier, artist, teacher, or leader. The strength of a nation, he stressed, does not lie in its buildings or military power, but in the character, values, and sense of responsibility of its citizens.

Mr Sood further stated that education must not be confined to academics alone. Children should also be taught about good touch and bad touch, the responsible use of mobile phones and traffic rules, as well as civic sense, so that they can grow into responsible citizens contributing to both society and the nation. The Education Minister pointed out that in past years, government education had fallen behind due to political and marketing reasons, but under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta, it is now being restored to its rightful place. He urged teachers to work collectively to bring back a time when parents felt enthusiastic and proud to enrol their children in government schools.

News box

New Metro's Cyber City terminal plan hits roadblock over RRTS alignment in Gurgaon**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

The plan to finalise the terminal station of Gurgaon Metro at Cyber City remains stuck in a limbo, with state agencies still unable to resolve differences over the proposed location of RRTS station. So, the uncertainty over the proposed RRTS station location — critical to finalising the alignment — is hindering the metro project. A high-powered committee (HPC) meeting, chaired by chief secretary Anurag Rastogi, was held on Wednesday, but no breakthrough was achieved. National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has maintained that the station can be built at Shankar Chowk, though it is willing to shift the entry and exit points slightly. However, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) is not convinced. NCRTC has earlier said that a sharp curve in the RRTS corridor's alignment has left little flexibility to plan the station elsewhere, but HSIIDC has raised objections, citing the possibility of severe traffic disruptions in the area. A senior official of GMRL said, "Until the location of the RRTS station is finalised, we cannot freeze our terminal station. There is continuous deliberation on the matter and we are hoping some consensus will be achieved soon." In July, the state govt set up a six-member committee chaired by additional chief secretary (town & country planning) AK Singh to resolve the issue. HSIIDC has pointed out that the proposed NCRTC station in Sector 18 will stand opposite the planned GMRL Cyber City station and next to the existing Rapid Metro facility. According to the agency, this clustering of stations could lead to congestion and excessive crowding on adjoining roads. NCRTC, however, has argued that keeping stations in close vicinity is beneficial, as it improves commuter convenience, enables seamless interchanges and enhances financial viability. A detailed traffic study to assess the impact of the proposed station and its integration with other networks is being undertaken by the NCRTC. GMRL, meanwhile, has maintained that integrated planning is essential so that the Namo Bharat station and the metro are connected at Cyber City.

3 teams set up for probe, raids in MobiKwik fraud case**Noida. (Agency)**

Three teams have been formed to investigate and conduct raids in Faridabad, Palwal and Nuh to arrest suspects who allegedly swindled Rs 40 crore from the account of digital payments firm MobiKwik earlier this month. A senior police officer said on Wednesday that cops are working closely with representatives of MobiKwik Systems to obtain technical details and transaction data. "We are also investigating whether any company employees were complicit in the fraud. If found guilty, they will face strict legal action," the officer said. The fraud was reported on Sept 13 after a company employee flagged an internal audit that detected suspicious transactions. Preliminary investigations suggest that fraudsters exploited a technical vulnerability that occurred after MobiKwik updated its software earlier this month. The glitch apparently allowed users to send amounts higher than their wallet balances and enabled transactions even with incorrect PINs. TOI reported on Wednesday that the company lost Rs 40 crore in thousands of transactions carried out on Sept 11 and 12. At least 2,500 beneficiary bank accounts were involved. On Tuesday, police arrested six suspects — Rehan, Waqar Yunus, Wasim Akram, Mohd Amir, Mohd Ansar and Mohd Sakil — five of them from Nuh and one from Palwal. Cops said the suspects were held as their accounts were found containing Rs 9 lakh of the stolen money. All six were charged under sections 318(4) (cheating) and 314 (dishonest misappropriation of property) of BNS. The company had said it has recovered around Rs 14 crore through its own efforts, bringing the estimated net impact down to Rs 26 crore.

Haryana govt tightens food safety inspections before festive rush**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

An IAS officer was on his regular coffee run when he noticed the milk in his drink smelled off. He raised the issue with the nodal officer of the food safety department. It led to a crackdown on the Barista Coffee outlet at MGF Metro Mall on MG Road. Despite repeated attempts, the coffee chain officials refused to comment. Acting on the complaint, the department conducted surprise checks on Wednesday and seized a milk sample for lab testing to test for possible adulteration or contamination. The action comes at a time when the Food Safety Department, as part of its larger pre-Diwali drive, is aimed at ensuring public health and hygiene during the festive season, when food consumption is at its peak. However, it isn't clear if such an incident would bring cafes under the ambit of surprise inspection of the department.

In a related inspection, the department also raided a namkeen manufacturing unit located in the Basai industrial area. During the raid, samples of besan and refined oil were collected for lab analysis. This inspection was prompted by a



separate complaint from an official within the Government of Haryana, who alleged the unit was producing substandard or adulterated food items.

Ramesh Chauhan, district food department nodal officer, confirmed that all samples have been sent for rigorous laboratory testing, and strict action will be taken

based on the results. "These inspections are not random. They are driven by credible complaints, some of which come from senior government officials. Our goal is to ensure that no compromise is made on food safety during Diwali," Chauhan told TOI. The Haryana govt has also intensified its fight against food

adulteration with major raids on paneer manufacturing units in Nuh, where officials seized large quantities of fake paneer made using soybean, palm oil, and even chuna (calcium hydroxide) instead of milk. The operation, led by Chauhan along with the state's flying squad and CID, uncovered shocking practices at five dairies in Block Punhana — Haryana Dairy Godhala Punhana, M R Paneer Dairy Godhala, Ishrav Paneer Dairy, Pandit Ji Dairy, and Wahid Dairy.

Officials said samples were taken from each unit and sent for laboratory testing to confirm the level of adulteration. "The Food Safety Department has also issued notices to the owners of these units, asking them to present valid FSSAI licences. Units failing to do so will face closure and strict legal action," an official added. During the raids, officials seized 300 kg of fake paneer on three consecutive days, followed by 700 kg in one raid and 1,200 kg in another. Experts warn that the chemicals used in the making of such paneer can cause severe health problems ranging from stomach disorders to long-term organ damage.

Monitor infrastructure projects to ensure quality, Union minister Rao Narbir Singh tells Gurgaon residents**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Union minister Rao Narbir Singh has urged people to monitor the ongoing development projects in their area to ensure quality of work. He said by the end of Oct, drainage cleaning work will be undertaken, all roads will be strengthened and sidewalks repaired.

The authorities have been facing criticism for the poor quality of work. The roads constructed a few months back are filled with potholes after the rain, leading to congestion and breakdown of vehicles. Speaking at the cleanliness festival launched by MCG on Wednesday, the minister also called on the public to stop using polythene, start using bags of cloth and keep their areas clean for environmental protection. Moreover, the minister, along with officials, municipal councilors, and citizens, participated in a cleanliness drive in ward 18 of Badshahpur in an attempt to spread awareness on the importance of maintaining cleanliness.

Multiple agencies have prepared a plan to repair roads falling under their jurisdiction and damaged during monsoon. MCG identified 110 km of roads for restoration, which will cost around Rs 60 crore. An estimate of Rs 17 crore was prepared for the repair of 29 roads spanning 23 km under the PWD department. Similarly, an estimate of Rs 9 crore was prepared for the repair of 72 roads, over 13 km, in the Pataudi area. Out of the 110 roads under the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, 2 roads in Budhera were damaged during the monsoon, and repair work on these will start soon. Stating that since the country aimed to become a developed nation by 2047, the minister said every citizen should work towards a clean environment, clean air, and pure water. "Cleanliness should not just be symbolic. It should become a part of daily life. The use of plastic and polythene causes severe environmental harm."

Cleanup efforts falling short Demolition waste mounts on Gurgaon-Faridabad road**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

Days after MCG cleared construction and demolition (C&D) waste from the Gurgaon-Faridabad road, the stretch has once again turned into a dumping ground. Despite a special drive and a visit by the MCG commissioner, Pradeep Dahiya, during the cleanup, construction debris reappeared on the road. The recurrence makes it clear that the corporation failed to implement deterrent measures against repeat offenders. Residents and commuters question why the civic body limits its role to periodic clean-ups instead of finding a long-term solution.

The MCG had set a Sept-end deadline to clear C&D waste from the Gurgaon-Faridabad road and Sector 29. A week ago, the commissioner and additional commissioner Ravinder Yadav visited both locations to inspect the debris removal process. "We will increase enforcement and register FIRs against those found dumping construction waste on the roads and public places," the commissioner said. Ankit Tripathi, a commuter, said, "Barely days after the construction waste was cleared from the

road, debris resurfaced, raising serious questions over why such a basic issue of unauthorised dumping remains unchecked. The fresh dumping has undone the civic body's earlier efforts, rendering the clean-up meaningless."



"In the absence of an efficient C&D waste management system, expecting no fresh construction waste to be dumped on the roads is asking too much," said Gauri Sarin, founder of the citizens' group Making Model Gurugram, adding, "There are no designated points for C&D waste dumping, there is no helpline, and no patrolling. There should be a completely seamless system. The civic body should first identify the sources."

Environmentalist Vaishali Rana said, "At these sensitive points, such as the Gurgaon-Faridabad road, there should be strict surveillance, and patrolling teams should check the site at least three times a day. We also need to understand that

people don't have an alternative, where would they dump?" Earlier, CMC's chief principal secretary Rajesh Khullar held a series of meetings with MCG and GMDA officials between Aug 13 and 18. He instructed that no construction debris or garbage should remain on the roads and asked for a strict action plan. Subsequently, MCG began clearing waste from dumping hotspots. In a single-day clean-up drive held recently, over 2,800 tonnes of waste were removed as a lakh-plus volunteers and sanitation staff joined a citywide cleanliness drive organised by MCG and the district administration. The state govt in Aug had approved the long-pending proposal to enhance the capacity of the Basai C&D waste plant from 300 metric tonnes per day (TPD) to 1,200 TPD. According to MCG estimates, the city generates nearly 1,500–2,000 tonnes of C&D waste daily.

PM10 Haryana's major pollutant: Report**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

PM10 accounted for the largest chunk of emissions in Haryana in 2019, followed by methane and nitrogen oxides, according to the state's first inventory of non-CO2 (carbon dioxide) pollutants. Coal-burning industries, brick kilns and thermal power plants are the main contributors to PM10 emissions, which were calculated at 411.5 kilotonnes, or 26% of non-CO2 emissions, in 2019, the study by the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) found. Of the total, almost two-thirds (261kt) of PM10 was released from industries across the state. Agriculture came in second, at 88.9kt, and transport third, at 21.2kt.

The study, carried out with the help of Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), also warned that without

interventions, the state could see pollution levels spike by 2047. PM2.5 levels could go up 37%, nitrogen oxides 47%, and black carbon 43%, compared to 2019, it said. A majority of other key pollutants, the research found, stems from the transport sector. Vehicles account for 75% of Haryana's NOx emissions and 63% of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), besides contributing significantly to black carbon and PM2.5.

Waste management presents another challenge, with methane emissions from landfills alone totalling 38.6 kilotonnes in 2019. In all, methane made up for 20% of the share of non-CO2 pollutants in Haryana that year. Experts said policy interventions were necessary to reduce emissions. "Short-lived climate pollutants are a major hurdle in the state's journey towards a cleaner future. This report can

help eliminate such hurdles and ensure a better future for Haryana," said Zerin Osho, IGSD director. Sudhir Rajpal, additional chief secretary for environment, emphasised the need to balance development with environmental sustainability. "Our future prosperity depends on prioritising the mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants, which have an immediate and powerful impact on our climate," he said.

The report, published on Tuesday, said household LPG penetration, crop residue management, cleaner cookstoves and industrial controls would help Haryana cut down its pollution burden. Other measures — including solar cooking adoption beyond 2040, community boiler systems in industries, and crop diversification — can steer sharper reduction in pollution levels, it said.

391 cos on Hindon basin, just 13 pumping effluents into river: UP

textile processing units and one each of paper and metal surface treatment units — discharge their wastewater into the Hindon at 309.44km through the untraced Karedha drain. Twelve more GPs — comprising metal surface treatment units, pharmaceutical industry and tannery — release wastewater into the Hindon at 313.07km through the Kaila Bhatta drain. One industry (distillery) through the Arthala drain at the 313.63km mark of the Hindon and seven more industries — comprising seven dyeing units and 36 yarn/textile processing units — push effluents through the Jawli drain (300km mark of the river). Another nine GPs — comprising seven

the Dasna drain to finally pour into the Hindon. Removal of solid waste, action on the polluting industries, creation of wetlands and installation of decentralised water treatment facilities are some of the suggestions included in the report prepared by the DM office. Various authorities, including the forest department, UPSIDA, State Pollution Control Board, UP Jal Nigam and the urban local bodies, have been identified as enforcement agencies accountable for taking action. In GB Nagar, around 18 GPs were found causing pollution to the river. Two industries — one each of pulp-paper and textile — empty into the Dasna drain near Yusufpur village, which joins

the Hindon at 323.01km.

Effluents from 15 polluting industries, comprising hologram stickers, paint and varnish, textile processing, moulded plastic, beverage plant, rice mill and slaughterhouses, empty into the Hawaliya at 355.68km through the Hawaliya.

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Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhtimes.in

Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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DDA identifies 1,769 hectares in Dwarka sector 19 for development

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has identified 1,769 hectares of land in Dwarka Sector 19 and its adjoining villages for infrastructure development. In the first phase of the project, a firm will be hired to survey the area and assess the current state of infrastructure. Based on the findings, a comprehensive road and drainage network will be developed, a senior DDA official said. "Some work is already going on in the area. We plan to construct a road and drainage network in the land pockets identified first, later on, future development work might be taken up and a tender has been issued in the regard," official said. In the past few months the land-owning agency has been pushing for development of areas in outer Delhi, including Dwarka and Narela. The DDA, in its budget announced in April for sports activities, has allocated '250 crore for the construction of new sports complexes — one in Dwarka, while the Dwarka Sector-8 centre of excellence has already been inaugurated by LG VK Saxena, and another facility is coming up in Sector-19. The agency has directed the contractor to take strict measures for dust control management works during construction. Proper drainage along the road also has to be maintained with proper bell mouths, keeping in mind the frequent urban flooding events, officials added. The plan which includes the construction of roads, drains and guest houses, will be carried out a cost of 3.2 crore, within six months. The completion report of the plan also needs to be prepared within the six months deadline. The DDA has also taken into account three nearby villages — Amberhia, Bagdola, and Manglapuri — where the development work will begin.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SUHANI SHARMA D/o AJAY SHARMA R/o Flat No-287, Pocket-4, Sector-2, Rohini, Raja Pur Kalan, PO: Rohini Sector-7, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KANISHKA SHARMA, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, TARANJIT KAUR, D/o SURINDER SINGH R/o L-2/145-B, D.D.A. Flats, Kaljai Nali, South Delhi, Delhi-110019, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as TARANJIT IN my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is TARANJIT KAUR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Javed si Md Attaf R/o T-18/2, Street No. 2, Gauram Puri, Seelampur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Javed Khan for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Indeep Singh S/o Trilochan Singh, R/o D-84, 4th Floor, Model Town Part 2, Model Town II, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009, have changed the name of my minor daughter Rehet Kaur alias Rehet Sabharwal and she shall hereafter be known as Rehet Kaur.

NAME CHANGE

I, Avash Tanwar S/o Siyanand Tanwar R/o R-79 Old Janki Puri Uttam Nagar West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed the name of my minor daughter Agammya, aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Agammya Tanwar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, DALIP KUMAR YADAV S/o GOVIND YADAV R/o H-381, OLD SEEMAPURI, DELHI-110095 declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as PIYUSH KR YADAV in my minor son namely PIYUSH KUMAR YADAV aged 15 years in his 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my minor son is PIYUSH KUMAR YADAV/ which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, INAM AHMED son of NIYAZUDDIN residing at T HUTS, E-44/A-111, NEW SEEMAPURI, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110095 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as INAM in my minor daughter's name/ MAHAK aged 16 years in her 10TH CLASS educational documents. The actual name of mine is INAM AHMED which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Shivali Verma alias Shivali Babbar is the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Upper Ground Floor, without roof rights., Built-on Property No. 315, in Block BA, area measuring 66.89 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Tagore Garden, New Delhi 110027, by virtue of Gift Deed dated 13.12.2021 Vida No. 26133, Vol. No. 6977, Book No. 1, Pages. 82-90, SR- II B Janakpuri. In the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. (1) Photocopy of Allotment Letter & Possession Certificate, (2) SMC of Late Mr. Tilak Raj Babbar S/o Mr. Khazan Chand Babbar Died Dated 21.01.2012, now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to Mr. Jyotsna Pawar and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Kalkaji New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAEVEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate
F-211-sector-3 Vaishali Ghazabat Utar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

NAME CHANGE

I, Minakshi W/O Ravi Kumar R/o D-654, Panna Dholan, Tiki Kalan, West Delhi, Delhi -110041, have changed the name of my minor daughter Sanjana Kumar aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as Sanjana Kumar

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Norratan S/O Om Prakash R/o F-454, Mahipalpur, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi, Delhi -110037, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as Devshi in my minor daughter's name Devshi Nigam aged 13 years in her Schedule Caste Certificate No. 90510000582238. The actual name of my minor daughter is Devshi Nigam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Moni Dhiman W/O Kapil Dev Lamba R/o A-7/167-168, Second floor, Sector -17, Rohini, Rohini Sector -15, PO: Rohini Sector-15, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi -110089, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kalpana in my minor daughter's name Kalpana aged 15 years in her 10th educational documents. The actual name of my wife is Chunachuan Devi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Moni Dhiman W/O Kapil Dev Lamba R/o A-7/167-168, Second floor, Sector -17, Rohini, Rohini Sector -15, PO: Rohini Sector-15, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi -110089, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Monika in my minor son's name Aarti Lamba aged 14 years in his School record. The actual name of mine is Moni Dhiman.

Name Change

I, Rajesh Devi W/O Braj Mohan R/o W-2-542, Naraina Village, Dist: South West Delhi, Delhi -110028, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajesh Wati

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, AYESHA KHAN D/o ISRAR KHAN R/o H-001-102/Group Floor, Dildar Colony, East Delhi, Delhi - 110095, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AYESHA KHATUN in my all educational documents. The actual name of mine is AYESHA KHAN respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SANJAY KUMAR S/o RAJENDER SAHANI R/o H-19, N-66, Gali No-3, Telephone Exchange, Samalka Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037, have changed my Name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY SAHANI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, PRATAP SINGH S/o GOPAL SINGH R/o F-107, Near GUMBAD, VTC KATWARIYA SARAI, DIST. SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110016 declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as PRATAP RAWAT and LAXMI RAWAT in my minor son namely PRIYANSHU RAWAT aged 17 years in his 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are PRATAP SINGH and LAXMI DEVI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JOGINDER S/o BUNDI LAL residing at House No. 172, Street No. 5, Near Balmiki Mandir Village - Wazidabad, Burari, Delhi -110084 have changed my Name and shall hereafter be known as JOGINDER CHAUTALA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as S LAUMAS S/o ATMA RAM LAUMAS R/o A-2/21, KAILASH COLONY, GREATER KAILASH, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110048, have changed my Name and shall hereafter be known as SANJIV LAUMAS.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AYESHA KHATUN R/o H-001-102/Group Floor, Dildar Colony, East Delhi, Delhi - 110095, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AYESHA KHATUN in my all educational documents. The actual name of mine is AYESHA KHATUN respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

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NAME CHANGE

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NEWS BOX

Donald Trump says designating Antifa 'a major terrorist organization'**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he would designate "Antifa" -- a shorthand term for "anti-fascist" used to describe diffuse far-left groups -- as "a major terrorist organization," a move he has threatened since his first term.

"I will also be strongly recommending that those funding ANTIFA be thoroughly investigated in accordance with the highest legal standards and practices," Trump wrote on Truth Social, calling Antifa "A SICK, DANGEROUS, RADICAL LEFT DISASTER." Trump on Monday threatened to go through with such a designation after senior White House official Stephen Miller vowed the administration would dismantle an alleged "vast domestic terror movement" that he linked to the killing of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.

Trump since his first term has ascribed blame to Antifa for various actions he dislikes, from violence against police to conducting the US Capitol riot on January 6, 2021. While federal law enforcement includes combating domestic terrorism under its purview, the United States does not have a list of designated "domestic terrorist organizations."

Bizarre Heist At US Disney Springs: Robber In Scuba Gear Swims Away With Loot**WORLD. (Agency)**

He was not your average "masked man". Authorities in Florida are looking for the man who gave a new twist to the image of a robber - trading the usual balaclava or ski mask for a scuba gear. He pulled off a late-night robbery at a Disney Springs restaurant in Orlando in diving gear. The incident unfolded just after midnight on Monday at Paddlefish, a popular seafood restaurant built aboard a moored steamboat in the Disney-owned shopping and dining complex. According to the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the man entered after closing, took cash and left. The heist took all of 2 minutes. "This incident occurred after the restaurant was closed, and there were no patrons present," the sheriff's office said. No injuries were reported.

How Did The Robbery Happen?

According to a report in Rare, reported that the suspect is believed to have swum to the boat in full scuba gear before shedding part of it and heading for the manager's office. Employees counting cash at the time said the man ordered them to close their eyes and tied their hands, but he did not threaten them with weapons.

What Did He Look Like?

A photo released by police shows the suspect in goggles, a wetsuit, gloves and a scuba hood. Employees also described him wearing a blue beanie hat and tight blue clothes.

Did He Cover His Tracks?

Authorities believe the man may have fired a spray paint can at a security camera before fleeing. They suspect he swam away from the venue with the stolen money.

3 Police Officers Killed, 2 Injured In US' Pennsylvania Shooting, Suspect Dead**world. (Agency)**

Three police officers were fatally shot and two wounded Wednesday in southern Pennsylvania, and the shooter was killed by police, authorities said.

The group of officers were at the scene to follow up on a domestic-related investigation that began the prior day. "We grieve for the loss of life of three precious souls who served this county, served this commonwealth, served this country," Gov. Josh Shapiro said. "This kind of violence is not OK, we need to do better as a society," he continued.

The shooting erupted in the area of North Codorus Township, about 115 miles (185 km) west of Philadelphia, not far from the Maryland line, authorities said. "The grief will be unbearable but we will bear it," Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Christopher Paris at a news conference. "We will not rest until we conduct a full, fair and competent investigation into this matter."

York Hospital said it was treating two people in serious condition and had enhanced security protocols in place. Authorities did not identify the shooter, the officers or which police department they belonged to, or describe the circumstances of how they were shot. Police could not share many of the details because the investigation is ongoing, Paris said.

Attorney General Pamela Bondi called the violence against police "a scourge on our society." She said federal agents were on the scene to support local officers. "Please send prayers to the officers and those involved in the shooting in York County," Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis said in a social media post. A local school district issued a shelter-in-place order, though it said schools and students were not involved in the shooting. The order was lifted later in the afternoon. The district said in a statement that authorities "advised us to hold students and staff in our buildings as a precaution while several area roads are closed." The medical response unfolded on a rural road in south-central Pennsylvania that winds through an agricultural area with a barn and farm fields. Officers were keeping people well back from the scene in the area's rolling farmland, with some 30 police vehicles blocking off roads bordered by a barn, a goat farm and soybean and corn fields.

Pennsylvania State Police, Northern Regional Police and numerous emergency responders are at the scene. The York County Commissioners are monitoring the situation closely and praying for all those involved," the county said in a statement. An officer in the area was killed in February, when a man armed with a pistol and zip ties entered a hospital's intensive care unit and took staff members hostage before a shootout that left both the suspect and an officer dead.

Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show taken off air 'indefinitely' after Charlie Kirk comments**Kimmel did not immediately comment, and representatives for the entertainer did not respond to AFP queries.****LOS ANGELES. (Agency)**

Jimmy Kimmel's late-night television show has been taken off the air "indefinitely" after the host was criticized for comments about the motives behind the killing of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk, US network ABC said. The stunning decision to suspend one of the United States' most popular and influential late-night shows comes as President Donald Trump has widened his legal attacks on media organizations that he accuses of bias against him. "Jimmy Kimmel Live will be preempted indefinitely," an ABC spokesperson told AFP, using a television industry term for when a show is replaced or removed from the schedule. Kirk, a close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot

dead last week during a speaking event on a Utah university campus. Authorities said 22-year-old Tyler Robinson used a rifle to shoot Kirk with a single bullet to the neck from a rooftop. He was arrested and has been formally charged with his murder.

On Monday, Kimmel spoke about the shooting in his popular late-night show's monologue. "We had some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterize this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and with everything they can to score political points from it," said Kimmel. "MAGA" refers to the president's "Make America Great Again" movement. The White House this week said it would be pursuing an alleged left-wing "domestic terror movement" in the wake of Kirk's killing, prompting alarm that such a campaign could be used to silence political dissent. ABC's decision came shortly after Nexstar -- one of the country's biggest owners of ABC affiliate stations -- said it

would not broadcast "Jimmy Kimmel Live" for "the foreseeable future." In a statement, Nexstar broadcasting president Andrew Alford said the company "strongly

give Mr Kimmel a broadcast platform in the communities we serve is simply not in the public interest at the current time, and we have made the difficult decision to preempt his show in an effort to let cooler heads prevail as we move toward the resumption of respectful, constructive dialogue." Kimmel did not immediately comment, and representatives for the entertainer did not respond to AFP queries. Actual malice? The decision to suspend Kimmel's show comes as Trump has intensified his long-established hostility toward the media.

Since his return to the White House, the president has repeatedly badmouthed journalists critical of his administration, restricting access and bringing lawsuits demanding huge amounts of compensation.

The US president filed a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times on Monday, alleging a "decades-long pattern" of smears driven by feelings of "actual malice."



objects" to Kimmel's comments.

"Mr. Kimmel's comments about the death of Mr. Kirk are offensive and insensitive at a critical time in our national political discourse, and we do not believe they reflect the spectrum of opinions, views, or values of the local communities in which we are located," he said. "Continuing to

"What Have You Accomplished In Past 4 Weeks": Elon Musk Asks xAI Staff To Revalidate Their Work**BELJING. (Agency)**

Elon Musk, the CEO of xAI, has once again notified his staff members to provide summaries of their recent work and demonstrate "what you've accomplished." Musk asked all xAI employees to "send a one-page summary of what you've accomplished in the past four weeks and what you intend to accomplish in the next four weeks" in an email issued to colleagues on Tuesday afternoon.

According to a copy of the email, obtained by CNN, Musk wrote, "This is due by noon on Thursday." The demand comes at a time xAI is undergoing a major reorganisation. With a strategy shift towards specialised AI instructors in industries like STEM, finance, medicine, and safety, Musk's xAI reportedly fired over 500 data annotators last week, many of whom were from its generalist AI tutor team, according to Reuters. The company sent out an email to its staff informing them of its

intention to reduce the number of generalist AI tutors. In response to a request for comment, xAI cited a post on X that stated the firm was hiring for positions across domains and intended

to grow its workforce of specialised AI tutors by "10X." This is the second such instance when Musk has asked his staff to explain what they have been doing and what they plan to do in the next few weeks.

According to a staff email obtained by The Verge in August 2024, the firm intended to provide stock options in accordance with the expected impact

on employees. Therefore, employees must submit a one-page brief to the leadership outlining their contributions to the business in order to receive their stock. At the time, the CEO reportedly asked all

employees of X to provide a "one page summary of your contributions to the company over the last month and over the last twelve months" to make "stock and option awards proportionate to the likely future contributions of people at X." All federal employees received bulk emails asking them to highlight their accomplishments over the last week while Musk worked with the White House and the Department of Government Efficiencies. At the time, Musk declared on X that "failure to respond will be considered as a resignation." Mr Musk once requested that staff members print down lines of code they had just developed when he first purchased Twitter in 2022. Then, turning around, he instructed them to destroy the printed material.

FBI Chief Kash Patel Agrees To Probe Trump-Epstein Birthday Note**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

FBI Director Kash Patel has agreed to open an investigation into the birthday note that former President Donald Trump allegedly wrote to Jeffrey Epstein on his 50th birthday, The Hill reported. Mr Patel's statement came during questioning from Representative Jared Moskowitz during a House Oversight Committee hearing.

The White House has insisted the note, released by Epstein's estate, bears a forged Trump signature. The document shows the outline of a female figure with a message suggesting that Trump and Epstein "have certain things in common," The Hill reported.

You've seen the picture of the woman's body with the president's signature -- he says it's not his. Will you open up an investigation into the Epstein estate for putting out a fake document?" Moskowitz asked. Patel initially questioned the grounds for such an inquiry, but after Moskowitz described

it as forgery of a U.S. president's signature, Mr Patel responded, "Sure, I'll do it." Committee Chair James Comer last week rejected Democratic calls to invite a handwriting expert to verify the signature, arguing the focus

should remain on Epstein's victims and potential government involvement, as reported by The Hill.

"Honestly, when you look at what's the purpose of this investigation, it's to try to provide justice to the victims and try to get the truth about what went on on Epstein Island, and to answer the

question, 'Was the government involved?' I don't think a birthday card 20 years ago has any relevance whatsoever," Comer said at the time.

Trump has sued The Wall Street Journal for defamation over a July report detailing the alleged letter, while the White House continues to deny its authenticity. "It's very clear President Trump did not draw this picture, and he did not sign it," press secretary Karoline Leavitt said earlier this month, adding that Trump's legal team will "continue to aggressively pursue litigation."

Earlier, Donald Trump dismissed demands for transparency in the Jeffrey Epstein case, calling the push for more disclosures a "Democrat hoax," CNN reported.

"It's really a Democrat hoax, because they're trying to get people to talk about something that's totally irrelevant to the success that we have had as a nation since I have been president," said Trump, responding to reporters.



following violent clashes between white supremacists and their opponents, including antifa supporters, in Charlottesville, VA, on August 12, 2017. The groups have been increasingly active in protests and rallies over the past few years, especially ones that include far-right participants. In June 2016, for example, Antifa and other protesters confronted a neo-Nazi rally in Sacramento, California, with at least five people stabbed. In February, March, and April 2017, Antifa members attacked alt-right demonstrators at the University of California, Berkeley using bricks, pipes, hammers, and homemade incendiary devices.

In July 2019, William Van Spronsen, a self-proclaimed Antifa, attempted to bomb the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Tacoma, Washington, using a propane tank but was killed by police. Trump since his first term has ascribed blame to Antifa for various actions he dislikes, from violence against police to conducting the US Capitol riot on January 6, 2021. Trump's previous FBI director, Christopher Wray, said in testimony in 2020 that antifa is an ideology, not an organisation, lacking the hierarchical structure that would usually allow it to be designated as a terror group by the federal government.

Russia Says It Advances On All Ukrainian Fronts**WORLD. (Agency)**

A senior Russian officer toured positions held by his troops in Ukraine on Wednesday and said Moscow's forces were advancing on all fronts, the Russian Defence Ministry said, with the heaviest fighting taking place around the logistics centre of Pokrovsk. General Valery Gerasimov, Russia's chief of staff of the armed forces in what Moscow calls its "special military operation", said Moscow's troops were making progress in the eastern Donetsk region, the conflict's focal point, and further west in the Zaporizhzhia and Dniproperetrovsk regions. "Our troops in the zone of the special military operation are advancing in practically all directions," the Defence Ministry quoted Gerasimov as saying. "And the heaviest fighting is occurring in the Krasnoarmeisk direction," he added, using the Soviet-era name for the city of Pokrovsk, "where the enemy, by means and taking no

account of losses, is trying unsuccessfully to stop our advances and seize back the initiative." The Ukrainian military, he was quoted as saying, "has deployed the best-trained and most capable fighting units, taking them from other areas. And that facilitates the advance of our troops in other sectors."

In their slow advance through eastern Ukraine, Russian forces have maintained heavy attacks on the area around Pokrovsk in the Donetsk region for months. Gerasimov said Russian forces were also making progress in taking Kupiansk, a largely destroyed city in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, and Yampil, further east. Gerasimov's statements appeared to be at odds with accounts by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and



Ukrainian military officials, however. Zelenskiy, interviewed by Sky News this week, said he expected new Russian offensives but added that Moscow's forces had enjoyed little frontline success in their

recent activity. "On the whole, I am truly pleased that the last three Russian offensive drives have failed, though they are planning two more serious offensives," he said. "In my view, this is an important signal." A Ukrainian commander this week said his forces had fended off a Russian advance near Pokrovsk, while the popular Ukrainian military blog DeepState, which uses open-source maps to track troop movements, reported Ukrainian successes in a nearby town. A spokesperson for a Ukrainian unit near

Kupiansk said on Wednesday that an attempted Russian advance on the town had resulted in many of its men being taken prisoner.

ACB seizes Rs 17 lakh from residence of Telangana power official



Hyderabad. (Agency)

A day after the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company (TGSPDCL) Assistant Divisional Engineer (Operations) Ambedkar Erugu in Ibrahimbagh, officials seized Rs 17 lakh from the Chevella residence of another ADE, Rajesh, late on Tuesday. He is suspected to be one of Ambedkar's benamis.

According to officials, both Ambedkar and Rajesh had earlier worked in the same office. Raids were carried out at the houses of Ambedkar and his suspected benamis till late on Tuesday.

An ACB official told TNIE that investigators are verifying whether the money recovered from Rajesh's house belonged to Ambedkar or was his own. Ambedkar was arrested in a disproportionate assets case and remanded to judicial custody till September 29.

The probe has also opened the possibility of a separate disproportionate assets case against Rajesh, suspected to be a benami of Ambedkar. It may be recalled that the ACB had earlier seized Rs 2.18 crore in cash from the residence of another suspected benami of the arrested official. The investigation is ongoing.

Roads submerged as Hyderabad reels under heavy downpour

Hyderabad. (Agency)

Heavy rains lashed Hyderabad on Wednesday evening, leaving traffic in chaos and citizens wading through knee-deep water. Several areas recorded more than 10 cm of rainfall within two to three hours.

Talla Basthi in Musheerabad circle reported the highest rainfall at 184.3 mm till 1 am on Thursday, followed by MCH Colony (156.8 mm) and Bholakpur (155.5 mm). Chikalguda (147.5 mm), Monda Market (146.5 mm) and Mettuguda (140.3 mm) also witnessed intense showers.

Commuters faced severe hardship as major roads were inundated. Visuals of bystanders helping the elderly cross flooded roads and vehicles stranded in gushing waters circulated widely on social media.

Other localities hit hard included Miyapur, Hafeezpet, Madhapur, Jubilee Hills, Filmnagar, Yousufguda, Ameerpet, Panjagutta, Somajiguda, Kharibabad, Mehdiyipatnam, Tolichowki, Kukatpally, Serilingampally, Gachibowli, Shaikpet, Raidurg, Patancheru, Kondapur, Quthbullapur, Suchitra, Kommpally, Gajularamaram, Balanagar, Banjara Hills, Basheerbagh and several parts of the Old City. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that medium to heavy rains are likely to continue across many districts, including Hyderabad, for the next three to four days due to a depression in the Bay of Bengal. Heavy rainfall is expected in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Medak and Kamareddy, while light to moderate rains are forecast in Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and other districts.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi visited Masab Tank during the downpour, reviewed waterlogging and traffic issues, and directed officials to take immediate measures. HYDRAA, GHMC and HMWSSB officials were put on high alert. The mayor said continuous field monitoring was underway and inter-departmental coordination being ensured, urging citizens to stay cautious during the spell of heavy rains.

Bharuch BJP leader leaves party in awkward position as video showing deliberate littering before cleanliness event goes viral

Vadodara. (Agency)

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat was left embarrassed on Tuesday as the President of Amod Municipality in Bharuch District, Jalpa Patel, was caught in a controversy of "litter-first-clean-later" photo opportunity at a ground chosen for the day one of the 15-day Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) programme.

A viral video of the event purportedly shows a man emptying a dustbin to litter the pathway of the ground where Patel as well as the Chief Officer of Amod Municipality Pankaj Nayak were waiting to be handed over brooms to participate in the drive.

According to officials of Amod Municipality, an official programme of the SHS, which kicked off on Tuesday on the eve of the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was scheduled to be held at the ground near the Municipality head office.

The video purportedly shows Patel and Nayak arriving at the designated spot and the latter immediately asking officials to hurry up and hand over the brooms. On the other end of the stretch, a man is seen emptying trash

First phase of Bandra-Dharavi bridge to be completed by November 30

Within the ambit of its Mithi River widening project, the BMC has taken up the cudgels to reconstruct the bridge between Bandra to Dharavi. The project is being undertaken in two phases in a bid to minimize the flow of river water.

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Wednesday said that the first phase of the bridge connecting Bandra to Dharavi over the Mithi River is slated to be completed by November 30, this year. Civic officials said that the work order on the second bridge of the reconstruction project is set to be issued soon.

Within the ambit of its Mithi River widening project, the BMC has taken up the cudgels to reconstruct the bridge between Bandra to Dharavi. The project is being undertaken in two phases in a bid to minimize the flow of river water.

On Wednesday, Additional

Municipal Commissioner (Projects) Abhijit Bangar along with senior BMC officials conducted a site inspection of the ongoing bridge works at Bandra.

According to officials, nearly 90 per cent of the first phase works have been executed so far with the entire bridge slated to be completed by November 30.

In what will provide direct access to the flyover leading up to the Mahim Causeway, two lanes of the southern arm on the existing bridge will be opened to traffic after completion of the first phase.

With the first phase nearing completion, the BMC said that the work order on the second phase will



be issued in the coming days with the entire bridge projected to be constructed in a period of 18

months. While reviewing works on Wednesday, Bangar directed officials to ensure that a strict

timeline should be derived before the launch of ground works and NOCs from the traffic department must be procured in advance. "Special care must be taken to ensure that the time period does not increase after the start of work and no inconvenience is caused to citizens," Bangar told officials.

Meanwhile, officials also reviewed ongoing works of the bridge over the nullah near Annie Besant Marg which is aimed at reducing congestion in Worli, Mahalaxmi and Lower Parel by creating a new link. While 30 percent of the project has been executed so far, Bangar said that the project is expected to be completed by December 2026.

Bid for Palayam Connemara Market redevelopment to open by month-end

Thiruvananthapuram. (Agency)

The much-delayed redevelopment of the century-old Palayam Connemara Market is set to see progress as Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd (SCTL) has scheduled the opening of bids for the project by the end of this month.

The project has been stuck for years due to disputes over trader relocation, legal hurdles, and disagreements with the original contractor, RDS Projects Ltd. The firm had demanded a 10% mobilisation advance, revised schedule of rates, and cost escalation, citing rising construction material prices and prolonged delays.

Authorities, however, refused to agree to these terms, fearing further delays and financial risks. "Providing mobilisation advance and revising rates would only create temptations for further work delays. We are going ahead with the project at existing scheduled rates.

The new contractor will be able to complete the structure within 10 months," said a senior official. The demolition of the old market has already been completed.

"Demolition work is almost done and the new contractor will take off immediately once the tender is finalised. Around 70-80% of traders have already moved to the temporary rehabilitation block built on Trivandrum Development Authority (Trida) land, while the remaining shops are lying unmanned.

The redevelopment of the historic market, pegged at Rs 88 crore, has faced stiff resistance from traders and trade unions in the past. While around 400 traders were relocated, Kerala Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samiti (KVVES) and other groups had challenged the temporary block in court, citing poor construction and pollution issues due to its proximity to a legacy dumpsite.

Despite these hurdles, civic officials maintain that preparatory works are now complete, and the fresh tendering process will ensure the project moves forward without further financial disputes. "Once bids are opened and a contractor is finalised, the work can begin without delay," the official added.



his two-wheeler fell into a long-unfinished pit near the Deputy Signal underpass in Lakadganj police limits. According to police, an iron rod protruding from the half-constructed cement

road pierced his abdomen, leading to fatal internal bleeding. Fating, who worked as a supervisor in a construction material shop, was supporting the education of his younger brothers. Lakadganj police have booked a civic contractor for negligence in connection with the incident.

Residents in both regions have alleged that civic apathy and unending repair work have turned major roads into accident-prone zones. While the Wada-Bhiwandi highway has been under reconstruction by Eagle Infrastructure, causing severe traffic disruptions, the Deputy Signal underpass in Nagpur has remained incomplete for nearly five years.

Local residents in Nagpur staged protests at the police station demanding the arrest of the contractor and compensation for the bereaved family.

Woman caretaker at school held over sexual assault of 4-yr-old girl

According to police, the child then told her parents that the caretaker had allegedly touched her inappropriately while accompanying her to the bathroom, during which she sustained the injury.

Mumbai. (Agency)

A woman caretaker at a prominent private school in Mumbai was arrested Wednesday for allegedly sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl. Police said the matter came to light after the child complained of pain in her private parts while changing clothes. Her mother, sensing something was amiss, took her to a doctor, where an injury was discovered.

According to police, the child then told her parents that the caretaker had allegedly touched her inappropriately while accompanying her to the bathroom, during which she sustained the injury.

The parents approached the school administration and narrated the incident, following which the police were informed. The case was registered based on the medical report and the mother's statement. "The woman was working in the school for more than two years and she was taken into custody on Wednesday morning and produced in the court," said a police officer.

An FIR registered under the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, was registered based on a complaint filed by the victim's parents on Tuesday. The accused was produced before the court and has been remanded in police custody till September 19.

Another officer added, "It is a sensitive matter. After the initial verification, it appears that the woman committed the offence. But we have been checking the CCTV footage and will try to verify the incident."



President Prakash Modi told The Indian Express that the party had been made aware about the video involving Patel, and a direction was awaited. The leader said, "The video has come to the notice of the party... I,

too, received it personally from many people and I have, as my duty, informed the party's state executive leaders. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow (Thursday) of the state executive in Gandhinagar and I shall await further instructions. Senior party leaders will direct us on what steps have to be taken."

Prakash Modi said that while the Swachhata fortnight was an annual cleanliness drive, the party had "not forced" anyone to take "extreme" steps.

"It is an annual exercise that begins on the birthday of PM Modi and ends on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi... Though the party has not issued any dos and don'ts, every leader has been asked to perform genuine cleanliness activities and instill awareness about cleanliness (among the public)... What happened in Amod could be a personal decision of (Patel)... We will see what the state executive decides in this matter," he added.

Nepal's lesson: Use youth fury for renewal

The recent convulsion in Nepal began as a backlash against a social media ban and rapidly became something far larger—a Gen Z eruption that struck at the symbols of state and elite power, left scores dead, and ended with the prime minister's resignation and the army moving into the capital to restore order. Reports showed protesters breaching and setting fire to government installations and homes of senior leaders—an intensity and a degree of targeted action that reads less like improvisation and more like careful preparation, while the intelligence community's inability to foresee the build-up remains puzzling.

In Kathmandu's compact political geography, the police's apparent retreat from key posts and the delayed arrival of specialised units created a vacuum the uprising filled; by then, the spectacle of elite residences and state buildings under attack had already rewritten the political map. A resigned police and army attitude is a blessing at times, as it was here because it helped dilute the anger.

What we are watching is not simply the recycling of old grievances, but the emergence of a new template of dissent. Gen Z operates differently—decentralised digital natives organised through viral content, encrypted chats, and ad hoc collectives rather than through political parties or charismatic hierarchies. The movement's leaderless mechanics—nobody to arrest to decapitate the revolt, no single body to negotiate with—recall political scientist Gene Sharp's ideas on decentralised resistance, now updated with social media as the organising architecture. That very structure is liberating for protesters and destabilising for states, because it makes pre-emptive intelligence harder and reactive governance clumsier. Alongside domestic dynamics, the suspicion of an 'external hand' inevitably surfaces; earlier South Asian episodes also prompted similar accusations without conclusive proof. The more productive question is which external powers materially benefit from an unstable Kathmandu—gaining diplomatic leverage, economic foothold, or a security advantage. For now, the winners are domestic: the youth succeeded in toppling a premier, forced policy reversals, and demonstrated quasi-political capability. Allegations at this stage would be conjecture. Turning to Pakistan, a likely candidate for such an upheaval, the parallels are sobering and instructive. Pakistani media is increasingly haunted by the prospect of political failure compounded by economic collapse and social erosion. Repetitive natural disasters are adding to the misery. The macroeconomic stress is well documented. The social picture accelerates the anxiety. Pakistan's precipitous ranking at the bottom of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report has provoked widespread commentary about the debilitating costs of gender inequality on development, social justice, and human security. Pakistani op-eds often frame the country's dilemma as a triple bind. First, economic stress that deepens grievance. Second, a public sphere awash in identity politics and ideological religiosity. And third, the lack of pragmatic problem-solving and institutions that fail to deliver basic services or protect minorities and women. The result is a rising social frustration that bears an uncomfortable similarity to the grievances that fuelled Nepal's uprising. Add to that a media environment where certain channels and commentators amplify sectarian or ideologically rigid frames that increase the lethality. The comparison with post-Arab Spring cycle of events is an uncomfortable, but useful, mirror. In Egypt, the popular upheaval led to the election of an Islamist government, which itself collapsed a year later under mass protest and military intervention—a process that devolved into a harsh, polarised settlement.

Plug the leaks to reduce flood risk

Punjab should take a cue from Odisha's model, which lays stress on empowering local bodies

FLOODWATER has started receding in Punjab, but the calamity is not yet over. It was one of the worst flood disasters in recent decades, affecting all 23 districts and impacting nearly two million people in over 2,000 villages. Lakhs of people have been displaced, and more than 50 have died in flood-related incidents. Clearly, the agricultural sector has suffered the most, with over 1.7 lakh hectares of farmland submerged. Crops have been damaged, and lakhs of livestock and poultry birds have been left without fodder and shelter. The damage to houses and other infrastructure in villages is massive.

The post-flood situation is more challenging. Health and agricultural rehabilitation are the most immediate tasks. The stagnant water increases mosquito-breeding, leading to malaria, dengue and chikungunya. Water-borne diseases like typhoid, diarrhoea and hepatitis can spike if drinking water remains contaminated. The risk of snakebites has also increased. Since large tracts of farmland are under silt and sand, land would need proper reclamation measures before the next sowing season. The crop cycle, too, has been disrupted due to the loss of standing paddy and delayed sowing of wheat.

While crop damage is visible and immediate steps are needed to help farmers, the authorities should not neglect long-term damage caused to the health and education infrastructure in the state. Floodwater has left 1,280 dispensaries and health and wellness centres, over 100 community health centres and 31 sub-divisional hospitals under water, disrupting essential services and damaging equipment worth several hundred crores of rupees. This is a double whammy. The healthcare delivery has been hampered when it is needed the most to prevent the outbreak of diseases. The damage to the education sector is widespread. About 3,300 government and private schools have either been impacted in various districts. Floods forced their closure, and some of them are so damaged that they will not be able to function for some more time, particularly in the worst-affected areas in Gurdaspur, Ferozepur and Fazilka. School buildings have suffered structural damage in many cases. All this is bound to disrupt the studies of thousands of children. The State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) of Punjab recognises flood as a major hazard due to the state's high vulnerability. The causative factors are also well recognised. Almost 80 per cent of the rainfall in the state

occurs within three months that coincide with the main cropping season. There is increased encroachment in the floodplains, but the socio-economic conditions of people living there are poor, as the local economy is primarily dependent on the monsoon paddy. There is very little or no forest cover in the flood-prone areas. Beas, Sutlej, Ravi and to some extent Ghaggar have been identified in the state's flood hazard map. Over the years, the flood problem in the Beas, Sutlej and Ravi has been mitigated through the construction of reservoirs and embankments, but flood risk due to high releases from reservoirs and

operational during a disaster. Kerala, which faces a flood-like situation every year, has taken steps to make its rural health infrastructure disaster-ready. In the 2018 floods, over 330 health facilities were fully or partially damaged in the southern state. While rebuilding health facilities that were completely damaged, the state authorities conducted a detailed vulnerability assessment of each location, incorporated critical design changes and used resilient building technologies and materials. Those partially damaged were retrofitted on similar lines.

All that is needed are small tweaks in design. For example, all primary health centres in Kerala were earlier single-storeyed, which made them prone to flooding. New ones being developed are multi-storeyed, with upper floors for housing diagnostic equipment, pharmacy, medical records and power supply backup. Thus, even if floodwater enters the facility, vital equipment and records would be safe on the first floor. The hospital safety guidelines of the National Disaster Management Authority stipulate that every hospital in the country spell out the minimum required standards for healthcare facilities. In addition, we need to take several non-structural steps for mitigation of flood impacts, such as building the capacity of local bodies and communities through awareness, sensitisation and training. In this context, the disaster risk reduction initiative of cyclone-prone Odisha is worth studying and emulating.

The Odisha model, praised globally, includes establishing early warning systems, constructing multipurpose cyclone shelters, training community volunteers, creating rapid action forces, empowering local governance bodies and integrating disaster management into development planning at the local level to enable rapid response to disasters like cyclones and floods. A cadre of over one lakh volunteers drawn from gram panchayats, women's self-help groups, etc, have been trained to reduce disaster risk and manage rescue and relief operations. The involvement of the community and civil society holds the key. The flood problem needs a holistic approach both for prevention and risk reduction. Disaster management plans exist, best practices and guidelines have been developed, and successful models like those of Kerala and Odisha are available to study and emulate. All Punjab needs is to implement them and not wait for the next disaster.

Political parties can't wash their hands of POSH

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 Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea challenging the Kerala High Court's ruling that political parties are not bound to set up internal complaint committees (ICC) under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The court reasoned that parties are not "workplaces" since their members are not employees. This interpretation may not fully appreciate the broader purpose of the law. The law is rooted in the Vishaka (1997) judgement, in which the top court held that Article 21 obliges institutions to protect women from harassment, regardless of their formal employment status. The Act itself reflects this, broadly defining an aggrieved woman "in relation to a workplace, a woman of any age, whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent".

Political parties are hardly voluntary bodies of sympathisers. They issue membership cards, enforce discipline, collect funds, maintain offices, and operate with strict hierarchies. Women workers share the same work burden as men everywhere. They are also vulnerable

to exploitation. A UN Women study noted the prevalence of sexual favours demanded within political parties a decade ago. An Inter-Parliamentary Union survey found



that 82 percent of women parliamentarians had faced psychological violence, including sexual threats and remarks. If political workers exclusively work for a party,

the least they expect is minimum protection from that party. To deny them the benefit of ICCs because they are not employees is as good as dismissing their labour as inconsequential and exposing them to sexual discrimination. Where should an internally harassed party worker turn for help? Criminal law addresses assault. Yet, it cannot replace an internal legal mechanism offering safety, confidentiality, and redress. Without it, women are left vulnerable in political spaces that men mostly dominate. Parties also cannot hide behind the "voluntary association" defence. When NGOs, hospitals, and small workplaces with only 10 employees fall under POSH, political organisations, which wield enormous power, cannot be exempt. If the current law does not bind political parties, parliament must amend it. Till then, explicit guidelines from the Election Commission or the Supreme Court could mandate independent grievance redress mechanisms within parties. Anything less sends the message that women in politics are dispensable—an affront to the spirit of POSH.

The Waterman of India: PM Modi on a mission

From interlinking rivers to preparing them as waterways, from rejuvenating them to providing clean drinking water to each citizen of India and from cruises to building dams, PM Modi is truly the Waterman of India, who has transformed the water ecosystem of our country.

India, a blessed country with huge geographical diversity, has always been centred around water. From one of the names being a derivative of the river Indus, to countless rivers and tributaries criss-crossing our entire geography, it is water that makes our country a sacred geography. It is only fitting how only one ocean is named after a country and that is the Indian Ocean! Thus in India, water is not just a necessity but a symbol of our national imagination. It is this national imagination that has been strengthened by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While his ideas and vision have given success in all policy domains in our country, it is his exceptional work in the area of water that deserves special mention. From interlinking rivers to preparing them as waterways, from rejuvenating them to providing clean drinking water to each citizen of India and from cruises to building dams, PM Modi is truly the Waterman of India, who has transformed the water ecosystem of our country.

Let us begin in Gujarat, where Modi ji first demonstrated his belief that rivers are not mere water channels but lifelines of culture and community. The Sabarmati Riverfront, once a neglected and polluted stretch, was transformed under his leadership as Chief Minister into a vibrant public space. This project not only rejuvenated a dying river but also set a global benchmark for urban riverfront development.

Today, cities across India -- from Varanasi to Indore -- are inspired by the Sabarmati model, bringing their own rivers back to life. The completion and operationalisation of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is

another testament to Modi ji's resolve. For decades, this project faced delays, protests, and policy paralysis. It was only under his determined guidance that the dam reached its full height and began delivering irrigation, drinking water, and power to millions. Farmers in drought-prone areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh now speak of a new lease on life. On one hand, the dam has quenched the thirst of 4 crore Indians, roughly the entire population of Poland and on the other, more than 11,000 villages have been provided with water for domestic use. With 67 trees planted for every tree submerged, this project has demonstrated how under PM Modi, development and sustainability are not mutually exclusive.

In our ethos, rivers aren't merely water carriers but cultural and spiritual icons too. From our deities to sages, kings to the citizenry -- everyone has had rivers as an integral part of their day to day lives. Even our Vedas and epics were composed along the banks of our rivers. But over time, our carelessness and weakened civic sense led to most of our rivers being polluted. Their polluted state reminded everyone of the political apathy displayed by successive governments. This changed in 2014 when PM Modi, elected as the Prime Minister, launched the 'Namami Gange Programme', within weeks of being sworn in. The flagship program not only made visible improvements to the state of River



the national capital. The BJP's triple-engine government in Delhi, under the PM's leadership, is working day and night to clean the river in the city, committed to making the river alive and restoring it to its former glory. What also sets PM Modi apart is

how he has made water management a household movement rather than just government schemes. The "Jal Shakti Abhiyan" and "Catch the Rain" campaigns mobilised most citizens, institutions and panchayats, crystallising into the Jal Jeevan Mission. The PM announced his vision of providing clean drinking water to each household in the country from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15 August 2019. Its stupendous success is visible in how the mission led to more than 81% of our rural households having a water connection, up from a mere 16% in 2019.

From Himachal Pradesh in the north to Tamil Nadu in the south, from Gujarat in the west to Mizoram in the east, more than eleven states and UTs in our country have been certified as "Har Ghar Jal", meaning hundred percent coverage of drinking water, thanks to our Waterman! From tourist cruises on our rivers to their utilisation as national and international waterways, PM Modi's vision has made water a symbol of economic, cultural and developmental success. Today, on the occasion of his birthday, I join the entire country, especially my fellow Delhites, in conveying to him our best wishes as he leads our country towards being a developed country by 2047.

'And time passed by...': 3 decades after UP youth went missing, police book 7 persons for murder

Lucknow .(Agency)

Three decades ago, on October 5, 1995, a 22-year-old Pradeep Kumar Bajpai, who had gone to the Betwa river for idol immersion, did not return home in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh. His worried family began searching for him. They were told by locals that he was "assaulted and drowned" in the river, allegedly by his rivals — all distant relatives and neighbours — with whom the family had a long-standing land dispute.

Pradeep's family approached the district administration and police to trace and get a complaint registered against those whom they suspected were responsible for his death. However, all efforts to trace Pradeep's body remained unsuccessful.

His body was never found.

After failing to get assistance from the authorities in getting a case registered,

Pradeep's father, Uma Shankar Bajpai, a retired government employee, approached a local court.

Three years later, in October 1998, the court directed the local police station to register a case. However, no FIR was registered at the time. According to the Bajpai family, the police claimed that a copy of the court did not

16-year legal battle ends in acquittal for state employees in DVAC case

Chennai .(Agency)

Two state government employees, one of whom died seven months ago, were acquitted of corruption charges by a special court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases in Chennai on Tuesday, 16 years after the DVAC registered the case.

The accused were V Lakshmanan, co-operative sub-registrar in the office of the deputy registrar of co-operative credit societies between 2005 and 2007, and R Padmanaban, then section officer in the tourism department, who died on February 11 this year. Both also served as office-bearers of a housing society in Thoraipakkam, where the alleged irregularities took place.

DVAC had charged the two with corruption, criminal conspiracy, forgery and criminal misconduct, accusing them of foul play in the allotment of two convenience stores and a shop site on a government-allotted land in the housing society. The case was registered in 2009 and a chargesheet was filed in 2013.

The court ruled that the DVAC failed to establish that the accused had received even 1 as bribe or that the alleged fake allotment orders for the shops were written by Lakshmanan or signed by Padmanaban.

Though beneficiaries of the shop sites testified they had paid money to Lakshmanan, the court said this did not prove that the allotment letters were prepared by him. The court also pointed out procedural lapses by the prosecution in presenting evidence.

DRF staff stir over pay cut, resume duties after meeting HYDRAA chief

Hyderabad .(Agency)

Expressing anger over a sudden deduction of Rs 5,000 from their salaries, several outsourced Disaster Response Force (DRF) staffers working under the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) staged a protest in front of the agency's office on Wednesday.

They alleged that despite working round the clock in emergencies, their pay had been slashed in September. Earlier deployed by the GHMC's Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVDM) wing, they are now serving under HYDRAA. The state government recently issued an order to bring parity in salaries of all outsourced employees. However, DRF personnel said the implementation of this order resulted in a deduction of around 5,000 for most of them. They pointed out that HYDRAA marshals had previously boycotted duties over similar issues, after which the Commissioner had assured there would be no salary cuts.

Not permanent: Ranganath

HYDRAA, however, denied any reduction in pay. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the agency explained that as per GO No. 1272, salaries of employees transferred from GHMC's EVDM to HYDRAA were revised to match wages of outsourced staff in other departments.

HYDRAA said it had immediately informed the government, which directed GHMC to release a matching grant to cover the difference. As the grant's release requires Standing Committee approval, there was a delay. To avoid hardship, HYDRAA paid salaries strictly as per the GO, while the difference will be adjusted and cleared once GHMC releases the funds. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath met the protesting staff and assured them that there was no permanent pay cut and that they would continue to receive the same salaries as under GHMC's EVDM. Following this assurance, employees resumed duties.

Officials reclaim land worth Rs 16 crore

The HYDRAA on Wednesday reclaimed nearly 1,600 sq yards of land earmarked for parks and public amenities, valued at over Rs 16 crore, from land grabbers.

reach them. "For months, my father shuttled between the court and the police station to find out why the order had not been delivered. Since he was a government clerk, he could not spare time every day to pursue the matter... And time passed by," said Devendra Kumar, the elder brother of Pradeep.



In 1998, I got a job in the Education Department and was posted in Banda district. The accused persons began harassing and putting pressure on my father not to pursue the matter. Fearing for his safety, he could not take the case forward. Since the accused were our neighbours, the threat was much greater. The matter remained stalled for years, and my

father's health also kept deteriorating," said Devendra Kumar, who retired as principal of a government primary school in 2019. According to Pradeep's family, a property dispute with the accused has been going on since 1989, and the matter is still pending in the court.

In 2021, Uma Shankar died without seeing any headway in the matter. In March this year, Devendra approached the Allahabad High Court. Submitting a copy of the 1998 lower court's order, he urged the High Court that a case be registered in compliance with the earlier directive. Now, after three decades, an FIR was finally registered on Wednesday at the Kotra police station against seven persons — all distant relatives and neighbours of Pradeep — on charges of murder and destruction of evidence.

"Our faith in the system has been restored. There were nine people involved in the case... While we were struggling to get the case registered, two of the accused died. We now hope that the remaining accused will finally be brought to justice," Devendra Kumar Bajpai, 68, told The Indian Express over the phone.

A serious wake-up call, Bengaluru infra needs to be fixed, say industry bodies

Bengaluru .(Agency)

Industry bodies have termed the BlackBuck CEO's decision to move out of Outer Ring Road (ORR) citing pathetic road infrastructure and traffic problems, as a serious wake-up call for the government. "The decision of BlackBuck to move out of the ORR must serve as a serious wake-up call. Bengaluru's reputation as India's tech capital rests on infrastructure and ease of doing business," said Krishna Kumar Gowda, General Secretary of Greater Bengaluru IT Companies & Industries Association (GBTCA), while urging the government to improve infrastructure and Metro connectivity among others.

upgrades. Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) President Balakrishna M G termed the matter as a wake-up and a serious warning. "The government must act fast -- fill potholes, build infrastructure and redeem Bengaluru's sagging global image. Let's not lose our pride as India's tech and start-up capital," he said.

Some of the industry bodies TNIE reached out to declined to comment. However, they said infrastructure plays a crucial role in holding companies and bringing in new investments and a city like Bengaluru needs world-class infra.

Brand guru Harish Bijoor said, "BlackBuck is moving out of Bellandur, but not out of Bengaluru. It's not an easy thing for any startup or business to get out of Bengaluru. Once you are in Bengaluru, you continue to be in Bengaluru. Potholes, bad infrastructure, come what may, Bengaluru is an ecosystem on its own."

He, however, said Bengaluru seriously has to buck up on its infrastructure. "Our deputy chief minister is in action and has put out a format of splitting the city into five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority. The planning is done, the institutional corrections are done and it is time to act.

We need to see how the five city corporation commissioners are going to tackle the multiple issues troubling Bengaluru," Bijoor said.

NFR takes up eco-friendly drive under Swachhata Hi Seva 2025

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 18th September: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has launched the Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 campaign across all its divisions and headquarter from 17th September 2025. The campaign will continue till 02nd October, 2025, and will be observed in all stations, trains, workshops, colonies, offices and other railway establishments with the aim of promoting cleanliness, sustainability and public awareness. On this occasion, General Manager of NFR Shri Chetan Kumar Srivastava led the officers and staff in taking the Swachhata Pledge, reaffirming NFR's commitment to building a cleaner and greener environment. Throughout the campaign period, NFR will be organizing a wide range of activities under the theme Swachhotsav. These include

sive cleanliness drives in station premises, tracks, colonies and offices awareness campaigns for passengers and local communi-

a culture of environmental responsibility. Senior officials and staff from headquarter and across divisions will be actively partici-

and awareness messages were delivered to highlight the importance of hygiene and sanitation. NFR is making every effort to engage both employees and citizens in this mass movement, recognizing that sustainable cleanliness requires consistent participation from all sections of society. As a special eco-friendly measure on the opening day of the campaign, NFR introduced compostable bags manufactured by IIT Guwahati for the distribution of bedrolls in all originating trains. This innovative step reflects NFR's commitment to reducing single-use plastics, promoting sustainable practices, and aligning railway services with the national mission of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. By blending such eco-friendly innovation with mass participation, NFR aims to set new benchmarks in sustainable railway practices.

FIR lodged against woman advocate after high drama in HC complex

Chandigarh .(Agency)

An FIR has been registered at Sector 3 police station against advocate Ravneet Kaur and her associate Simran Singh Blassi under Sections 109 (attempt to murder), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 126 (wrongful restraint) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), following a day of chaos inside the Punjab and Haryana High Court complex. The Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association has demanded their immediate arrest, alleging that the two created panic, assaulted members of the Bar, and disrupted proceedings. In an urgent notice, the association warned of an indefinite strike if prompt police action was not taken. According to the notice, the trouble began when Ravneet accused the Bar Association Secretary Gagandeep Jammu of confiscating her bag and laptop in Court Room-1. She later entered the executive office with Blassi and allegedly misbehaved with

the Secretary and others. In court, she pressed for her matter to be urgently fixed for hearing in Court Room-1, a request allowed despite opposition from nearly 100 members present.

As the two exited the courtroom, the situation spiralled. Blassi was allegedly seen roaming inside the premises with a sword and, along with Ravneet, is accused of assaulting members of the Bar. One member was reportedly injured before police intervened and took the duo away.

Despite this, the Bar Association alleged, the police were initially reluctant to lodge an FIR. As the police dragged their feet, the association then threatened to go on an indefinite strike if no action was taken. Ravneet has been a frequent litigant in recent months, filing petitions ranging from financial aid from the Bar Council, which was dismissed earlier this year, to challenges over the allocation of her cases to a particular bench.

In a high-profile robbery, criminals stole cash and gold worth Rs 21.04 crore from the SBI branch at Chadchan town in Vijayapura district on Tuesday evening.

As per preliminary assessment by bank officials, robbers have taken away Rs 1.04 crore in cash and around 20 kg of gold ornaments, worth around Rs 20 crore, SP Laxman Nimbargi said on Wednesday. The jewellery was pledged by customers for taking loans, the police said.

The SP said that one of the accused arrived at the bank around 4.30 pm under the pretext of opening a bank account. "He sat in the bank till 6.30 pm. When the bank staff was about to close the branch for the day, he called two of his accomplices. After they arrived, all the three held some

ten people at the bank — six staffers and four customers — hostage at gunpoint and lethal weapons. They tied all the hostages and locked them in a room at the bank. They then

abandoned the two-wheeler and fled from the spot with the stolen property, the police said. Meanwhile, the police have formed eight teams to crack the case. Forensic experts visited the bank and collected evidence.

This is the second major bank heist in Vijayapura district in recent months.

In the previous robbery, nearly 50 kg of gold was looted from the Canara Bank branch in Managuli. The branch manager himself was involved and was arrested later. The police successfully cracked that case and recovered the entire loot of stolen gold and arrested all the accused.

Punjab facing floods every 2 years: Are silt-choked riverbeds, dams to blame?

After the 2019 disaster and the 2023 deluge, the 2025 floods have once again turned vast swathes of farmland into lakes and left rural infrastructure battered.

gravel, enough to increase water-carrying capacity by 15,000–50,000 cusecs if removed. That figure then was already 15 times more than Punjab's annual sand and gravel requirement. But since then, at least two more floods — in 2023 and now in 2025 — have piled on additional silt. "Since 2019, the volume of trapped sand and gravel has only gone up with each flood," said a senior officer of the Punjab Canal Wing under the Punjab Water Resources Department.

"The numbers we quoted then are outdated now. The situation is much more serious. The rivers have lost so much depth at certain points that even moderate rain or controlled water releases are causing breaches," admitted another senior irrigation official.

The data illustrates the crisis starkly. The Sutlej, originally carrying 2–3 lakh cusecs, can barely manage 80,000–90,000 cusecs on

most stretches, while at some places it is still carrying up to 2 lakh cusecs. "At some places



even 50,000–60,000 cusecs water in the river is breaching the bands and at some places even water up to 2 lakh is crossing comfortably. But even a single breach on the river is causing floods in several villages," said another officer, adding that the Beas and

Ravi too have lost large chunks of capacity at several places because silt/ sand gets accumulated and sometimes the water either damages the bands on the riverbanks or pushes water back into the low-lying areas. Experts said that seasonal rivulets such as Ghaggar and Chakki now overflow with far smaller flows than before.

Despite repeated floods, Punjab has made little headway in desilting, and the reason is the involvement of the environmental issues, huge finances to remove the silt and the lack of proper scientific study about the desilting of rivers, said officials, adding that it is a technical task and requires accuracy. Though successive governments had approved dozens of mining sites across seven blocks of Punjab for contractors to excavate river material under supervision, insiders say the scheme was half-hearted and patchy.

EVM ink row sparks clash between ABVP, NSUI during Delhi University student polls

The chief election officer termed the incident "mischievous," noting that it was unusual for the same issue to surface at two separate colleges.

Agency New Delhi.

A fresh controversy erupted during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections on Thursday morning after an electronic voting machine (EVM) with an ink mark was reportedly found at Hansraj College and Kirori Mal College on polling day. The ink appeared on the button against the ABVP's presidential candidate, Aryan Mann triggering sharp exchanges between rival student groups. The incident prompted the immediate intervention of the election committee, election observers, and even the Chief Election Officer Professor Raj Kishore Sharma who visited the sites to assess the situation. The election officer took feedback from as many as 100 students in the college.

NSUI senior leaders, including Varun Choudhary quickly released a video of its presidential candidate, Joslyn, in tears, alleging "vote chori" and accusing rivals of attempting to manipulate the poll process.

"RSS-BJP has brought its undemocratic and fraudulent tactics into Delhi University. Just as they manipulate elections outside,



they are now trying the same inside DU. But the students of Delhi University will not tolerate this. They will answer ABVP's dishonesty with their votes," said Varun Choudhary.

ABVP, on the other hand, dismissed the allegations, claiming NSUI was resorting to theatrics as "ABVP is winning on all four seats."

The chief election officer termed the incident "mischievous," noting that it was unusual for the same issue to surface at two separate colleges. Meanwhile, Hansraj College issued an official statement calling the allegations "baseless" and insisted that the college denies all false allegations and also said that voting was being conducted under strict scrutiny, with CCTV cameras ensuring transparency. With both student groups trading charges, the EVM ink row added a new flashpoint to an already high-stakes election. Professor Raj Kishore said that half of the voting in the day colleges was almost over by 12:30. The voting turn out will be released by 5 pm.

Delhi Police PCR van crushes tea seller on pavement

Agency New Delhi.

A 55-year-old tea vendor was killed after a Delhi Police patrolling van rammed into his stall while he was sleeping in Central Delhi's Mandir Marg area early Thursday.

The man killed in the accident has been identified as Gangaram Tiwari, who used to run the tea stall on the pavement near the RK Ashram Metro Station, and sleep inside it.

According to the police, the accident happened at 5 am when the New Delhi District PCR van — a white Ertiga — was patrolling the area. Prima facie, the police suspect the driver of the patrolling vehicle, a constable, dozed off while driving the vehicle when the accident took place. An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) was also present in the vehicle when the accident took place.

The constable and the assistant sub-inspector have been suspended after the accident, and the vehicle has been seized, a senior police officer said. Tiwari's 24-year-old son, who lives with him, said he was out when the accident happened.

"Main walk karne gaya tha subah (I went for a morning walk). When I came back, I saw the vehicle had rammed into our shop. Hum dus saal se yahan dukaan laga rahein hai (We have been setting our shop here for the past 10 years). They (accused) come here to patrol daily," told reporters. Gangaram's wife lives in a village in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. A senior police officer said the constable driving the vehicle was deployed in the PCR New Delhi Circle.

"The cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained. But prima facie it appears that the constable lost control of the vehicle while taking a turn, and it climbed onto the pavement, crashing into the tea stall," the officer said.

67-year-old US woman travelled to Punjab to marry UK-based NRI, 75; found dead

Agency New Delhi.

A 71-year-old Indian woman, who travelled to Punjab from the US to marry a UK-based NRI man, was found dead. The case came to light recently after Ludhiana Police registered an FIR over Rupinder Kaur Pandher's disappearance and named suspects, including her would-be husband, Charanjit Singh Grewal.

Pandher's remains were recovered from a drain in Ghungrana village near Ludhiana, as well as her badly-damaged iPhone. The incident dates back to July when Pandher, an

Sidhu Moosewala killing to firing at Disha Patani's home: Why Turkish Zigana pistols are go-to weapon for gangsters

Agency New Delhi.

What's common between the killings of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, UP gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed, and Maharashtra NCP leader Baba Siddique? In all three cases, the murder weapon was similar — a Zigana pistol made in Turkey. This was the pistol that was also used by the two shooters who opened fire outside Bollywood actress Disha Patani's residence in Bareilly, which police later recovered.

According to a senior police officer, the Zigana pistol is highly popular among gangsters in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan for its ability to fire over 15 rounds in one go, its low chance of jamming, and high accuracy. Police said CCTV footage of the firing at Patani's residence attests to this, showing that a single pull of the trigger released multiple rounds. The shooting was carried out by Ravindra (24) and Arun (27), belonging to the



shot dead in a joint encounter by the Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi Police in Ghaziabad.

Police recovered a Zigana pistol from the encounter site. They also recovered an Austrian Glock pistol, widely used by the Indian police forces, from the shooters. While Zigana pistols are manufactured in Turkey, the police officer said

counterfeit versions are easily available in Pakistan. Its price goes up to Rs 2-4 lakh by the time it reaches the end user in India, the officer added.

Police discovered that in 2022, a significant number of such pistols were allegedly smuggled into India from Pakistan via drones and supplied to shooters associated with jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi for the assassination of Sidhu Moosewala.

Later, similar firearms were found to have been used in the killings of Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf in Prayagraj in 2023, as well as in the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique in Mumbai in 2024. Sources claimed that a Zigana pistol was even gifted to the Jitender Maan alias Gogi gang by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, when the two collaborated to operate in Delhi-NCR in early 2021.

Hit by Delhi HC verdict, airport service aggregator Dreamfolks exits domestic lounge business

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court Tuesday refused to restrain lounge operator Encalm Hospitality Private Limited from dealing with banks directly, instead of solely through Dreamfolks Services Limited, an airport service aggregator, to provide airport lounge access.

After the court ruling, Dreamfolks Services, which also provides airport lounge services, said Tuesday it is discontinuing its service at domestic airport lounges, although its other domestic services and global lounge business will continue.

While refusing to restrain Encalm Hospitality from dealing with banks, Justice Amit Bansal noted that Dreamfolks Services failed to

establish that there is an "exclusivity" between Dreamfolks Services and its clients, banks. "It appears that the



petitioner's clients (banks) are free to have similar agreements with other third-party service providers... On a prima facie view, there is no bar upon the respondent (Encalm Hospitality) to provide services" to the banks through third-party service

providers," Justice Bansal ruled.

Dreamfolks Services was embroiled in a legal dispute under the Arbitration and Reconciliation Act against Encalm Hospitality, with which it had entered into an agreement in 2022, valid for five years. Encalm Hospitality had agreed to provide services to Dreamfolks Services, and its customers by granting them access to the services at the lounges it operated. Through the agreement, Dreamfolks Services, which has agreements with various banks that issued credit cards and other cards to their customers, essentially provided access to such cardholders to the airport lounges, allowing Dreamfolks to earn from the margin it pays Encalm Hospitality and recovers from the banks.



American citizen based in Seattle, arrived in the state at the invitation of Grewal, the 75-year-old would-be groom originally from Ludhiana, the news agency quoted police as saying.

According to the police, the victim's sister, Kamal Kaur Khairah, grew suspicious when she found Pandher's phone switched off on July 24.

Four days later, she informed the US Embassy in Delhi, following which the local police in Ludhiana began its probe. Ludhiana resident, Sukhjeet Singh Sonu, has been arrested after he allegedly confessed to killing Pandher on Grewal's instructions for Rs 50 lakh.

Sonu said he killed her in his house and later burnt the body in a storeroom. The police said the motive was financial.

'No victory procession in Capital': Delhi HC directs candidates ahead of DUSU polls

A division bench comprising Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was hearing a petition concerning large-scale violations of the poll code.

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday barred victory processions by winning candidates of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election, while orally warning that if the election is not conducted in a "peaceful and orderly manner," it may stop the functioning of the elected office bearers. The elections are scheduled for September 18, with counting set to take place the following day. A division bench comprising Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela was hearing a petition concerning large-scale violations of the poll code.

In its order, the court stated, "A common concern has been expressed that after counting is over winning candidate take out victory procession, which as per past experience, becomes very difficult to

handle by police and university authorities... We thus direct no victory processions in campus, hostels or in any other area of Delhi shall be taken out." Taking note of the "large-scale violations," evidenced by the huge number of challans issued by the police for traffic breaches, damage to public property, and defacement — along with "scores of notices and warnings" issued to erring students and candidates by DU — the bench remarked that the violations "still haven't abated."

The court went on to orally ask DU's counsel, "Should we stay the elections?

...We have no problem or hesitation in and orderly manner."

The bench further remarked, DU's counsel, while requesting that the elections not be stayed, urged the court to direct that no victory processions be allowed.

Last year, during the DUSU polls, the Delhi HC had stayed the counting of votes for over a month due to widespread defacement and poll code violations.

The stay was lifted only after the court was satisfied that the defacement had been remedied by the erring



"Counting may take place, but we will stop the functioning of the office bearers if the election is not held in a peaceful

students and candidates. The court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on September 19.

NEWS BOX

Lionel Messi and Inter Miami enter discussions for contract extension: Reports**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Lionel Messi looks set to extend his stay in Major League Soccer, with reports in the United States suggesting that Inter Miami and the Argentine icon are in the final stages of negotiating a new contract. ESPN reported on Wednesday that only minor details remain to be ironed out before the deal is confirmed, raising hopes amongst Miami supporters that their star man will continue to light up MLS for years to come. The 38-year-old's current contract is due to expire at the end of the 2025 season, but the extension is expected to run at least two more years, potentially keeping Messi in Florida until 2027. USA Today noted that talks are about 85 percent complete, with sources indicating that the agreement would ensure Messi remains with Inter Miami well into the twilight of his playing career. Messi's impact since arriving in 2023 has been nothing short of transformative. In 46 MLS appearances, he has already scored 41 goals and provided 27 assists. Across all competitions, those



numbers rise to 54 goals in 62 games, a return that has elevated Inter Miami from mid-table anonymity to genuine contenders. He helped the Herons lift the 2023 Leagues Cup, their first major trophy, before guiding them to the 2024 Supporters' Shield as the league's best regular-season side. This season, the Argentine continues to set the pace with 20 goals in 21 league games, sitting second in the MLS scoring charts, alongside 11 assists. His consistency and flair have turned Inter Miami into one of the league's biggest attractions, drawing global attention to American soccer much in the way David Beckham once did. Beckham is now part of the club's ownership group.

Messi's new deal is also expected to carry long-term implications beyond his playing days. His initial contract reportedly included a clause to join Inter Miami's ownership structure upon retirement, a move that would anchor his presence in the United States even after he hangs up his boots.

Won Myong-gyong hugs referee in joy after World Wrestling Championships gold**New Delhi. (Agency)**

WN Won Myong-gyong became emotional after winning the women's freestyle 50 kg gold medal at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, Croatia. The North Korean wrestler, competing in her first senior world championship, ended a perfect campaign with a strong 8-2 victory over China's Yu Zhang in the final. The win carried historic value for her country. It was only the third women's world title ever for North Korea, making Won's triumph a landmark for the nation. According to her UWW athlete profile, she had three wins and one loss in 2025 before the tournament, but in Zagreb she stayed unbeaten through every round. Her celebrations reached a heartwarming moment when she gave the referee a long hug, overwhelmed with joy and relief, before turning to thank the side judges as well. Won recorded victories in different ways, including VPO1 (winning by points despite her opponent scoring) and VSU (winning by superiority), underlining both her range and technical command.

After her win, Won told United World



Wrestling (UWW): "This medal and the championship belt I've won are just the first step in repaying my parents for all their sacrifices. From now on, I'll work even harder to become an Olympic champion." More than the numbers, it was her hug with the referee that stood out most. Such a gesture is rare in wrestling, but it reflected her deep gratitude to those who maintain fairness and discipline in the sport, turning her gold medal moment into something even more memorable.

World Championships: Why India vs Pakistan in the javelin final is only a subplot

World Athletics Championships 2025: Neeraj Chopra and Arshad Nadeem's rivalry will grab subcontinental headlines, but the men's javelin final in Tokyo is stacked with world-class talent. From Germany's Julian Weber to former champions Anderson Peters and Julius Yego, the contest promises far more than just an India-Pakistan subplot.

New Delhi. (Agency)

"Ever since the Paris Olympics, when Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem stunned India's Neeraj Chopra to take gold and their run-ins blossomed into a rivalry, their next clash has been one of the most anticipated events in javelin. It was meant to happen at the Neeraj Chopra Classic - a monumental international event hosted earlier this year by the two-time Olympic medallist from India - but it didn't. Then they were expected to meet in a Diamond League, but that too failed to

materialise. So the face-off at the Tokyo World Athletics Championships was set to ignite fireworks. Neeraj single-handedly put India on the javelin map, and when Arshad joined the party, South Asia suddenly found itself challenging the European and American dominance in the sport. The two Olympic medallists finished one-two at the World Championships in Budapest in 2023, and swapped those positions at the Paris Olympics. In no time, the India-Pakistan rivalry in javelin became evenly matched - fuelled further by the passion of success-starved fans in both nations. As the cricket rivalry drifted into one-sidedness, Neeraj vs Arshad became the contest everyone in the subcontinent looked forward to. The Paris Olympic final was a watershed. Few expected Arshad to strike gold, but he did - with a monstrous Olympic record of 92.97m, while Neeraj was still chasing the elusive 90m mark. Once Arshad landed that throw, pressure gripped Neeraj, who managed only one legal throw out of six - 89.45m, enough for silver but short of his golden target. Neeraj, though, has been the very model of consistency - the benchmark for

young throwers worldwide. Since his senior debut, he has launched 40 throws beyond 85m and has finished in the top two at nearly every competition for four years. Yet even he



admitted that Arshad's effort meant the push for 90m had to gather pace. Determined to evolve, Neeraj joined forces with Jan Zelezny, the world record holder and arguably the greatest javelin thrower of all time, reworking his playbook to iron out technical flaws. The results were swift: earlier this year, at the Doha Diamond League, Neeraj finally breached the 90m barrier. Neeraj was preparing not just to be the best, but to beat the best. Which is why

Thursday's showdown carries so much weight. For Neeraj, it is about payback, redemption for Paris, and the defence of his world title. He knows Arshad is capable of summoning another mammoth throw. Can he match him this time?

CONTRASTING ROUTES TO FINAL

The qualifiers on Wednesday hinted at the storylines. Neeraj, calm and composed in the hot, humid Tokyo conditions, sealed his spot with one and done - 84.50m, the automatic qualifying mark. He packed his bags immediately, even asking an official how to slip out without disturbing other events, and headed for recovery. He was one of only two among the 37 competitors to qualify on his first attempt. Distance-wise it is not that good, but distance does not matter here. The best thing is that we crossed the automatic qualifying mark in the first throw. And this is also the first time that the final is the next day. I wanted to do my best in the first throw itself, reach the room early, recover, and give my best in the final," Neeraj said with the calmness of a man seasoned by big stages. By contrast, Arshad flirted with disaster.

Iga Swiatek to become No.1 Aryna Sabalenka's China Open pullout splices up race

Aryna Sabalenka's withdrawal from the China Open opens the door for Iga Swiatek to close the gap in the race for the WTA No.1 ranking. A strong run in Seoul and Beijing could bring Swiatek within striking distance of the top spot.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The battle for the women's World No.1 ranking has taken a sudden twist after Aryna Sabalenka announced she would skip the 2025 China Open in Beijing. The Belarusian, currently holding the top spot with 11,225 points, said she is dealing with a minor injury she picked up at the US



Open. Missing this WTA 1000 event not only keeps her out of competition but also costs her 215 points, since she had reached the quarterfinals in Beijing last year.

"I am sad to announce my withdrawal from the China Open this year after sustaining a small injury after the US Open. I am going to focus on being 100 per cent healthy for the rest of the year," Sabalenka said in a statement provided by organisers. This opens the door for Iga Swiatek, the current No.2 with 7,933 points, roughly 3,300 points behind in the official rankings. In the Race to Riyadh, which tracks results from

2025 alone, Swiatek is closer, trailing Sabalenka by about 2,077 points. What's the equation for Iga Swiatek?

Swiatek did not play in Beijing last year, meaning she has no points to defend. Every win in China will directly add to her total, giving her a real chance to narrow the gap. Sabalenka could face more pressure soon, as she is the defending champion at the Wuhan Open, where 1,000 points are at stake. Any slip there - through injury or loss - would boost Swiatek's chances even further. Currently, Swiatek is competing at the WTA 500 in Seoul. A title there would give her both momentum and 500 ranking points ahead of Beijing. A deep run in China afterward could bring her within striking distance of Sabalenka. Should Swiatek win both Seoul and Beijing, she could earn 1,500 points in total, leaving her only about 600 points behind Sabalenka for the season. For now, Sabalenka still leads, but her absence from Beijing has reignited Swiatek's hopes.

Yashasvi Jaiswal's white-ball format absence seems like a travesty: Aakash Chopra

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra feels that Yashasvi Jaiswal not being part of India's white-ball setup seems like a travesty. Jaiswal has played just 23 T20Is and one ODI for India during his career so far.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra feels that it seems like a travesty that Yashasvi Jaiswal isn't a fixture in India's white-ball setup. Jaiswal, who has cemented his place in the Test team, made a name for himself with his IPL exploits. The southpaw, however, hasn't got a consistent run in both the ODI and T20I sides. Jaiswal has played 23 T20Is and just a solitary one-day game against England earlier in the year. The Mumbai



batter was added to the stand-by list for the Asia Cup as India went with Shubman Gill at the top of the order with Abhishek Sharma. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra said that he sees Jaiswal as an all-format player and he should be playing all three formats consistently for India. "It's a very interesting question because Yashasvi is a good player. When you see Yashasvi, it seems like he is a three-format player. However, currently, he is playing only one format, and it seems like a travesty. It seems almost an injustice, that he should play all three formats," said Chopra. Chopra backed Jaiswal to get runs in the Tests against West

Indies and expects him to be on the flight to Australia for the white-ball series down under in October. "The truth for now is that he will play the two Tests against the West Indies, and I am pretty sure he will score runs as well because he is that kind of a player. I think he will now get a chance to travel with the ODI team. When the three-match series against Australia starts, he will be there," said Chopra. Jaiswal will be in the 15 for 2026 T20 World Cup. Chopra said that he expects Jaiswal to make his way into the squad for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India as there are 15 T20Is before the start of the tournament. "I feel he will have to wait in T20s now also. His name will not come in the 15 that soon because when we win the Asia Cup, there won't be much scope for change. However, before the World Cup happens, because there are 15 T20Is before that, I am very sure he will find a way into the 15," said Chopra. Along with Jaiswal, Chopra tipped Shreyas Iyer to also be in the mix for the ICC event next year. He (Jaiswal) is too good a player to miss out. I love him to bits.

Diego Simeone opens up on altercation with Liverpool fan: Insulted for 90 minutes

TOKYO. (Agency)

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone opened up on the heated incident following his side's 3-2 defeat to Liverpool in their Champions League opener at Anfield. The Argentinian coach was sent off after confronting a fan behind his dugout in the aftermath of Virgil van Dijk's 92nd-minute winner, an altercation that overshadowed an otherwise thrilling European clash. The incident has reignited discussions around manager protection and fan conduct in football, with Simeone highlighting the emotional toll of constant abuse from the stands. Simeone, speaking after the match, stressed that while his reaction was human, managers should not have to endure repeated insults during games. "My reaction isn't justifiable, but do you know what it is like to be insulted for 90 minutes?" Simeone said. "In the same way we fight against racism, we should look at this too because we don't have a right to respond and it is not easy to be insulted during the entire match." "When they scored the third goal, he [the fan] turned



around and insulted me. I am a person, I am human. Obviously, my reaction was not ideal, but it was 90 minutes of being insulted.

The referee understood the situation, and I hope that when the person is identified, there will be consequences. Managers should be

able to focus on the game without having to face constant abuse," he added.

On the pitch, Liverpool raced to a 2-0 lead inside six minutes, with Andy Robertson opening the scoring from a ricocheted Mohamed Salah free-kick, followed by a clinical solo strike from Salah himself. Atletico responded before halftime, with Marcos Llorente scoring to keep his team in contention and then equalising in the 81st minute with a stunning volley reminiscent of his 2020 heroics at Anfield. Despite Atletico's resurgence, Van Dijk's late header secured the victory for Liverpool, leaving Simeone frustrated and visibly agitated. Stewards intervened to hold him back, and the red card was issued following the confrontation. The manager briefly gestured to the fourth official, clarifying it was a reaction to the fan abuse rather than an offensive action of his own.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot, meanwhile, praised his side's fitness, mentality, and perseverance and strayed away from putting any focus on the altercation.



Mayers and Obed McCoy.

Rayon Griffith will serve as the head coach for the series, with Ottis Gibson serving as fast-bowling consultant. This will be the first time West Indies and Nepal will square off in a bilateral series. "This series against Nepal is another important step in broadening the horizons of West Indies cricket. It allows our senior men's team to engage with a passionate emerging nation while providing invaluable match experience in different conditions," said Cricket West Indies Director of Cricket, Miles Compton. The first T20I of the series will be played on September 27, with the last two taking place on 29 and 30.

Want to get a loan this festive season? Here's what you can do

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Navratri is a major festival in India, marked by nine days of devotion, cultural gatherings, and celebrations. As the festival draws near, many families begin to prepare for increased spending on shopping, home decoration, travel, and hosting events. Meeting these heightened financial demands can stretch regular monthly budgets.

To help customers manage these costs with ease, Bajaj Finance has introduced personal loans of up to Rs 55 lakh with instant approval and quick disbursal, reported PTI. ADDRESSING FESTIVE FINANCIAL NEEDS

During this festive period, people often spend money on new clothes, jewellery, gifts, family outings, and home renovations. These expenses can put pressure on household finances. The Bajaj Finserv Personal Loan is intended to help customers cover these costs without affecting their financial stability.

STORIES YOU MAY LIKE

According to the company, the loan amount can be used for any personal requirement, including shopping, travel, or family gatherings. This support ensures that individuals do not have to compromise on their celebrations or financial health.

FAST APPROVAL AND DISBURSAL

One of the main advantages of this loan is the speed with which it is processed. Customers can check their pre-approved loan offer by entering their mobile number and verifying it through an OTP.

Once the application is completed and approved, the loan amount is credited to the borrower's bank account within 24 hours, subject to terms and conditions. This makes the loan particularly useful for the festive season, when expenses often arise at short notice.

HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors stocks rise on US Fed rate cut

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Shares of several leading Indian companies in information technology, banking, auto and pharma sectors traded higher on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 basis points and signaled the possibility of more easing later this year. The move boosted investor sentiment across global markets and supported sectoral gains in India, with IT stocks leading the rally. Information technology majors including Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Tech Mahindra saw gains of around 1 to 1.3 percent. A softer dollar and expectations of increased US spending following the Fed's policy shift improved sentiment for export-driven IT companies that earn a large share of revenues in the American market. HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma, and Tata Motors were also among the notable gainers today. HDFC Bank benefited from improved foreign inflows as global liquidity conditions turned more favorable. Sun Pharma advanced on steady buying in defensives, while Tata Motors extended gains on optimism around domestic demand and its global business outlook.

The other stocks made significant gains in the Indian markets on the day include MOIL, Cochin Shipyard, Avenue Supermarkets.

Shares of MOIL climbed over 2 percent after the state-owned miner announced exports of manganese ore to Indonesia, a step that underscores its efforts to diversify markets and strengthen international presence. Cochin Shipyard advanced nearly 2 percent on the back of a ₹2,000 crore contract from ONGC. The order win reinforced confidence in the shipbuilder's strong order book and earnings outlook. Avenue Supermarkets, parent of the D-Mart retail chain, gained around 2 percent after brokerage firm UBS upgraded its price target. Analysts highlighted the company's continued focus on value retailing and network expansion, which is expected to drive long-term growth.

GST rate cut triggers early sale season for apparel retailers

New Delhi.(Agency)

The festive season sale for premium garment retailers and e-commerce platforms has started early this year, spurred by the recent GST rate cuts announced by the government. Several retailers have rolled out discounts of up to 50% online—two weeks ahead of Navratri, traditionally seen as the start of the festive shopping season. The tax rationalisation has prompted textile and apparel retailers to recalibrate their pricing strategies.

Neeraj Nagpal, chief business officer—apparel & retail, Raymond Lifestyle Ltd, said: "The GST rate cut will boost consumption in the apparel and textile sector. It is a positive flip for value and mid-retailers from an amplification of consumption perspective." According to him, Raymond Apparel Brands has recorded double-digit growth in combined retail and online sales compared to last year's festive season. E-commerce giant Amazon is also capitalising on the momentum. The company is offering discounts of up to 80% on leading brands such as Libas, BIBA, Levi's, US Polo Assn, GAP, Lavie, Adidas, Titan, Mokobara, GIVA, Safari, Lakme, Michael Kors, and Swarovski. Siddharth Bhagat, director, Amazon Fashion & Beauty, said: "During the last Amazon Great Indian Festival, we saw a record 140 crore customer visits, with over 85% coming from non-metro cities. Prime Day 2025 reinforced this trend, with 70% of new Prime sign-ups from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, and orders peaking at more than 18,000 per minute." Under the revised GST slabs, apparel priced up to ₹2,500 will now attract 5% GST, while items above that threshold will be taxed at 18%, up from the earlier 12%.

Infrastructure alone not enough, quality and skill development keys to global competitiveness: FM

The government is leveraging institutions of excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to lead AI-related research and development, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised the critical role of quality management and skill development in making India a globally competitive powerhouse. Speaking at the IFQM Symposium on Quality and Innovation, Sitharaman stated that the country's path to global leadership depends not just on

infrastructure but on a "seasoned understanding of quality management."

"I am reassured that our path towards global leadership is not going to rest only on infrastructure creation or incremental improvements," she said, stressing the importance of interventions in manufacturing and services.

Government Initiatives and the AI Push

Sitharaman detailed several government initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of quality and innovation. She noted that in recent years, every government project has included provisions for skilling and upskilling the workforce. A major focus is the upgrade of the nation's 750 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

"The Centre has offered full financial support to upgrade these ITIs into AI-driven training hubs," she announced. These upgraded ITIs will provide foundational AI skills to a wide range of individuals, from school dropouts to diploma holders, ensuring they can participate in the new economy. In



parallel, the government is leveraging institutions of excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to lead AI-related research and development. These premier institutions will focus on four key sectors:

agriculture, health, education, and urban development, with space and nuclear technology recently added. Sitharaman highlighted the enthusiasm of state governments, noting that Andhra

Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have expressed readiness to establish local AI hubs tailored to their specific needs.

Empowering MSMEs

The Finance Minister also underscored the significance of the MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) sector, which is a vital contributor to India's GDP. To support these enterprises, the government has ensured that the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) maintains a physical presence in identified clusters, guaranteeing easy access to credit. Training programs, designed around local industry needs, have already been launched in approximately 150 clusters. This unique model not only trains workers for internal needs but also creates a surplus of skilled labor for the broader market, addressing a key challenge faced by industry leaders. Sitharaman also pointed to strong international collaboration, particularly with Singapore, on certified vocational training.

iValue Infosolutions IPO opens: Should you consider subscribing

New Delhi.(Agency)

iValue Infosolutions (IISL), a company that helps Indian businesses access global technology solutions, has opened its IPO for subscription.

The company plans to Rs 560 crore through an offer-for-sale of 1.87 crore shares. The price band is set at Rs 284–299 per share, with a minimum investment of 50 shares. The IPO closes on September 22, and shares are expected to list on the NSE and BSE on September 26. Promoters Sunil Kumar Pillai, Krishna Raj Sharma, Srinivasan Sriram, and Hilda Sunil Pillai, along with investors like Sundara (Mauritius) Ltd, are selling their shares. Half of the issue is reserved for institutional investors, 35% for retail investors, and 15% for non-institutional buyers.

The IPO's grey market premium (GMP) is modest at around 7.69% or Rs 23, suggesting that the listing price may be around Rs 322.

But analysts see strength in iValue's business. The company works with 109 global technology partners and over 800 system integrators to provide solutions in cybersecurity, cloud, data



weeks of filing. Tax experts point out that the time taken depends on the internal checks carried out by the Income Tax Department under Section 143(1). Smaller refunds are often

processed faster, while larger or more complex cases can take longer. This year, new checks on deductions and exemptions may also cause slight delays for those who have claimed them.

WHY DELAYS MAY HAPPEN

Refunds can get delayed when there are complications in the return, such as capital gains or business income. In such cases, the department may cross-check information before issuing the refund. If discrepancies are found, taxpayers might receive a communication from the department and need to respond promptly. Experts say that while some refunds are credited in under a week, others can take close to a month, especially when a large number of returns are pending. The good news is that if your refund is delayed, the Income Tax Department pays you interest at 6% per year, starting from 1 April of the assessment year.

Indian exporters brace for US tariff hike, government seeks swift resolution

TIRUPPUR.(Agency)

The central government is working to address issues posed by the 'unsustainable' US tariff hike on Indian exports as soon as possible, said Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, in Tiruppur on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters, Sekhri said, "We have had some small hiccups due to the US tariff hike. It is not sustainable because American consumers will also be affected by this. The central government is working round the clock and discussing with the US to ensure that this issue gets resolved as soon as possible. I hope that it happens in the next two to four weeks."

Meantime, the government will come up with some new policies and some assistance to the US exporters and hopefully it should be announced in the next week or so, Sekhri added.

Apparel exports worth about \$2 or \$ 2.5

billion will be hit if there is no quick resolution. "In FY 2024-25, we were doing \$16 billion worth of apparel exports and of this \$5.2 billion went to



the US. By the time the tariff was imposed we had already shifted about goods valued at \$2.2 billion and about \$1.2 billion was in the pipeline. This means, if this situation continues, exports worth more than \$2 or \$ 2.5 billion will be really affected." Sekhri, however, sounded optimistic about

India retaining its market share despite the odds. "Those who have been buying for a long time are not going to abandon India. Because they also know that these (high tariffs) are not sustainable. We are not saying there is no impact, but I think all are resilient enough to absorb this impact, but it will persist for the next two months or three months," he surmised.

Sekhri expects Indian garment exports to non-US markets to pick up. "The FTA with the UK is likely to be operationalised by the end of March. After three years, we expect garment exports to (the UK) to grow from \$1.2 billion to reach about \$2.5 billion. We already have an FTA with Australia. The AEPC is also looking for new markets. We conduct many fairs for this purpose. We are looking at non-refusal markets." The 52nd India International Knit Fair began in Tiruppur on Wednesday and will end on Friday.

management, and AI. Big names like Google Cloud, Splunk, Nutanix, and Check Point are part of its ecosystem. iValue reported Rs 923 crore in revenue in FY25, up 18% from the previous year, with profit after tax of Rs 85.3 crore and a profit margin of 9.2%. Customer numbers have grown steadily to 2,877 in FY25, though staff attrition remains high at 34%.

Risks include high dependence on its top 10 partners, who contribute over 60% of revenue, and competition from other distributors. OEMs could also sell directly, bypassing iValue.

At the upper price band, the IPO values the company at 18.8 times FY25 earnings.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

Analysts at SBI Securities recommend subscribing, citing strong partner networks and a business model aligned with growing IT spending in India, while Arihant Capital has given the IPO a 'Neutral' rating.

Why gold loans are no longer just a last resort for borrowers

Gold loans are shedding their emergency-only image, becoming a mainstream credit choice for urban, semi-urban, and rural India, driven by gold prices, regulation, digital access, and flexible borrowing solutions.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold loans are no longer just a fallback for emergencies, they have emerged as a mainstream credit option for millions of Indians. The total outstanding gold-backed loans in India have skyrocketed to Rs 2.94 lakh crore by August 2025, a 122% year-on-year jump from Rs 1.32 lakh crore in July 2024. In FY25 alone, gold loans surged over 103%, from just over Rs 1 lakh crore the previous year to nearly Rs 2.1 lakh crore, dwarfing growth in personal loans (8% YoY) and credit card loans (6% YoY).

WHY ARE GOLD LOANS IN DEMAND?

One of the primary drivers behind this boom

is rising gold prices. Gold has climbed 44.1% in 2025, crossing Rs 1,13,800 per 10 grams in September from Rs 78,950 at the end of 2024. Higher valuations mean borrowers can pledge less gold for higher loan amounts, making gold loans increasingly attractive amid economic uncertainty.

Regulatory changes have also played a key role. RBI's reclassification of agricultural loans as gold loans, tighter NBFC lending norms, and new tiered loan-to-value (LTV) guidelines in 2025 have formalised access and expanded protections for borrowers. These measures have encouraged banks and fintech firms to expand gold loan offerings, using digital platforms and AI-powered valuations to streamline lending. Borrowers value gold loans for speed and flexibility. Approvals are often instant, documentation minimal, and even those with weak credit histories or limited banking experience can access funds quickly. This ease of access has led many to choose gold loans over unsecured loans, which have become

costlier and harder to obtain due to rising interest rates and stricter risk-weighting. The profile of gold loan borrowers has diversified. Demand spans



urban, semi-urban, and rural regions, with strong uptake in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Odisha. Traditionally associated with urgent cash needs, gold loans are now used for weddings, education, health emergencies, small businesses, and working capital for micro-enterprises. Interest rates, ranging from 8–12% per annum, remain lower than most unsecured credit, further boosting their appeal.

EMERGENCIES

The shift is also behavioural. Gold loans are shedding their "last resort" stigma and are increasingly seen as practical, mainstream credit products. Digital adoption is a key enabler, with mobile apps allowing contactless application and approval, meeting the needs of tech-savvy urban borrowers as well as rural customers who may lack conventional banking access. Policy trends continue to favour secured credit over unsecured lending. Stricter risk-weighting for personal loans and credit cards has pushed borrowers toward collateralised options like gold loans. Public sector banks, NBFCs, and fintech platforms are aggressively innovating to capture this growing demand, offering transparent, regulated, and technology-driven services. Analysts say the growth in gold loans reflects broader economic dynamics: households and small businesses are seeking secure, fast, and flexible credit amid rising costs and uneven income growth. The combination of high gold prices,



Even Mumbai Rain Can't Stop

Rubina Dilaik

From Wearing A Lehenga

Amid the heavy Mumbai rains, television star Rubina Dilaik made a head-turning entry at the sets of the celebrity couple reality show *Pati Patni Aur Panga*. The actress was seen struggling with her heavy lehenga as she carefully took each step to avoid ruining her gorgeous ensemble. On Wednesday, September 17, the actress appeared at the set along with her husband, Abhinav Shukla, looking stunning as usual, but it was her efforts towards saving her lehenga that grabbed the attention of fans.

Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla Appear At The Set of Pati Patni Aur Panga

In the videos captured by paparazzi, Rubina Dilaik was seen wearing a gorgeous blue lehenga adorned with white floral prints all over it. The lehenga skirt further featured thin golden linings at the bottom, giving the outfit a festive vibe.

Her blouse, featuring the same design as her skirt, grabbed attention with its deep plunge neckline and intricate design.

Rubina also carried a matching dupatta on her shoulder, featuring the same golden borders at the bottom. Rubina's choice of accessories stole the entire spotlight, as she opted for a multi-layered heavy Kundan and beaded necklace and matching jhumkas, taking her look to another level.

As Rubina carefully took each step to avoid getting water on her lehenga, fans praised her efforts and work ethic, calling her "Workaholic Ruby". In the video, Rubina's husband, Abhinav Shukla, was seen following her to the sets. The actor opted for a light peach kurta set with intricate white thread work all over the chest, calf, and bottom area, giving the kurta a regal feel. He completed the showstopping ensemble with white pyjamas and brown shoes. The couple posed together for the shutterbugs before heading inside for shooting.

Rubina Dilaik on the Work Front

The Chotti Bahu star is currently seen on the widely popular celebrity couple reality show *Pati Patni Aur Panga* alongside husband Abhinav Shukla. Besides appearing on the show, Rubina Dilaik is currently working on Palaash Muchhal's upcoming film *Hum Tum Maktoob*. Alongside Rubina, the film will also star Rajpal Yadav, Mustaq Khan, and Lilliput, among others, in prominent roles. The film is also said to feature a special cameo by Tiger Shroff. After *Ardh*, this film marks Rubina and Palaash's second collaboration. The release date and additional information about the film are still under wraps.



Rasha Thadani's Vacation Diaries Is All About Fun, Friends And Fair

Rasha Thadani, daughter of actress Raveena Tandon, is currently in vacation mode with her close friends and has constantly been sharing glimpses from her travel diaries with her fans and followers. A while ago, the actress took to Instagram and dropped a string of pictures from her fun, relaxing day spent at the carnival. Rasha made her Bollywood debut this year with director Abhishek Kapoor's drama film *Azaad*. It also featured Ajay Devgn's nephew, Aaman Devgn, in the lead roles.

Up next, she also shared some glimpses from the Carnival that she attended along with her friends. In other pictures, the actress is seen exuding her adorable smile and posing in front of a colourful giant wheel, while in the next one, she is busy eating a dessert while her male friends looked straight into the camera. Adding to this, Rasha shared a picture of the delightful sunset she experienced from the destination. In one pic, she is seen striking a stunning pose standing on a boardwalk near the beach during sunset.

Rasha shared a candid monochrome picture of her friends and the busy streets of the city. However, she has not revealed her travel destination on Instagram. Sharing the post, Rasha wrote in the caption, "I spy birdies and a pink house."

How Did Her Admirers React?

In no time, the comment section was flooded with reactions from fans and admirers. An Instagram user commented, "Looking sooo pretty." One of them shared, "So cute." Another one commented, "Looking so hot, Rasha."

Rasha Thadani's Work Front

The star kid made her debut with *Azaad*, released in January this year. In the film, Rasha plays the character of Janaki Bahadur. She is the daughter of the landlord Rai Bahadur and is a pivotal character in the pre-Independence India-set story, which explores themes of rebellion, loyalty and friendship.



Rasha Thadani Day Out At A Carnival

The carousel post begins with a few pictures of Rasha enjoying a bright sunny day near the beach, standing on a boardwalk, and her hair is blowing in the wind. She wore a light-coloured buttoned shirt over a black top, along with ripped denim shorts. Rasha accessorised her



Nagma Mirajkar's Chic Fashion Moment After Bigg Boss Eviction Is Making Headlines



Social media influencer and dancer Nagma Mirajkar, who recently became a household name with her participation in *Bigg Boss 19*, is making headlines even after her exit from the show. The digital star dropped a series of stunning pictures on Instagram, showcasing her elevated sense of style that left fans mesmerised.

For her latest photoshoot, Nagma turned heads in a royal blue pant suit designed by Archana Kochhar. The outfit featured a sharply tailored blazer embellished with dazzling crystals on the shoulders and lapels, adding a glamorous touch. She paired it with matching flared trousers, creating a sleek, modern silhouette. Completing the ensemble were sparkling crystal-studded heels, perfectly tying the look together. Her wavy, open hair and minimal yet radiant makeup, with defined eyes and a nude lip emphasised sophistication while maintaining an effortless vibe.

Fans React to Her Bold Boss Lady Avatar

Nagma captioned the post with three blue hearts along with the trending track *Obhodro Prem*. Fans flooded the comments section with love, with one admirer calling her a "Boss Lady" while another simply wrote, "So pretty."

Emotional Double Elimination on Bigg Boss 19

The week on *Bigg Boss 19* brought unexpected drama as four contestants—Mridul Tiwari, Natalia Janoszek, Nagma Mirajkar and Awez Darbar were nominated for eviction. In a shocking turn during the *Weekend Ka Vaar* episode hosted by Farah Khan, both Nagma and Natalia faced a double elimination. Housemates were left emotional, while Awez Darbar, who shared a close bond with Nagma, was seen in tears as he bid farewell to his ladylove.

Nagma's Emotional Goodbye After Eviction

Following her eviction, Nagma shared a heartfelt post on Instagram. In a video clip from the episode, Farah Khan is seen announcing her exit from the show. In the caption, Nagma apologised to fans for not living up to their expectations, revealing that her health issues prevented her from performing at her best inside the house.

Ahaan Panday, Aneet Padda Are 'Grateful To Viewers' As *Saiyaara* Trends #1 Globally On Netflix



After attaining massive success at the box office, Mohit Suri's romantic saga *Saiyaara* managed to trend at the number 1 position globally in non-English films on Netflix during its debut week on the streaming platform. Overwhelmed by the huge response and love from the fans, Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda shared a video, thanking fans for showing the movie so much love. Taking to Instagram, Netflix and Yash Raj Films shared a joint post where *Saiyaara* stars Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda showed their gratitude to the fans for loving their film.

Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda's Message to Their Fans

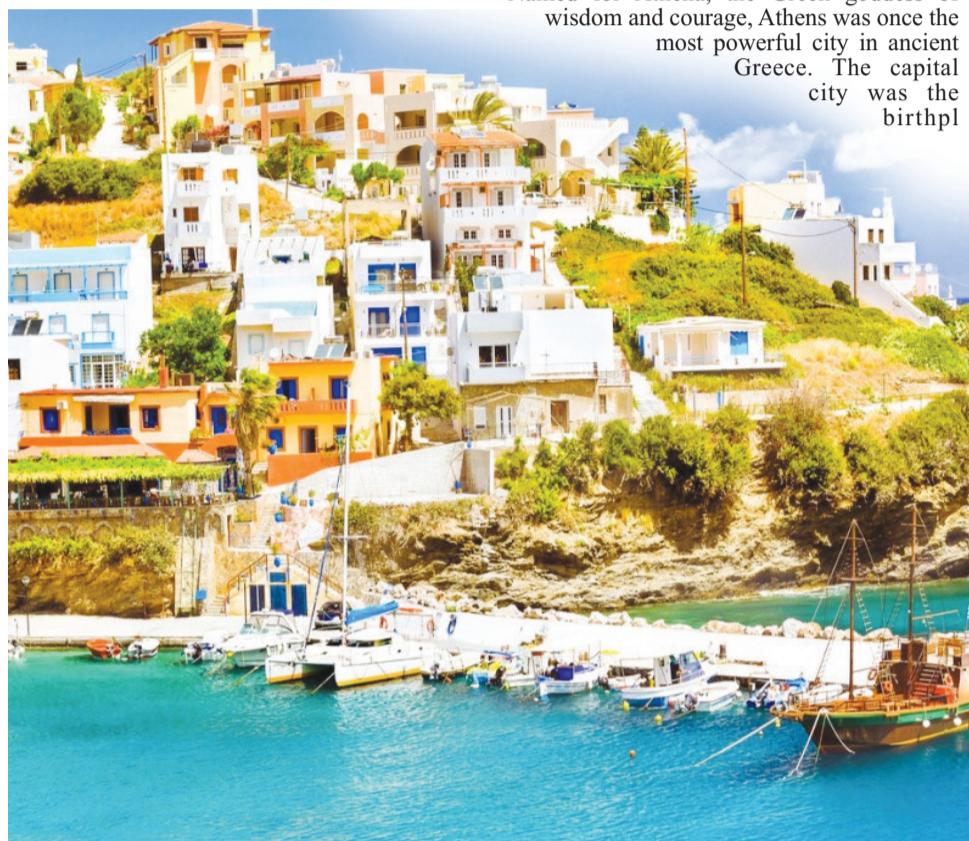
In the video, both Ahaan and Aneet were seen sitting beside each other when Ahaan said, "Saiyaara ko sari dunia ne itna pyaar dene ke liye we love you forever and ever and ever." The video then cut to a few movie scenes, which showed Ahaan and Aneet's sizzling on-screen chemistry. "Saiyaara Netflix par dunia bhar me trend kar rahi hai sirf aapki waja se," Aneet stated. "Thank you for watching...and re-watching and re-watching!" the actors said together. Sharing the special message, Netflix wrote, "Poori duniya ka pyaar, aur sab yaad rakhein yeh naam. *Saiyaara* is now trending at #1 globally in Non-English Films on Netflix."

Saiyaara Tops Netflix's Global Charts

As per Netflix Tudum Reports, *Saiyaara* is trending at number 1 on Netflix in the list of non-English films worldwide, with 3.7 million views against 9.3 million hours viewed. The film surpassed *Fall For Me* and *Manoj Bajpayee's Inspector Zende*'s records, which stand at 2nd and 3rd positions with 6.5 million watch hours and 6.2 million watch hours, respectively.

Saiyaara Attains Huge Box Office Success

Directed by Mohit Suri, *Saiyaara* deals with struggle, love, loss, and sacrifice. The film follows several aspects of unconditional love and the ups and downs of Krish (played by Ahaan Panday) and Vaani's (played by Aneet Padda) relationship. The film marks Mohit Suri's return to the romantic genre after a decade and features debutant Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda in lead roles. The film has grossed Rs 577 crore worldwide, becoming the second-highest-grossing Indian film of 2025 as well as the highest-grossing romantic film in the history of Indian cinema.



Picture postcards from Greece

Santorini, Athens, Mykonos and Thessaloniki—just a few reasons why Greece's old-world charm attracts travellers from across the globe. With over 60 inhabited islands, stellar historical sites that span four millennia, picture-perfect Mediterranean beaches and towering mountain ranges—it's easy to understand the lure of this country.

Athens

Named for Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and courage, Athens was once the most powerful city in ancient Greece. The capital city was the birthplace of democracy, theatre and Western civilisation, and its cultural richness and history is evident in its architecture.

Acropolis in Athens
When the sun hits the Acropolis' high, stony hill, its monuments—made with Pentelic marble—gleam a brilliant white. Crowned by the famous Parthenon, it stands sentinel over Athens, visible from almost anywhere within the city.

Santorini

With multicoloured cliffs soaring over 300 m from a sea-drowned caldera, Santorini rests in the middle of the indigo Aegean Sea. With Cycladic white-washed homes that line the cliff tops and breathtaking blue-domed churches that spill along the terraced rocks, Santorini is the quintessential Greek isle.

Oia, Santorini
Perched on the northern tip of the island, the village of Oia is known throughout the world for its quiet life and fantastic sunsets. Sage green slopes filled with wildflowers, sunbathed verandas and busy streets packed with shops, tavernas and cafés—you will struggle to find a more stunning Cycladic village.

Mykonos

The low-lying, sun-drenched island of Mykonos in the Aegean has always been considered to be one of the most elegant Greek islands. From celebrities and writers to archaeologists and students, everyone has been lured by the island's glitzy nightlife and charming cafés.

Meteora

One of the most extraordinary sights in mainland Greece, the Meteora is a group of monasteries built into and on top of huge pinnacles of smooth rock. Seeking retreat from the expanding Turkish occupations at the end of the 14th century, the Eastern Orthodox monks found a perfect asylum in this

region's almost inaccessible rock pillars.

Delphi

Believed to be the centre of the earth in Greek mythology, Delphi has always been a place of historic and spiritual significance. It is home to the Sanctuary of Apollo, a fascinating pagan religious complex set on a stunning cliff, which comprises classical temples, a theatre and a stadium.

Mount Athos

Also known as 'Holy Mountain', Mount Athos is home to 20 orthodox monasteries, thousands of monks and an invaluable collection of frescoes and religious art. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the monastery only allows male visitors to enter its intriguing and awe-inspiring bastion.

Mount Olympus

Traditionally regarded as the legendary home of the ancient Greek gods, Mount Olympus is a landscape of spectacular plateaus and ridges. It is believed that it was here that Zeus mounted his throne, Hades ruled the Underworld, and Poseidon rocked the seas.

Lindos

Reached by foot or through Lindos' popular mode of transport—the donkey—this towering acropolis' landscape is filled with picturesque white-washed houses that tumble down towards the Lindos Bay. The town itself is a magical maze of hidden alleys packed with boutiques and effervescent bars and cafés set in old sea captain's houses.

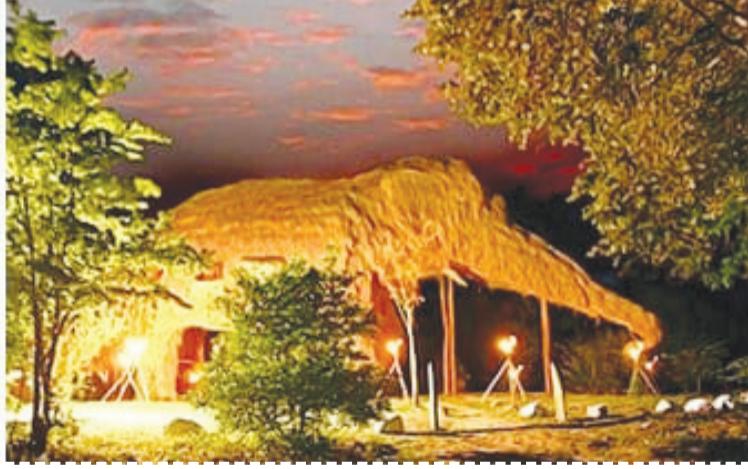
Sailing in Greece

With endless blue seas and countless islands, Greece is a sailor's paradise. Exploring Greece by sea puts you in touch with a side of this country you'd otherwise miss. Sail the islands of Aegina and the car-free Hydra, or take a two week tour along Mykonos and Santorini—this is the best way to get up-close and personal with this idyllic country.

Picture postcards from Greece

With a coastline punctuated by superb beaches, sun-bleached ancient ruins and a mountainous interior that urges you to dust off your hiking boots and explore—Greece inspires anyone with a cultural bone in their body.

Unusual hotels around the world



V8 Hotel, Germany

The V8 Hotel in Stuttgart is a car lover's haven. Part of an auto museum called Boblingen's Meilenwerk, the rooms in this hotel are guaranteed to rev the engine of any car enthusiast. The four-star hotel has 34 rooms, of which 10 have undergone extreme makeovers that allow you to sleep in Mercedes, Morris Minor, Cadillac or Volkswagen. Collectors of classic cars may even park their car in glass viewing boxes, so that others can see the repair and service taking place.

Palacio de Sal, Bolivia

Located on the edge of the world's largest salt flat—the Salar de Uyuni—Palacio de Sal is a hotel built entirely out of blocks of salt. Everything from walls to furniture is constructed using pure salt and the only rule that guests are required to follow is 'Don't lick the walls!' This luxury hotel also features a golf course, a dry sauna, a steam room, a whirlpool and its own saltwater baths. Featuring chalk-white huts that blend beautifully with the salty landscape, the hotel provides excellent grounds for star-gazing.

Treethotel, Sweden

Having to haul your luggage up a treetop is worth it, when the dwelling is as undeniably cool as Sweden's Treehotel. Floating ethereally in the evergreen forests, this hotel is composed of five

individually designed 'treerooms,' each of which is created in collaboration with leading Scandinavian architects. The most distinctive room is a particularly futuristic suite that reflects the forest surroundings from its mirrored cubical walls. Other accommodation options include a bird nest look-alike, an alien UFO suite and a spacious cabin wedged between the trees.

Propeller Island City Lodge, Berlin

If the eccentric, avant-garde ethos of Berlin could be captured in one hotel, it would be the Propeller Island City Lodge—where a stay is akin to spending the night living in a work of art. Every room has a radically unique ambience constructed entirely by German artist Lars Strohschen. A preppy prison cell with coffin beds; a room covered with mirrors and a suite where upside-down furniture dangles from the ceiling and your beds are hidden beneath the floor—the rooms at this hotel range the gamut from kinky to creepy.

Jukkasjärvi Ice hotel, Sweden

For a few months each year you can experience a sensationalised Eskimo lifestyle in Jukkasjärvi, the world's first and largest hotel that's built entirely out of ice and snow. Every year, around 50 artists head to Sweden to help rebuild the structure, thus resulting in a hotel that looks a little bit different each time. The hotel also features a bar, with glasses made of ice, and an ice chapel that's popular amongst marrying couples. Each year the hotel receives applications from artists all around the world to

design imaginative suites and the actual construction of the structure starts in November, finally opening up for the guests in January.

Kakslauttanen, Finland

A crystal clear view of the Northern Lights from your own private igloo is exactly what Hotel Kakslauttanen in Finland offers. Nestled amidst the wilderness, the hotel promises the best views of the Aurora Borealis and you can choose to stay either in a glass igloo, a log cabin or a snow igloo. Each igloo is fitted with thermal glass walls and ceilings that insulate the interior to keep it warm at night.

Jumbo Stay, Sweden

Spend the night onboard a real jumbo jet thanks to the Jumbo



For the adventurous and quirky globetrotter, conventional hotels are a thing of the past. Whether you still harbour a childhood dream of living in a treehouse, or you love cars so much that you'd give anything to sleep inside one, there's a crazy hotel somewhere to fit your vacation needs. Here are a few of the world's most eye-popping and intriguing hotels

Stay hostel in Stockholm. Housed in the Arlanda Airport, the hostel is actually a decommissioned 747-200 jetliner that offers visitors the pleasures of first-class air travel, while staying firmly on the ground. Accessed via a 15-minute walk from the main terminal or via a five-minute shuttle bus, the hostel holds 79 beds and has a luxury suite, offering panoramic views of the airport, built inside the cockpit of the jet.

Dog Bark Park Inn, Idaho

For dog lovers looking to take a trip to Idaho, this is the perfect place to stay overnight. Dog Bark Park Inn is a whimsical two bedroom bed and breakfast that is shaped like a beagle and boasts of a number of dog-themed design choices. To add a dash of quirk to the hotel, the toilet is disguised as a fire hydrant! Lovingly known as 'Sweet Willy' by local residents, this unique building was created by wood-carving enthusiasts Dennis and Frances, who spent eighteen months building the structure. The guesthouse can be reserved from April through October for up to four people at a time.

The Hobbit Motel, New Zealand

From outside, these two self-contained underground dwellings look like they have come straight from Tolkien's Middle-earth. Don't worry if you're not three foot tall with hairy feet, everyone is welcome at the Hobbit Motel. This unusual motel was built using polystyrene blocks, keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Each Hobbit unit is built into the hillside, much like the hobbit holes from 'The Lord of the Rings', and can accommodate up to six people.

Giraffe Manor, Kenya

It's not everyday that you can enjoy a gourmet meal in a quaint historic mansion as giraffes lean in through the window over your shoulder. Giraffe Manor is located on a 140-acre sanctuary for one of the most endangered subspecies of giraffes in the world. The manor, which has ten guest rooms, offers up plates of giraffe food that you can feed to these hungry guests so they don't go after your breakfast.