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## PM Modi Plants Kadamb Sapling Gifted By King Charles At His Residence

British Monarch King Charles, who has been strongly inspired by PM Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, sent the Kadamb tree sapling while extending birthday greetings to him.



his vision of building a greener and healthier planet but also symbolises friendship and shared commitment to environmental sustainability. British Monarch King Charles, who has been strongly inspired by PM Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, sent the Kadamb tree sapling while extending birthday greetings to him. The British

High Commission in India also posted a picture of the Kadamb tree on X and wrote, "His Majesty The King has been graciously pleased to send a Kadamb tree to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday." The gesture, inspired by PM Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, reflects their shared commitment to environmental

conservation," it further said. The British High Commission also recalled PM Modi's gift to King Charles during the former's visit to the United Kingdom in July, this year. "During his visit to the UK in July, PM Modi gifted His Majesty The King a 'Sonomata tree as part of the same initiative. Collaboration on climate and clean energy is a key pillar of the Commonwealth and the UK-India partnership as set out by the two PMs in Vision 2035," the British High Commission said. PM Modi's birthday also marked the beginning of the 15-day-long "Sewa Pakhwada" under which various public welfare programs are being organised across the country, which include blood donation camps, plantation drives and others. Odisha took the lead in the plantation drive as it saw more than 1.49 crore saplings sowed in a single day, marking a special tribute to 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. While the nationwide target stood at 75 lakh saplings, Odisha's exceptional contribution stood.

### Security Breach At Actor-Politician Vijay's Home, Man Found On Terrace

Chennai. (Agency)

In a major security breach, a 24-year-old mentally challenged man managed to enter the home of Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay at Neelankarai on the East Coast Road in Chennai. The intruder, identified as Arun, was found on the terrace of the actor-politician's bungalow before being secured by the police. Confirming the incident, a senior police officer told NDTV, "We have secured the man, found him to be mentally challenged and have admitted him to a mental home." Officials said an investigation is underway to ascertain how the man gained access to the premises despite the high-security cover provided to Vijay.



The Home Ministry has granted Y-category security to Vijay, with protection by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), given his growing political profile and massive public following. The incident has triggered questions on whether there was a lapse in the security protocol around the TVK leader. The breach comes just days after Vijay launched his statewide political tour in Trichy last Saturday, an event that brought the city to a standstill with tens of thousands of supporters pouring to hear him. Vijay is scheduled to continue his campaign trail tomorrow with a visit to Nagapattinam.

## Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Addresses 'Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang'

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 19 September 2025  
The main attraction of the 'Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang' programme was a nearly 10-kilometre-long canvas on which thousands of young people and artists expressed their creativity under the theme of 'Viksit Bharat'. Artists from Delhi and across the country used their imagination to present a vision of India as self-reliant, empowered, and advancing to become a global leader.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta said that the name 'Viksit Bharat ke Rang, Kala ke Sang' (Colours of a Developed India, Along with Art) is as beautiful as the event itself. Thousands of young participants have painted the

picture of India's future on this white canvas, which is not merely an artistic display but a symbol of the dreams of a new India. The Chief Minister said that the responsibility of building a 'Viksit Bharat' truly lies with the youth - the kind of India and the kind of future they wish to shape. Through this initiative, the effort to connect the Sewa Pakhwada (service fortnight) with every citizen has been both praiseworthy and historic.

Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta remarked that this country does not belong to any individual, but to all 140 crore Indians. Therefore, how we shape it and in which direction we take it in the future is our collective responsibility. She added that the Honourable

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through his exceptional leadership and tireless efforts, has given India a new identity on the global stage. Today, India

the dreams of India cannot be realised. Inspiring the youth, she underlined that building a self-reliant India and an India that aspires to be a world leader is possible only with their active participation. She further urged the younger generation to make meaningful contributions to the nation through small actions in their daily lives - whether by participating in cleanliness drives, taking steps towards greenery and environmental conservation, assisting the needy and underprivileged, observing traffic rules, or engaging in social service. She noted that such small yet significant actions, when taken collectively, will elevate the nation's progress and pride to even greater heights.



has emerged as a strong, self-assured nation willing to contribute to global cooperation. The Chief Minister also emphasised that the Prime Minister's efforts alone are not enough. Unless every citizen recognises and fulfils their role,

## Madhya Pradesh CM directs health, agriculture depts to tackle deadly bacterial disease Melioidosis

Melioidosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Burkholderia pseudomallei, commonly found in soil and water.

Bhopal. (Agency)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav has directed the health and agriculture departments in the state to jointly ensure adequate measures for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of fatal bacterial disease, Melioidosis. The directions were issued to the principal secretaries of the two departments in the wake of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS-Bhopal) report, which has confirmed the detection of the fatal bacterial disease in at least 20 districts of the state. While maintaining that the health and prosperity of farmers and public are the government's top priority, the CM added that the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of the poor, farmers, and disadvantaged sections of society.

According to an AIIMS Bhopal report, the spread of this disease has increased due to the expansion of paddy cultivation and the water resources in the state. Caused by bacteria found in infected paddy field soil, the disease requires

awareness, timely detection, and proper treatment. Taking a serious stance on preventive measures against the fatal disease, whose symptoms are similar to tuberculosis (a concern among paddy farmers), the CM further instructed the two departments to conduct investigations in affected and high-risk areas. Farmers must be made aware and vigilant regarding the disease. If any farmer or person is identified as infected, effective arrangements for proper treatment must be ensured.

AIIMS Bhopal has conducted training sessions on the subject, attended by administrators and doctors from the state's medical colleges and hospitals. Melioidosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Burkholderia pseudomallei, commonly found in soil and water.

Key symptoms include persistent or recurrent fever, continuous cough resembling tuberculosis, chest pain during breathing or normal activity, and no improvement despite TB treatment.

## Mamata Banerjee's relative appointed Kolkata college president under court scanner

Granting interim relief, the Calcutta High Court also paused for eight weeks a showcase notice and suspension order issued by Kajri Banerjee against Srabanti Bhattacharya, principal of the Rani Birla Girls' College.

Kolkata. (Agency)

The Calcutta High Court has questioned the appointment of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's sister-in-law, Kajri Banerjee, as president of Rani Birla Girls' College Management Committee, noting that the post requires someone from the field of education. Granting interim relief, the court paused for eight weeks a showcase notice issued on July 3 and suspension order issued on August 29 by Kajri Banerjee against Srabanti Bhattacharya, the college principal, while also indicating that the legality of her appointment itself needs judicial scrutiny. The court also raised doubts over Kajri Banerjee's appointment as committee president and said the issue will be heard again in six weeks.

The latest development comes after Bhattacharya approached the High Court challenging the showcase notice. The case was first heard by Justice Biswajit Bose, who issued an interim order. When the Advocate General sought his recusal, Justice Bose expressed displeasure but withdrew, and the matter was later taken up by Justice Bivas Patnaik's bench. On the same day, the judge issued a showcase notice to the chairman of the management committee and issued a temporary pause on the decision taken. The judge said that according to the 2017 law, instead of forming the management of the college, the management committee is being run by five people nominated by the state government. The judge said that there was a need for a detailed hearing on this issue.

## Bhupendra Dronacharya changed the lives of thousands of students

The Sikh Times  
Simmi Kaur Babbar  
Special Report

New Delhi, 19th September: Bhupender Dronacharya often styled as "Dronacharya Bhupender Dronacharya", especially in fitness / coaching circles. Bhupender Dronacharya is an alumnus of Hans Raj College, University of Delhi. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree. He also did a diploma / specialized training in sports psychology from Spain. Before fully devoting himself to coaching, he worked as a Sub-Inspector with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Delhi; he left that job in about 2008 in order to focus on coaching and the gym business. Bhupender Dronacharya has been active as coach since at least 1978. He has coached in the disciplines of powerlifting, bench press, and bodybuilding. From 1994 to 2019, he coached the Indian powerlifting team, and also coached the national bodybuilding squad. Apart from coaching elite athletes, he has also coached students from humble backgrounds, including some who are working as daily wage earners, newspaper



hawkers etc., showing his social commitment. In 1997, he was awarded "Best Coach & Player" of the year 1996-97 by the then Chief Minister of Delhi, Sahib Singh. In 2000, he received the Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaching in Sports & Games, conferred by President of India (K. R. Narayanan) for his contributions in powerlifting / bodybuilding. He was the first powerlifting coach to receive the Dronacharya Award. In 2017, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the World Powerlifting Union & British Power Lifting Federation in Birmingham. He is the founder of Dronacharya The Gym, a chain of gyms and fitness centres. The "main branch" address is 2575, Hudson Lane, GTB Nagar, Delhi (behind Khalsa College). The gym offers training in bodybuilding / powerlifting / men's physique among other fitness disciplines. On Instagram, his handle ibhupender\_dhawan has 284,000 followers. On Facebook, the page "Dronacharya Bhupender Dronacharya" has over 120,000 likes (123,051 likes in one snapshot) and many more following / people talking about this. He has been General Secretary of the All India Association of Dronacharya Awardees. Also served as General Secretary of Indian Gym Federation.

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### 'Chunaav ka chawidaar' protected 'vote chors': Rahul Gandhi's dig at Election Commission

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday reiterated his "vote chori" allegations and took a swipe at the Election Commission, calling it an "election watchman" who "stayed awake, watched the theft, and protected the thieves". His remarks came a day after he ramped up his attack on the issue of vote theft, accusing Chief Election Commissioner Ganesh Kumar of protecting those who "destroyed democracy". To buttress his allegation, he cited data from a Karnataka assembly constituency to claim that votes of Congress supporters were being systematically deleted. The Election Commission dubbed the allegations "incorrect and baseless" and said, "No deletion of any vote can be done online by any member of the public, as misconceived by Gandhi." In a post in Hindi on X on Friday, Gandhi said, "Wake up at 4 a.m. Eliminate two voters in 36 seconds, Then go back to sleep - this is how vote theft happens!" "Chunaav ka chawidaar jaagta raha, chori dekhta raha, choron ko bachata raha (The election watchman stayed awake, watched the theft, and protected the thieves)," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha charged.

## News box

## Bullets rain on Gurgaon builder's office: Over 10 rounds fired, Jaguar, BMW riddled with shots; cops probe brazen attack

Gurgaon. (Agency)

In yet another alarming incident of lawlessness, unidentified assailants opened fire at the office of MNR Buildmark in Sector 45 around 9.30 pm on Thursday. The attack took place barely a stone's throw from the Sector 40 police station, raising serious concerns about security in the area. According to sources, over 10 rounds were fired on the locked office premises, triggering panic across the neighborhood. The gunfire also struck two luxury cars — a Jaguar and a BMW — parked inside the compound. As per police sources, Deepak Nandal gang has taken the responsibility of the attack. Eyewitnesses said four to five armed men scaled the iron gate and unleashed the volley of bullets at the building. Security guards on duty dashed indoors to take cover. Fortunately, no casualties were reported. Investigators found that CCTV cameras on the premises were non-functional, complicating efforts to identify the shooters. A forensic team, multiple CIA units, and officers from the Sector 40 police station rushed to the spot to begin their probe. Company officials also arrived shortly after the firing. Police confirmed that multiple rounds were fired but maintained that no injuries were reported. The motive behind the attack remains unclear, and investigations are

## Monsoon set to leave, Noida starts drive against dengue

Noida. (Agency)

With the retreating monsoon leaving behind stagnant water in the city, Noida Authority has launched a cleanliness and disinfection campaign to curb the spread of dengue and malaria. Dengue and malaria cases usually rise during the rainy season due to the warmth and humidity, which create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes. As of Aug 30, the city has recorded 176 dengue cases and 85 cases of malaria, whereas the number in neighbouring Ghaziabad was 59 and 56 respectively. Stagnant water in puddles, clogged drains, potholes, discarded containers, rooftop tanks, and construction sites become fertile breeding grounds for the Aedes aegypti mosquito that spreads dengue and the Anopheles mosquito that transmits malaria. To tackle this threat, the Authority's additional chief executive officers, Krishna Karunesh and Vandana Tripathi, officer on special duty Mahendra Prasad, general manager (jal) RP Singh, general manager (health) SP Singh, and other senior officials outlined a multi-pronged plan that combines fogging, anti-larva spraying, and mass awareness drives. As part of the initiative, the authority launched an extensive fogging exercise across residential sectors, villages, and busy market areas. Teams equipped with fogging machines are spraying insecticide during early mornings and evenings, at public parks, on open drains, and other identified hotspots. Gaurav Bansal, project engineer (health), Noida Authority, said that health department teams are spraying the anti-larva chemical pyriproxyfen at all waterlogged sites in the city to destroy mosquito larvae before they mature. "We covered areas like Jalvayu Vihar and Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Sector 32, Chilla Border, Sector 54, etc," he said. In addition, officials urged RWAs and AOAs to ensure that coolers, flower pots, discarded tyres, and any other containers are cleaned and that no stagnant water is left to collect around homes or societies. To strengthen public awareness, officials distributed pamphlets and leaflets explaining how to prevent mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria and discussed ways to involve the education department in spreading the message to schoolchildren. Vandana Tripathi has been specifically designated to lead an outreach programme in schools, and senior officials have been assigned to conduct awareness exercises in ten administrative circles so that information reaches every neighbourhood and residents take action against the menace.

## Gang cheats 11 in cash-for-job scam, four held from Ghaziabad

Noida. (Agency)

Ghaziabad: Four people were arrested on Thursday for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of providing employment with gas agencies. Additional DCP (cyber) Piyush Kumar Singh said the accused were impersonating representatives of Reliance Gas, Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, and Bharat Petroleum to scam people by offering forged allotment letters of gas agencies and promising employment. Those arrested include Rahul Yadav (34), a resident of Ghaziabad; Shubham Singh Chauhan (29), a resident of Gwalior; Hemendra Singh (34), a resident of Kasganj; and Ravindra Kumar (28), a resident of Aligarh. They were linked to 11 incidents of cyber fraud worth Rs 30 lakh across seven states, including defrauding an individual from Kerala of Rs 12,12,982 over three transactions with the promise of a job with a gas agency. The accused were apprehended from Vijay Nagar with items used in the crime, including mobile phones, six cheque books, one passbook, eight ATM cards, 337 forged gas agency allotment letters, and a Honda Amaze car. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they had private jobs, but wanted to earn more money. Subsequently, they started defrauding people. They confessed to targeting people from South India, stating that people from North India were less likely to deposit money in such fraudulent schemes.

The accused further admitted to creating over 700 forged allotment letters in the names of Reliance Gas, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum, and Indian Oil to commit cyber fraud, the additional DCP said.

Police said they extracted phone numbers from a website for publishing online ads, Quikr, and used SIM cards registered under fake identities to call people, promising them jobs and gas agency deals.

## MobiKwik glitch fallout: 2,500 accounts frozen in Nuh, 6 held; villagers plead, 'we are not criminals'

Nuh. (Agency)

The corridors of the Nuh mini secretariat are filled with anxious faces and restless footsteps. Men in kurta-pajamas, office shirts and funky T-shirts clutch on to their bank passbooks and folders, waiting for a chance to plead their case. Each is hoping for the same outcome — to reclaim access to their own money, now locked away in frozen accounts. Ajruddin, a local shopkeeper, summed up the frustration shared by many others. "My EMI was deducted the moment Rs 73,000 landed in my wallet. Now, all my accounts are blocked. Now, how will I pay my suppliers this week," he sought to know, holding up a stack of receipts. For Sahwan, a 29-year-old PhD scholar from Jamia Millia Islamia, the sum that triggered the account freeze was just Rs 1.47. "Yet my bank account, which I use for paying rent and daily expenses, is blocked. Nobody is telling us when it will reopen," he said. Iqbal, a meat shop owner, found himself caught in the web after a customer scanned his shop's QR

code and paid Rs 1,200. "I thought that it was a normal sale. I transferred the money to my account. Now, my shop's main account is frozen," he told TOI. For many, the crisis has been compounded by the fact that their digital wallets are linked to multiple bank accounts. Even if one of them is flagged in case of a potential cyber fraud, all the associated accounts are blocked, leaving entire families unable to access their savings. This wave of distress began earlier this month, when a major fraud was discovered involving MobiKwik, a Gurgaon-based digital wallet company. A technical glitch in the app allowed users to transfer money even if their wallet balance was insufficient or if they had entered an incorrect PIN. Exploiting this loophole, thousands of transactions were carried out, resulting in losses of more than Rs 40 crore. Probe quickly led the cops to Nuh, where a significant number of beneficiaries were traced. So far, six persons have been arrested, with over Rs 9 lakh recovered from their accounts.

Authorities have blocked around 2,500 such accounts that received suspicious transfers. Raids are also being carried out in Nuh, Palwal, and Faridabad to follow the money trail. Most of those caught up in the freeze are ordinary villagers who suddenly saw unexpected funds appear in their digital wallets. Some transferred the money to their bank accounts, others used it to pay bills or loans. Now, all find themselves under scrutiny, unable to access their own savings. Adding to their woes is the paperwork demanded by MobiKwik. Company representatives are asking users to submit Aadhaar cards, bank statements, affidavits, and a "shapat patra" — an oath letter declaring their innocence and cooperation with the investigation. The process has left many uneasy. "What if I sign and they still don't unlock my account? Or worse, what if police arrest me," a man asked TOI. Others worried about the cost of legal paperwork when their accounts were already frozen. By midday, the queue outside room number 428 had snaked

down the corridor. Some men scrolled through their phones, others debated quietly, while the elderly sat silently, staring at the closed door.

Social worker Hidayat Khan tried to reassure the crowd. "This is not fraud by the people. It was a company failure, a glitch. The people of Nuh are innocent. They should not panic — bring bank statements, submit them, and cooperate. That is the way forward," he told them.

But for those trapped in the bureaucratic maze, such words offered little comfort. "We are not criminals. We only want our accounts back," a senior citizen said.

MobiKwik, in a statement, confirmed that a technical issue on Sept 11 and 12 led to failed transactions being marked as successful, resulting in unauthorised payouts to some merchants in and around Nuh. "A few merchants and users from this area exploited this issue to gain undue financial benefit," the company said. They asserted it was not a cybersecurity breach, but an internal processing error that had been resolved.

## Civil hospital in Gurgaon Sector 10 undergoes Rs 10cr revamp

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Civil hospital in Sector 10 is undergoing renovation at a cost of Rs 10 crore. The work, aimed at upgrading infrastructure and improving the overall experience of patients, will be completed by Sept 28. Chief minister

Nayab Singh Saini is also expected to visit the hospital on the same day under Swasth Nari Swasth Pariwar Abhiyan.

As part of the revamp, the hospital's toilets are being renovated, floors repaired, and walls whitewashed. The facade is getting a fresh coat of paint, while the waiting area will soon feature new chairs, fans, and improved lighting. Officials say the goal is to create a cleaner, more dignified environment for patients and attendants. "We are working to ensure that every corner of the hospital reflects the standards we want to uphold in public healthcare. As much as 60% of the work is already complete," said Dr Alka Singh, chief medical officer, Gurgaon. This comes after chief secretary's directive issued on Aug 22, which mandated civil surgeons in all districts to submit detailed reports outlining gaps and proposed upgrades in their hospitals. A high-level meeting was also held on the same day, chaired by CM Saini, in which districts-specific targets and accountability mechanisms were discussed.

"This revamp is not just cosmetic, it is about restoring public trust and making sure patients feel respected the moment they walk in. We are giving it a facelift and also upgrading the parking area. The entire premises is being cleaned and we are not just putting lights and chairs but also beautifying it," Dr Alka added.

The hospital currently has 200 beds but routinely houses over 300 patients at a time. Work on a block with 100 additional beds, which was stuck in limbo for nine years due to land disputes and funding gaps, is now expected to commence by mid-2026. In the meantime, patients are left to deal with cramped spaces, power outages, and poor amenities. "I have been coming here with my children for many years now.

## HVPNL approves shifting of transmission lines for metro reversal track near Millennium City Centre

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Haryana Vidyut Prasar Nigam Limited (HVPNL) has given its approval for shifting three high-tension transmission lines near Millennium City Centre, paving the way for the construction of the rear reversal track on the upcoming metro corridor between MCC and Cyber City. According to officials, the clearance was necessary, as three 66kV transmission towers located along Vyapar Kendra Road were in the right of way of the proposed metro alignment. With HVPNL's approval, GMRL will now be able to execute the shifting work through its contracting agency. The work is estimated to cost Rs 35 crores. "The plan has been sanctioned. GMRL can now take up the shifting of the high-tension lines, which will include rerouting cables underground and raising the height through monopole structures from the existing 50 feet to 150 feet," an HVPNL official said. The increased 150-foot monopoles will ensure that the overhead lines remain clear of the proposed 350-metre-long rear reversal track to be built behind MCC station.

The reversal track is a crucial element in the metro's operational design. It will allow trains terminating at MCC station to turn around and re-enter service without blocking the mainline, thereby improving



efficiency and reducing delays. Earlier, GMRL requested GMDA to widen the central median to 2.5 metres along this stretch to accommodate metro piers and avoid shifting the power infrastructure. However, GMDA expressed its inability to alter the road design, citing space constraints and the likelihood of traffic bottlenecks if the carriageway was

narrowed. Subsequently, it was decided to widen the road by shifting the high-tension towers. The alignment and tower-shifting plan was finalised in June during a joint review by GMRL managing director Chandru Shekhar Khar, along with senior officials from GMDA and HVPNL. The revised design was drawn up to balance feasibility with environmental safeguards. "We have received the HVPNL permission for the shifting of the transmission line. Now we can move ahead with the construction of the reversal track," the senior official of GMRL said. Meanwhile, the groundwork for the city's new metro line for Phase 1 between Millennium City Centre and Basai with a spur to Dwarka Expressway has picked up pace. A traffic management plan is under preparation, while GMRL has begun tree-cutting along the proposed corridor, with 1,801 trees slated to be cut under Phase 1. The official said that the civil construction would start from Oct onwards.

## RPSG proposes solar park off Yamuna expressway

Noida. (Agency)

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Authority (YEIDA) has issued a letter of intent (LoI) to RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group for a 3 gigawatt (GW) solar cell and integrated ecosystem hub, with a 60-megawatt captive solar plus energy storage plant in Sector 8D. The plant, set to come up on 100 acres with a proposed investment of Rs 3,000 crore, is the third major firm to invest in solar energy in the region this year. In July, UP approved 200 acres to Sael Solar P6 Private Limited, which will set up a Rs 8,200 crore integrated solar plant with a manufacturing capacity of 5 GW cells and 5 GW modules. Last month, a LoI was issued to Integrated Batteries India (IB Solar) for a 4 GW cell manufacturing facility on 25 acres in the sector. The company is expected to pump in Rs 3,000



crore.

With multiple investments from leading companies, Sector 8 is firmly establishing itself as the hub of solar and renewable manufacturing in Uttar Pradesh, a YEIDA official said. RPSG Group will use advanced solar technologies, such as TOPCon and Perovskite-Tandem cells, which are expected to cut power costs by

10-15% while reducing India's dependence on imported solar modules that currently account for nearly 90% of supply. The project is to create over 5,000 job opportunities. YEIDA also issued a LoI to Minda Corporation Limited, which has proposed to invest Rs 500 crore in a wiring harness manufacturing unit spanning 22 acres in Sector 10. The project is likely to create 2,200 direct and over 5,000 indirect job opportunities. The unit will cater to the fast-growing automotive sector, driven by the rise of electric vehicles (EVs), autonomous technologies, and advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS).

Earlier, Minda, in partnership with Korea's Daesung and India's Loconav, was allotted 22 acres in Sector 24 to produce ignition switches and steering locks.

## Revamp of Vyapar Kendra & Galleria market roads in Gurgaon drags on, March deadline set

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Commuters travelling along Galleria Market Road and Vyapar Kendra Road will have to endure traffic snarls a little longer as GMDA has once again revised the deadline for renovating these two arterial stretches, pushing completion to March 2026, more than a year after the original Feb 2025 target. The Rs 44-crore project was launched in Feb last year to convert the two busy 2.1km long, one-way corridors into six-lane, bi-directional roads. But work progressed at a slow pace over the last one and a half years.

Approved in March 2023, the redevelopment plan involves constructing 5.5m wide service roads, 2.5m wide cycle tracks, and 1.8m wide footpaths with underground utility ducts and nearly 1,200 parking spaces. At Vyapar Kendra, widening work has inched forward on the 1.2km stretch, drains and ducts have only been completed on half of the stretch, and 1.4km of footpaths and cycle tracks have been laid. Officials estimate an overall completion at around 55%. Galleria Market Road is slightly ahead at 60%, with drains and ducts largely in place, widening nearly finished, and most sections of the footpath laid. What



remains is the black-topping and final surfacing of the roads. Officials blamed tree-felling restrictions during the monsoon, excavation of underground utilities, encroachments near a temple, and the annual winter construction ban for the missed timelines. "All hindrances have now been cleared," a GMDA official said, adding that the project will now be accelerated and completed by early next year. Meanwhile, the chaos on the ground

continues. Commuters are still taking long detours with piling traffic at Galleria, Vyapar Kendra, and connecting junctions. Galleria Market Road is the only direct link between Golf Course Road and August Kranti Marg, while Vyapar Kendra Road channels traffic from Dwarka Expressway to Golf Course Road via Hero Honda Chowk and Subhash Chowk — both choke points during rush hour. "They have dug up the

entire stretch and it has only aggravated traffic congestion. For the past one and a half years, we have been struggling to navigate these roads, and now with the pollution season approaching, the situation will worsen. There seems to be a lack.

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# Ensure active participation from all districts in the event: CM Yogi

## The Sikh Times

Greater Noida, September 19: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today reviewed preparations for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS-2025) with police and administrative officials at the India Expo Mart auditorium in Greater Noida. The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure seamless arrangements, security, and convenience for participants. He said the event will not only present the state's rich traditions, skills, and products on a global stage but will also highlight the Vocal for Local and Make in India campaigns. Emphasizing broad-based participation, the Chief Minister said, "Every district must actively take part in the trade show with dedicated One District, One Product (ODOP) stalls. These stalls will showcase each district's unique handicrafts, food items, and industrial products before international buyers and investors." He stressed that UPITS-2025 should serve as more than an exhibition, it must be a global platform to project Uttar Pradesh's diversity, cultural heritage, and entrepreneurial talent. This, he noted, will open new avenues of

business, investment, and employment, especially for the youth. CM Yogi further instructed that UPITS-2025 be widely brand-



ed and promoted across districts and educational institutions to enhance its visibility and impact. Colleges, universities, and schools will display posters, digital screens,

creating awareness among students, faculty, and the local community about entrepreneurship and innovation. He particularly emphasized the active involvement of Gautam Buddha University students, underlining that their participation would provide invaluable hands-on experience along with opportunities in employment and entrepreneurship. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Experts from leading film cities across the country will be invited to participate in the fashion show organised as part of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS-2025)." He said the objective is to give Khadi, handicrafts, and village industry products greater visibility and international recognition. The Chief Minister emphasized that this initiative will not only promote the state's traditional crafts and industries but also create new avenues for young designers and local artisans by connecting them with wider markets. The fashion show will feature dedicated catwalks and exhibitions, highlighting the superior quality and aesthetic appeal of Khadi and village industry products on a global stage. He noted that such efforts will help strengthen the rural economy while fostering entrepreneurship,

innovation, and employment opportunities for the youth. The Chief Minister also directed that special arrangements be made for the elderly and senior citizens visiting the event. Shuttle services should operate from the NASA parking lot to ensure a smooth and comfortable access to the venue. He stressed that security and operational responsibilities must be strictly enforced, with a clear prohibition on minors driving e-rickshaws or vehicles. Detailed safety, guidance, and convenience protocols should be in place to ensure a secure, organized, and welcoming experience for all attendees. He further highlighted the importance of giving special attention to the security, accommodation, transportation, and overall comfort of foreign buyers and guests, ensuring a hospitable and safe environment that strengthens Uttar Pradesh's global image. The meeting was attended by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Minister Rakesh Sachan, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, along with other public representatives and officials. Additional Chief Secretary (MSME) Alok Kumar presented an update on the preparations through a detailed presentation.

## Major administrative reshuffle in Capital

New Delhi: In an administrative reshuffle, the Delhi Government has reassigned the responsibilities of 39 senior officers, including 22 IAS and 17 Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) officers, with immediate effect, it said on Wednesday. According to the official order, IAS officer Nandini Paliwal, currently posted as Commissioner, Trade & Taxes, will also hold the additional charge of Secretary, Services Department. IAS officer Shaileendra Singh Parihar has been appointed as District Magistrate of Shahdara, replacing Rishita, who has been transferred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Senior IAS Prashant Goyal, serving as the Finance Commissioner, will now oversee the Food & Supplies Department as well, while IAS Shurveer Singh has been entrusted with the dual charge as the Finance Secretary and Development Commissioner. Divisional Commissioner Neeraj Semwal will also handle the Land & Building and Power Departments, while IAS Vijay Kumar Bidhuri has been made the Secretary, Urban Development, and Excise Commissioner. Ravi Jha will additionally serve as the Special Secretary, PWD. At the sub-divisional level, Anuja Trivedi has been posted as SDM, Kapashera; Jarad Prateek Anil as SDM, Narela; and Piyush Kumar as SDM, Saket. In addition to this, 17 DANICS officers have also been reassigned. Kamlesh Kumar has been posted as ADM, North-East; Prem Singh Meena as ADM, South-West; and Aditya Kumar Jha as SDM, Karol Bagh; among others.

## Delhi man sets pet dog on neighbour's family during quarrel over parking; 6 injured

New Delhi: Six members of a family were injured after their neighbour allegedly set his pet dog on them and also attacked them with his friends during a quarrel over motorcycle parking in northeast Delhi's Subhash Park area, police said on Tuesday. According to police, Shalu, the accused, got into a heated argument with his neighbour Ketan (32) over motorcycle parking. "During the altercation, Shalu, along with his friends, attacked Ketan and five of his family members. He also unleashed his pet dog on them before fleeing," a senior police officer said. All the injured were taken to GTB and JPC Hospitals for treatment. While five were discharged after they were administered medical aid, one person is still under observation, officials said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Pooja is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 150 sq. yard., i.e., 125.41 sq. mtrs., out of Kharsa no. 874, situated at Andar Old Abadi in Village Tilpati, Karamnagar Pargan & Tehsil Dardai, District Gajam Budh Nagar U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 20.07.2024

Vide Doc no. 36037, Vol no. 25/04/2024 Page no. 73-92. S.R. Dated in the chain documents above mentioned documents are available in S.M.C. of Late Shri Vidharam & Partition Deed between Mr. Vintaram & Mr. Vidharam & Mr. Brijesh Kumar in respect of Plot area measuring 500 sq. yard., i.e., 418 sq. mtrs., now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold too Mr. Mrs. Sapna Pandey and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Loni Ghazibada Uttar Pradesh. 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.

## [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate  
F-211 sector-3 Vaishali Ghazibada  
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0995871432

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients namely Sh.RAM KUMAR Aadarsh card no-289875013169 DOB :-07/08/1969 and his wife Smt.CHANMATI Aadarsh card no-677455365582 DOB :-01/01/1970 R/H No. A/319/1al Kuan chungu no. 2, Badarpur South Delhi 110044 at also Village -Kalesher Post office -thana -Sahibnagar -District -Gorakhpur UP and his/her other family members have Severed his/her legal relations from his/her son namely VINOD KUMAR Aadarsh card no-235928059016 DOB :-10/07/1980 and will now only PINKI KUMARI Aadarsh card no-320988604549 DOB:- 07/04/1996 from his/her all Movable and immovable Properties due to their un Warranted behavior/acts and social Conduct towards my clients and their other family members. My clients and their other family members shall not be responsible for any acts deeds and things done by them in future in any manner whatsoever. whoever deals in any manner with them may do so at his or her own free will and responsibility.

## Davendra Kumar (Advocate)

Ch. No.319 lawyer's block  
Saket court, Saket new Delhi

## NAME CHANGE

I, BIBI ZOHRA W/O ABDUL RASHID R/O FD-33 SHAHEEN BAGH LANE PART 2 DELHI-110026 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ZOHRA BEGUM

## NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD ARSHAD S/O MOHD ZABIN R/O HOUSE NO-483 P-4 BLOCK SULTAN PURA C BLOCK NORTH WEST DELHI 110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MD ARSHAD ALAM

## NAME CHANGE

I, DARAKSHAN W/O MD ARSHAD ALAM R/O H- NO- 483 P4 BLOCK SULTAN PURA NORTH WEST DELHI 110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DARAKSHA

## NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Sultan S/o Md Arshad Khan R/o H-1-93/4, H-Block, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053 changed my name to Mohammad Sultan Arshad

## NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Sultan Khan S/o Yusof Singh R/o H-1-93/4, H-Block, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053 changed my name to Mohammad Sultan

## NAME CHANGE

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## NAME CHANGE

I, NEETU BHARADWAJ W/O SANDEEP SHARMA H/O. D- 85 GURUDWARA ROAD SHANKAR DAIRY UTTAM NAGAR DELHI -110059, I have changed my name to NITU SHARMA Permanently

## NAME CHANGE

I, S. JOGINDER CHAUDHARY s/o Ram Kripal Chaudhary R/o P-30, Sharma Colony, Phase-2, Budh Vihar, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to JOGINDER CHAUDHARY permanently

## NAME CHANGE

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## NAME CHANGE

I, NEETU BHARADWAJ W/O SANDEEP SHARMA H/O. D- 85 GURUDWARA

## NEWS BOX

## Powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake shakes Russia's far east Kamchatka region

MOSCOW. (Agency)

A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake has struck near the east coast of Russia's Kamchatka region, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of damage. The quake's epicenter was 127 kilometers (79 miles) east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and it struck at 6:58 a.m. Friday local time, according to the USGS. It had a depth of 19.5 km. The Pacific Tsunami Warning System briefly issued a tsunami threat but later lifted it. The initial quake was followed by a series of aftershocks of up to magnitude 5.8. The remote Kamchatka region has been hit by a series of powerful earthquakes over the past two months, including ones of magnitude 8.8, and two of magnitude 7.4.

## "This Is What He Wanted": Charlie Kirk's Wife Named New CEO Of Turning Point USA

WORLD. (Agency)

The widow of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk is to take his place at the head of youth action campaign group Turning Point USA, officials announced Thursday. Two days after her husband was shot dead on a university campus, allegedly by a 22-year-old gunman, Erika Kirk told supporters: "The movement my husband built will not die." Now the organization's board says Kirk will take her husband's place as its leader. "The Turning Point Board has unanimously elected Erika Kirk as the new CEO and Chair of the Board," a post on X said Thursday. "In prior discussions, Charlie expressed to multiple executives that this is what he wanted in the event of his death." Kirk's death last week sparked a wave of mourning among conservatives for a man they hailed as a champion of free speech and Christian values. President Donald Trump ordered flags to fly at half staff, and Vice President JD Vance flew to collect Kirk's body from Utah in a highly unusual display of official grief for a civilian.

The shooting also laid bare the divisions in American society, with conservatives organizing to punish anyone they deemed was not being sufficiently respectful of Kirk's death. There have been multiple reports of people being fired after they made social media posts that cheered his death or mocked Kirk.

Late night comedian Jimmy Kimmel on Wednesday became the latest scalp when the ABC network said it was suspending his "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show indefinitely. That came after conservatives took umbrage at comments Kimmel made about the motive of the alleged shooter, and after the federal government threatened to pull broadcast licenses from channels that did not take a stand against him.

## From Melania's Hat To Epstein's Ghost: Takeaways From Trump's UK Visit

world. (Agency)

Pomp and politics, warm words, tech deals and a sumptuous state banquet. Britain pulled out all the stops to welcome US President Donald Trump. Here are five things to take away from the president's historic second state visit. Trump critics drummed, chanted and waved their banners in protest at his visit in both London and Windsor. Around 5,000 people took part in the London demonstration while Trump was being given the red carpet treatment in Windsor Castle, 35 kilometres (22 miles) away. There was little chance of the president noticing though as he revelled in pomp and pageantry behind the castle's impregnable ramparts, before flying by helicopter to Chequers, the country residence of Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The entire visit was meticulously choreographed to exclude any public-facing events that could have caused embarrassment.

- Remarkable son - King Charles III paid tribute at Wednesday evening's banquet to what he called Trump's "personal commitment" to seeking peace in the world. In return Trump lavished praise on his hosts, calling the visit "one of the highest honours of my life". Trump's mother famously grew up in Scotland and the president has long held a love of the UK. The president hailed Charles for raising his "remarkable son", heir to the throne Prince William, who Trump predicted would be "an unbelievable success in future". Turning to William's wife Catherine, Trump declared her "so radiant and so healthy and so beautiful". The Princess of Wales -- who he reportedly chatted to for most of the dinner -- is currently recovering following treatment for cancer. Melania's hat - The purple statement hat First Lady Melania Trump wore for her arrival in Windsor had everyone talking. The brim of the hat was so wide it obscured her eyes from view, sparking comparisons with the white and navy millinery she chose for her husband's inauguration. What did it mean? Fashionistas and the public weighed in on the airwaves and social media, but ultimately failed to make much sense of it all.

Theories included Melania not wanting to overshadow her husband, a desire to appear mysterious, or just a preference for big hats.

Ghost of Epstein -

The spectre of the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein loomed uncomfortably over the visit in more ways than one. Shortly before the president touched down in Britain, protesters from the campaign group Led by Donkeys projected images of Trump and Epstein onto one of the castle towers. The shots included the president's mugshot, portraits of Epstein, newspaper headlines and footage of the two men dancing together. Local police arrested four men "on suspicion of malicious communications" who were bailed pending further inquiries.

Trump has struggled to shake off stories about his ties to Epstein, who died in prison in 2019 before his trial for sexual exploitation.

# Trump and Xi are set to discuss the TikTok deal and future of US-China relations

The call may hint at a possible in-person meeting to end the trade war and clarify future ties between the world's two superpowers.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to talk with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Friday in a push to finalize a deal to allow the popular social media app TikTok to keep operating in the United States.

The call also may offer clues about whether the two leaders might meet in person to hash out a final agreement to end their trade war and provide clarity on where relations between the world's two superpowers may be headed. It would be the second call with Xi since Trump returned to the White House and launched sky-high tariffs on

China, triggering back-and-forth trade restrictions that strained ties between the two largest economies. But Trump has expressed willingness to negotiate trade deals with Beijing, notably for the social video platform that faces a U.S. ban unless its Chinese parent company sells its controlling stake. Another call for Trump and Xi over trade tensions. The two men also spoke in June to defuse tensions over China's restrictions on the export of rare earth elements, used in everything from smartphones to fighter jets.

"I'm speaking with President Xi, as you know, on Friday, having to do with TikTok and also trade," Trump said Thursday. "And we're very close to deals on all of it." He said his relationship with China is "very good" but noted that Russia's war in Ukraine could end if European countries put higher tariffs on China. Trump didn't say if he planned to raise tariffs on Beijing over its purchase of Moscow's oil, as he has done with India. The Chinese Embassy in Washington on Thursday didn't confirm the call or any upcoming summit between



the leaders, but spokesperson Liu Pengyu said "heads-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-U.S. relations." Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Washington-based think tank Stimson Center, predicted a positive discussion.

"Both sides have strong desire for the leadership summit to happen, while the details lie in the trade deal and what can be achieved for both sides from the summit," Sun said. Efforts to finalize the TikTok deal. Following a U.S.-China trade meeting earlier this week in Madrid, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the sides

## Apple's iPhone 17 Launch Draws Hundreds In Long Queue At Beijing Store

WORLD. (Agency)

Hundreds of people lined up at Apple's flagship store in Beijing on the launch day of the iPhone 17 on Friday in a sign that sales of the series are off to a promising start in the world's second-largest economy. Among the roughly 300 people who arrived in the morning at Apple's store in downtown Sanlitun to pick up phones ordered online was Shuke Wang, 35, who said he purchased the Pro Max model, priced from 9,999 yuan (\$1,406) in China and pegged by analysts to be the best-selling model in the 17 series. "I really like the 17 series' redesign, and I think the orange-coloured one looks good, but too flashy. The Air Model looks good too, but the Pro Max gives longer battery life," he said. Apple says the base model iPhone 17 has a brighter, more scratch-resistant screen and will also have a better front-facing camera that will make horizontal selfies look better. Analysts say the iPhone 17 series could give a crucial end-of-year boost to Apple's market share and

shipments in China, which have been pressured this year by intensifying competition from Xiaomi and Huawei amid weak consumer demand. Apple

does not disclose pre-order figures. In the first eight weeks of the third quarter, Apple's shipments decreased 6%, according to data from Counterpoint Research released earlier this week. Chiew Le Xuan, a senior analyst at research company Omdia, said they expected iPhone shipments in China to rise 11% year over year in the second half, driven by the new series, contributing to 5% full-year growth for Apple in 2025. "The

iPhone 17 Pro Max is expected to outperform the 16 Pro Max, driven by a major redesign - a factor that has historically spurred replacement demand in China," said Chiew. "It is likely to become Apple's top-performing model in the Chinese market in 2026." The iPhone Air will be the only model in China to have telecom operators' support for an e-SIM - a digital SIM embedded in the device. However, Apple has not opened pre-sales for the Air in China and says the availability of eSIM services from China Mobile, China Telecom, and China Unicom is subject to regulatory approval.

"The iPhone Air may serve as a testbed for thin-and-light technology that could later be applied to a foldable iPhone," said Will Wong, a senior smartphone analyst at IDC.

Wong said the Air won't deliver a major sales boost, as Apple traded off battery life and camera and audio quality, which Chinese consumers value, to achieve the slimmer design features.

agents at both gatherings. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for ICE's parent agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, put the number of overall arrests at 71. The incident was the latest clash between federal authorities and Democratic politicians opposed to the immigration policies of President Donald Trump. Lander was detained in June inside the same building, where the government also operates an immigration court, while escorting a man who ICE wanted to arrest. In May, Representative LaMonica McIver, a New Jersey Democrat, and Mayor Ras Baraka of Newark, New Jersey's largest city, were arrested during an altercation outside an immigration detention center in Newark. According to McLaughlin's account of the incident inside the building, Lander showed up "with agitators and media and proceeded to obstruct law enforcement and cause a scene." He yelled inside the building that he was "not leaving" until detainees were "released,"

McLaughlin said in a statement. "As a result of the chaos caused by Lander, officers of the New York Police Department and federal law enforcement arrested members of the group. She said the entire building was placed under a lockdown afterward because "someone called in a bomb threat." Organizers said the comptroller, three state senators and seven state assembly members visited the building seeking to "conduct oversight" of conditions at the 10th-floor detention facility a day after a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction requiring changes in its operation. The 84-page court order cited complaints of unsanitary and overcrowded conditions, with up to 90 detainees packed into a 20-square-meter (215 square feet) room and forced to sleep on concrete floors, if they could even find a place to lie down. It also found detainees were unable to bathe and shower, and lacked basic hygiene supplies such as soap, sanitary napkins, toothbrushes.

## New York Democratic Politicians Arrested During Protest At Immigration Jail

WORLD. (Agency)

About a dozen New York state and local elected officials were arrested on Thursday during protests at a Manhattan building where US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents operate holding cells cited by a federal judge for inhumane conditions. New York City Comptroller Brad Lander and 10 state lawmakers were taken into custody inside 26 Federal Plaza after they were denied entry to inspect the 10th-floor cells. A group was there to "ensure compliance" with a court order on Thursday requiring ICE to improve conditions at the lockup, protest organizers said. The city's public advocate, Jumaane Williams, led another group of several dozen anti-ICE protesters who blocked the building's garage entrance, sitting on the pavement with signs and chanting. "Say it loud, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here." Organizers said more than 75 people in all were detained by city police and federal

consulting firm EPAM Systems. However, he was terminated from his job, per his own admission. The family described him as a quiet and religious person, who even publicly raised complaints of racial harassment, wage fraud and wrongful termination from the job.

LinkedIn Post In Focus

Before his death, Nizamuddin, in a LinkedIn post, had claimed he had been "a victim of racial hatred, racial discrimination, racial harassment, torture, wage-fraud, wrongful termination and obstruction of Justice."

"Today I decided to raise my voice against all odds. Enough is enough, white supremacy/racist white American mentality has to end. Oppression of corporate tyrants must end and everyone involved in it must be punished severely," he said. He claimed he faced a lot of hostility, racial discrimination, and racial harassment at his workplace. He also claimed that his company committed salary fraud with him and paid him fairly, "not in accordance with

department (SCPD) said they received a 911 call around 6:08 am local time on September 3, about a stabbing inside a residence. The caller stated the suspect had stabbed one victim in the residence. SCPD officers arrived, encountered the suspect, and were involved in an officer-involved shooting. The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. The victim was transported to a local hospital and is being treated for injuries. The officer was not injured," the statement posted on the police department's website read.

According to Police Chief Cory Morgan, the altercation between the two roommates had turned violent before cops reached the spot, where they found the victim pinned down his roommate, who had sustained several injuries. "SCPD officers arrived, encountered the suspect, and were involved in an Officer-Involved Shooting. The suspect was transported to a local hospital, where they were later pronounced dead.

## In A First Under New Migrant Scheme, UK Deports Indian National To France

London. (Agency)

An Indian national became the first person to be deported from the United Kingdom to France under the new returns treaty between the two European neighbours to curb illegal English Channel crossings on small boats. Britain's Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood called the unnamed India's deportation "an important first step" in the UK government's campaign to curb illegal migration orchestrated by "smuggler gangs." "Today, we have dealt a blow to the smuggler gangs. The removal of small boat migrants to France has begun. I will do whatever it takes to secure our borders - and this is a vital first step," she said.

"It sends a message to people crossing in small boats: if you enter the UK illegally, we will seek to remove you." Britain's interior ministry said further removals were expected later this week and next week, while the first legal arrivals from France were expected "in the coming days". The French government also confirmed the deportation, with a source telling news agency AFP that London had returned an Indian national. About The UK-France Treaty The move came little over a



month after the UK and France signed a year-long "one in, one out" scheme to exchange migrants in the hope of deterring small boat crossings. Under the new scheme, Britain can return small-boat migrants after they arrive across the Channel if they are deemed ineligible for asylum, including those who have passed through a "safe country" to reach UK shores. In return, London will accept an equal number of migrants from France who can apply for a UK visa via an online platform. The pilot scheme, which came into force in August, is set to run until June 2026.

### What PM Starmer Said

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the deportation provided "proof of concept" that the new partnership can work, adding his government now needed to increase removals. "We need to ramp that up at scale, which was always envisaged under the scheme," Starmer said.

### Illegal Immigration In The UK

Tens of thousands of migrants have arrived annually on UK shores in recent years, fuelling domestic anger and the rise of Brexit figurehead Nigel Farage's hard-right Reform UK Party.

# Who Was Mohammed Nizamuddin, Telangana Techie Shot Dead By US Cops

Washington. (Agency)

Mohammed Nizamuddin, a 30-year-old man from Mahabubnagar district of Telangana, was allegedly shot dead by the police in California, United States, earlier this month. According to Nizamuddin's father, Mohammed Hasnuddin, the incident happened on September 3 after an altercation with his roommate.

The grieving father said he learned about his son's death through one of Nizamuddin's friends, though the exact circumstances surrounding the tragedy remain unclear.

### Who Was Mohammed Nizamuddin

According to information shared by his family, Nizamuddin had moved to the US in 2016 to pursue a Master's degree in Computer Science at a Florida college. After completing his MS, he joined a software company. He shifted to Santa Clara in California, after getting a promotion at the tech firm he was working for. Per his LinkedIn profile, Nizamuddin was working for Google via the IT



DOL (Department of Labour) wage levels. "They altogether wrongfully terminated my employment. It did not end there. They continued their harassment, discrimination and intimidating behavior by the help of a racist detective and team," he said.

### What The US Police Said

In a statement, the Santa Clara police

## Bhupendra Dhawan Dronacharya changed the lives of thousands of students

Contd.....Front page

He cites that his interest in sports and coaching began very early. An event that deeply influenced him was the death of his father, Late Mr. Vasudev, when his father was training students. In that moment, Bhupender Dhawan, though very young (in school), made a promise to himself to become a coach and dedicate his life to training athletes. He has emphasized honesty, hard work, character, and background does not matter; that passion, discipline and focus can bring success. Begin with a vivid moment, the day his father passed away, and young Bhupender Dhawan's promise to serve as coach; or a day of a big victory of one of his underdog students. Reflect on his legacy: "not just weights and muscles, but character, resilience, service."



**PINDER DHAWAN RECEIVING DRONACHARYA AWARD**  
(FOR YEAR 2000) FROM THE  
HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA MR. K.R. NARAYANAN



Permit from  
THE TIMES OF INDIA  
Hero Honda honours Dronacharya Bhupender  
Dhawan  
TNN | Apr 30, 2010, 07:31 PM IST



In the Memory of Ramakant Munjal Hero Honda Award

Chief Guest Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi together with Guests of Honour Governor Sh. Ashish Ghosh and Brijmohan Lal, 30th Apr, 2010.



### Dispute over parking bike turns violent, six injured

New Delhi: On the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, a narrow lane of the Subhash Park area in northeast Delhi turned into a scene of chaos after a quarrel over motorcycle parking took a violent turn. Six members of a family were injured in the incident when their neighbour allegedly set his pet dog on them, and along with his friends, launched a physical attack. According to the police, the accused, Shalu, got into a heated argument with his neighbour Ketan (32) over parking a motorcycle. The argument escalated, and within moments, Shalu allegedly called in a few of his friends and set his pet dog upon Ketan and his relatives. "During the altercation, Shalu, along with his friends, attacked Ketan and five of his family members. He also unleashed his pet dog on them before fleeing," a police officer said. All injured were taken to GTB and JPC Hospitals. While five were discharged after being administered first aid, one person is still under observation, the official added.

### 400 structures along Sabarmati banks in Gandhinagar razed as two-day demolition drive kicks off

**Ahmedabad . (Agency)**  
The Gandhinagar administration on Thursday began a two-day demolition drive with the aim of clearing out approximately 700 properties, which are deemed illegal, on the banks of the Sabarmati river. By Thursday evening, officials said demolition of 400 properties had been completed. The demolitions were carried out by the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation (GMC) along with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department of the state government with assistance and protection from Gandhinagar police.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Gandhinagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Ravi Teja Vasamsetty said, "This is an area of 1 lakh square metres whose property valuation is in the Rs 1,000 crore range. There are around 700 illegal encroachments of which 400 have been removed today." About the type of encroachments, the SP said, "Around 90% are residential structures, some are semi-commercial establishments such as shops and a few are religious structures."

Notably, out of the 1 lakh square metres, around 30,000 square metres of land belongs to the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation (GMC) in Pethapur while a majority portion, around 70%, is with the R&B department.

Speaking to , Gandhinagar Municipal Commissioner JN Vaghela said, "In our 30,000 square metre portion alone, demolitions worth Rs 300 crore have been carried out. This has been encroached upon for the last 20-25 years. We used 18 machines, and around 250 staff members, besides police personnel, were involved in the demolition.

However, there was no resistance from the people most of whom had moved out a day earlier."

## Maharashtra govt makes e-KYC mandatory for Ladki Bahin beneficiaries; sets 2-month deadline

**The Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana provides monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 to women in the age group of 21-65, whose annual family income is not more than Rs 2.5 lakh.**

### Mumbai . (Agency)

The Maharashtra government has made e-KYC mandatory for beneficiaries of the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin scheme, giving them two months to complete the process.

A government resolution (GR) was issued regarding this on Thursday, an official said. The Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin Yojana provides monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 to women in the age group of 21-65, whose annual family income is not more than Rs 2.5 lakh.

Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare on Thursday



to complete the e-KYC process in the next two months." This process is simple and

convenient, and to maintain transparency in the scheme and ensure regular benefits to eligible women, everyone should complete it, she said in a post on X. This process will also be useful to avail the benefits of other government schemes in the future, Tatkare said.

According to the GR, eligible women must complete their verification and authentication within two months to receive the monthly assistance in their bank accounts. Similarly, if Aadhaar authentication is not done, the benefits will be withheld, it said. Beneficiaries will have to carry out the e-KYC process compulsorily every year, the GR stated.

## Drinking water to roads to housing, what PAC report recommended for Gujarat salt-pan workers spotlighted by latest Coke Studio song

**In its report submitted before the Assembly last week, the Public Accounts Committee said an extensive survey should be carried out among Gujarat's salt-pan workers within the next two months during which the facilities available or lacking to the community be listed**

### Ahmedabad . (Agency)

Two years after it made waves with the "Khalasi" number, highlighting the life of a sailor on Gujarat shores, the latest Coke Studio Bharat song by Aditya Gadhvi has put a spotlight over another unsung heroes of the state – the salt-pan workers or Agariya.

Titled Meetha Khara (sweet and salty), the release of the song, which also features Madhubanti Bagchi and Thana Khan, comes close on the heels of the advent of the salt-cultivation season that kicks off in September, around Navratri.

The community also found mention in the recently concluded Monsoon Session with the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Gujarat Assembly making several recommendations to the state government for their welfare.

In its most salient recommendation, the PAC has recommended that the Gujarat government should carry out an extensive survey within two months and list the facilities available to salt-pan workers and those that the salt-cultivating

districts of Gujarat lack. The committee made the recommendations in its fifth report which was tabled and accepted in the state assembly last week.

The PAC is headed by former minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Bhavnagar West constituency Jitendra Vaghani. The report, with reference to findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report of 2018-19 on the issues related to salt-pan workers in the state, was tabled before the Assembly on September 10.

With reference to the queries of the Committee, in its written reply, the Industries and Mines Department had stated that it has given instructions to district industry centres (DIC) to carry out coordinated survey and to prepare a central database in cooperation with the departments concerned through District-Level Empowered Committee (DLEC). In response, the PAC has recommended that the department carries out an extensive survey for salt-pan workers in salt-cultivating districts. The findings must be submitted in two months, the PAC recommended, adding that matters coming to the fore during the survey should be swiftly acted upon.

The population of salt-pan workers in Gujarat is spread over 16 districts of the state, which include the coastal districts and inland districts of Banaskantha, Patan and Surendranagar. As per Agariya Heet-Rakshak Manch, a leading organisation working for the empowerment of salt-pan workers, the population of Agariyas in Gujarat is estimated at around 85,000.



In letter to Gadkari, Bombay Parsi Punchayet invokes Cyrus Mistry's death on 'damaged' NH-48. Why this is of significance to Zoroastrian community in Gujarat's Udvada Vadodara . (Agency)

Udvada, a quaint, seaside town in Gujarat's Valsad district, holds special significance for the Parsi community. Housing the revered Zoroastrian Iranshah Atash Behram temple, considered one of the oldest fire temples in the country, the town sees several Parsis living in Western India, particularly, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara, visiting it for pilgrimage.

Of late, though, the dilapidated condition of the National Highway-48, which connects Ahmedabad to Mumbai, has also had an impact on the access to Udvada, prompting the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) to recently write a letter to the Union Minister of Transport, Nitin Gadkari, urging that the road from Mumbai to Talasari at the Maharashtra-Gujarat border be immediately repaired. Invoking fundamental rights, the BPP said the repair was needed to avert a "death trap" for community members and senior citizens.

The NH-48 route through the Talasari junction is the sole road to reach Udvada from Mumbai and Pune, pointed out a member of the Punchayet. Back in Udvada, the letter has given hope to members of the local Parsi community who said they have been seeking "restoration and repairs" of the highway to its original state to ensure they can count on the route for their daily commute as well as in the event of a medical emergency.

Udvada high priest Khurshed Dastoor told The Indian Express that he has raised the issue with the local MLA, Cabinet Minister Kanu Desai, as well as Valsad Lok Sabha MP Dhaval Patel in a meeting on Tuesday and has been assured that the roads will be repaired soon. "In the larger interest, we have raised the issue of the roads leading to Udvada, although the roads within our town are in good shape... The MP as well as the MLA have assured us that the highways will be repaired as soon as the monsoon ends..." A significant aspect of the BPP's letter is the mention of Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of the Tata Group, who died three years ago after his car met with an accident on his way back from Udvada to Mumbai.

## Police rule out terror angle, say brothers stole INSAS rifle for extortion, local theft

**The official said that while earlier the younger brother was not onboard, the elder brother convinced him following which the younger brother agreed.**

### Vadodara . (Agency)

THE MUMBAI Police, investigating the case involving the theft of an INSAS rifle from Navy Nagar, have concluded that the two brothers stole the weapons to extort local tendu leave farmers in Telangana.

The younger brother, Rakesh Dubbula (22), who is an Agniveer in the armed forces, would have been eligible only for two more years in the service and hence they decided to make the most of his tenure. Police, however, ruled out possible Naxal link or involvement of anyone else in the matter.

An official said, "After the investigation by various agencies several times, we have concluded that the brothers wanted the rifle to make money out of extortion and local theft. It was the elder brother Umesh Dubbula (25) who ran a local toddy shop in Kumuram

Bheem, Asifabad, a Naxal-affected region of Telangana, who prevailed on his younger brother.

Umesh had several local enemies and was also looking for ways to get money. He felt that an INSAS rifle would scare local tendu leaf farmers to cough up extortion money and also keep other rivals in check."

The official said that while earlier the younger brother was not onboard, the elder brother convinced him following which the younger brother agreed. Rakesh told his elder brother that they used INSAS rifles while on sentry duty. Since he was posted in Kochi, they decided to steal the rifle from Navy Nagar in Mumbai.

"Since he was earlier posted here, he knew the security. In fact, for 15 days, he was on sentry duty at the exact spot from where they



decided to steal the rifle," the official said. The officer said that based on questioning of surrendered Naxals from Asifabad, they ruled

in the past but they did not find any links regarding the same. "Based on our investigation, it emerges that Umesh was desperate to have some influence in Asifabad and hatched the conspiracy with his younger brother. No terror angle has emerged," the official added. On September 6, INSAS rifle along with 40 rounds were stolen from Navy Nagar in South Mumbai. Rakesh and Umesh were arrested on September 9 from their home in Telangana.

Rakesh, who completed his higher secondary education in Telangana, joined the armed forces in 2023 under the Agnipath scheme, a government initiative for a four-year short-term service in the military. He was posted at Navy Nagar in Mumbai from August 2024 to February 2025 and was later stationed in Kochi. The two are in judicial custody.

## Modi's Trampoline – Will we make the Jump

The choices that humanity has made in the past centuries have brought us to a precipice. The manner in which we have conducted our economies, environment and ecology, our education and social systems, the nurturing of our youth and next generation... all this has accelerated us to this state of Flux and placed the world on the brink. The numerous theatres of war, the untenable economic structures, the rapidly degrading ecology and the rise in natural calamities, mental health pandemic and substance dependency crisis in many societies are all evidence of this. This is not to paint a picture of doom and gloom. A state of Flux is a state of Possibility – the choices we make today have the potential to catapult us either into tremendous transformation or decay. At 8.5 billion we are an unwieldy race – not yet at a level of consciousness that allows us to make collective, unified decisions. We depend on governments, laws, and leadership to steer the whole. At such a juncture, it is of utmost importance what sort of leadership we arrange for ourselves. If we want a sustainable and beautiful future for the Planet, we have to see the rightness of the ideal of Vasudaiwa Kutumbakam.

It is fitting that Bharat, which has always enshrined this attitude of inclusiveness, has chosen for itself a leader in Narendra Modi, who fundamentally shares the same values. In many ways, Bharat has manifested a Leader that resonates with its core ethos, its innate samskara. This is very important – not because inclusion seems to be the 'Righteous Way' but because going ahead, inclusion is the Only Way. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharat has repeatedly demonstrated the roadmap for a more inclusive and cooperative Humanity on the World Stage. Bharat's role in the welcoming of the African Union within G20, our stewardship of the Global South, the 'One World, One Sun, One Grid' initiative proposed by India to interconnect renewable energy systems on a massive scale, our neighborhood-first policy or our acclaim as a First-Responder nation during crisis, our humanitarian aid to 96 countries during the pandemic – in all this, India has irrefutably proven that actions speak loud, that we value Humanity over short-sighted personal gains. This quality of Inclusiveness is also apparent in Narendra Modi's leadership style. The Mann ki Baat initiative may seem like a small detail in a gigantic machinery of governance, but it is a deeply telling detail. By making a direct connect with the common citizen, he is able to resonate with them, celebrating their stories, struggles, and contributions. This keeps him grounded to the raw state of our people and ensures that his governance is a response to that.

I am deeply appreciative of his role in turning the international spotlight on Yoga. By spearheading the declaration of the International Day of Yoga, he has contributed to a phenomenal upsurge of interest towards yoga and underlining the well-being it can bring about. This is crucial at this period in time as the technologies of Yoga are the answer to the mental health and physical challenges assailing Human Beings today. This civilization-state of Bharat is poised at the inflection point to realize our true potential and aim towards a glorious future. However, as a Nation, we still have ways to go. The nurturing of the future generation is key to our evolution. We do not want Bharat – with its burgeoning youth population – to miss this fertile period of opportunity.

The time has also come to throw off the last shackles of the half-baked ideals that afflicted previous decades, and invite the Citizens of India to become the engineers of its future. From infrastructure to AI, from trade to defence, from education to industry, we need to entrust the population with the task of taking it forward at a supersonic speed.

## Despair, desperation over jobs in Bihar

The state's youth find it hard to avert unemployment due to lack of opportunities

BARELY had the dust settled on Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra in Bihar that Gen Z youth staged protests in neighbouring Nepal and overthrew its government. The leaderless Nepalese protestors expressed their disgust at corruption, the government's authoritarian ban on social media and a lack of concern for youth aspirations and public welfare. They targeted the 'nepo kids', the children of the rich who led an extravagant lifestyle, while the ordinary youth suffered. In Bihar, Rahul's yatra pushed the issue of democratic accountability in the people's court, even as Bihar boys spouted the slogan of 'padhaai-kamaai-dawaai' – education, employment and healthcare. The similarity of issues, the timing and the geographical proximity of a state and a nation lead to several questions about resentment of the youth against indifferent rulers. Can we understand the churn in Bihar politics through the prism of the Nepal protests? Have unemployment and widening inequality, combined with democratic backsliding, emerged as decisive factors in tipping the political scales? And what lessons does poll-bound Bihar draw from the upheaval in the neighbourhood? Drawing on three years of ethnographic work in an urban gali in Patna, I have gathered accounts of ordinary Bihar youth's struggle to avert unemployment. Youth unemployment has been very high in Nepal – quoted to be upwards of 20 per cent – whereas it is claimed to be on the decline in Bihar and now stands at 10 per cent. Yet, Bihar youth find it hard to overcome the odds, with no opportunities for meaningful education in rural areas. They flock to urban galis in Patna, where low-cost coaching centres proliferate. These centres lure subaltern aspirants with the guarantee of success in bharti (recruitment) for government jobs. The centres are run in the name of their 'sirs' – Bipin sir teaches English to rustic Biharis, Guru Rahman promises daroga bharti and Goswami sir offers coaching in 'sampoorna ganit' i.e. 'entire mathematics'. In the same gali, Samrat Ashok sir claims his lineage from the legendary Maurya dynasty ruler and offers a 'dhamaka bumper' offer for his course pack – what was earlier priced at Rs 3,500 is now offered at Rs 500, exhorting students to enrol fast.

The king of the gali, however, is Khan sir, a 'youth icon' who teaches with a pronounced vernacular accent, has his own YouTube channel and leads youth protests against paper leaks in exams for government recruitment. Over a thousand students sit through his lectures every evening, while many more sit outside the classroom and pay attention to him on TV screens. Others simply hang around to beg for photocopies of his lecture notes as they cannot afford even the 'low fees' for coaching. I am told that there are millions of 'online' students who attend



Khan's lectures on their mobile phones as they cannot afford the cost of living in Patna. Dealing with unemployment is being accepted as an individual responsibility in Bihar (and elsewhere in India). Even as public sector employment is shrinking in neo-liberal India, its lure persists. It is seen as the only way out of the desperation of rural lives, immersed in hopeless agriculture. The coaching 'sirs' themselves are unemployed young men of a senior generation, who are selling hopes to ordinary youth in a mad scramble for government jobs. Coaching is their self-employment and only avenue for self-respect in a society that stopped offering social mobility opportunities a long time ago. Hopelessness, joblessness and desperation are all being managed in this informal coaching enterprise as a project of hope for youth aspirations. The critical difference between Nepali and Bihar youth is the missing climate activist, the rapper, the DJ in the Patna gali. Instead, Bihar youth are drawn to markets built on the promise of success – a phenomenon in which poor people

themselves accept the retreat of the State and rely on shadow markets to lead them on. Political protests, even over genuine issues concerning the youth such as contractual entry into the Army as Agniveers, are perceived as risky ventures for unemployed Bihar youth. There is a chance that they will be arrested and get 'bad character' certificates from the police, rendering them permanently unemployable. Better to bear the ignominy and run the mile every morning as part of physical training necessary for bharti. Before the break of dawn, I visit Patna's Gandhi Maidan – the city centre and nerve centre of its political history, replete with poetic calls for 'singhasan khaali karo, janata aati hai' – lines of Rashtrkavi Dinkar which became the rallying cry for anti-Emergency youth crusaders in 1975-77. There, I find thousands being trained by physical training coaches. Many young aspirants jog barefoot in the race for employment. No songs, no poets and no time for the politics of protests for these Bihar youth. And Nepal is not even a 'guess question' in the coaching textbooks there.

## Interim verdict on waqf amendments offers a mixed bag

While Justice Khanna intended to protect the concept of 'waqf by user' at least partially, the interim verdict upheld the provision to axe 'waqf by user' prospectively

When former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna first heard the challenge to the Waqf Amendment Act 2025 on April 16-17, he proposed interim restrictions on its contentious features that were agitating sections of the Muslim society. But the Centre dodged the bullet by buying more time to argue its case. One of the restrictions Justice Khanna proposed was that properties declared by a court as waqf would not be denotified or treated as non-waqf, whether or not it is 'waqf by user'. Second, findings by Collectors on the legality of waqf properties would not be acted upon till the disposal of the case. And finally, a few ex officio members can be appointed to waqf boards and councils, but all other members must be Muslims. With Justice Khanna retiring midway, the matter went to a new bench headed by present Chief Justice B R Gavai, whose interim verdict refused to stay the law but paused a few of its sections. While Justice Khanna intended to protect the concept of 'waqf by user' at least partially, the interim verdict upheld the provision to axe 'waqf by user' prospectively. It also found the requirement of registration



of all 'waqf by user' properties valid, pointing out that the provision was made mandatory in the 1923 Waqf Act itself. On the question of empowering the Collector to quash the waqf status of a property if he determines it

illegal, the bench suspended the provision, saying officers cannot be judges in their own case; the adjudication has to be judicial or quasi-judicial. As for the appointment of non-Muslims to state waqf boards and the central waqf council, the bench left the door ajar with a cap on induction. Another clause vehemently opposed by the petitioners was the prescription of five years as a practising Muslim for eligibility to create a waqf. The bench did not see it as arbitrary, but hit the pause button since rules to identify a practising Muslim are yet to be framed. A waqf is an endowment made by a Muslim individual for charity or religious purposes and is irreversible. Rampant mismanagement necessitated their regulation since 1923. Given that the interim verdict is a mixed bag, triumphalism from any quarter would be out of place. With the truncated law kicking in soon, its fallout will be keenly watched.

## India-US ties: From a limousine chat to a spectacular diplomatic turn

Things have turned around remarkably since Putin and Modi rode together in Tianjin, with Trump warming up towards India soon after. Much depends on how the US manoeuvres Europe

In the complex tangle surrounding conflict in Ukraine, things are moving in the direction that Russian President Vladimir Putin would have, conceivably, told Prime Minister Narendra Modi in strictest confidence during their 50-minute conversation while travelling together in the Aurus Senat, the presidential limousine retro-styled after the legendary ZiL used by Soviet leaders. They were heading towards their September 1 meeting at the American luxury hotel Ritz-Carlton in Tianjin, China, where the Russian delegation was staying.

For Putin, it must have been a moment out of the Psalms: "Blessed is the man to whom the lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no deceit." As a deeply religious man, it must have been of the utmost criticality for Putin to hold Modi's hands away from the prying eyes of western intelligence at a sensitive juncture when India had come under immense pressure "just as in the colonial era", as he later told a small group of Russian journalists in Beijing. Putin told the journalists, "You know, when people from outside say, 'We are going to make things hard for you and punish you...' How are the leaders of these countries (India and China)—large economic powerhouses which have lived through very rough periods in their history, periods of colonialism and attacks on their sovereignty over a long historical period—supposed to react to that?" Anyway, it took just a few days after the ride in Putin's limo for the US President Donald Trump to make his first overture to Modi on September 5, when he told reporters at the White House, "I will



darkest China"—adding, unflappably, in his characteristic prose style of massive ellipses that often give his words the ring of an oracle: "I don't think we have. I get along very well with Modi. As you know, he was here a couple of months ago, we went to the Rose Garden. Modi kept his part of the bargain with Putin and is skipping the UN General Assembly, which Trump is certain to address. Highlighting Delhi's close ties with Moscow, an Indian contingent is participating in the Russia-

Belarus Zapad-2025 military drills to test the two countries' combat readiness amid growing tensions with Nato. The events surrounding Ukraine are in a torrential flow. Trump has cracked the whip at the European Union and Nato, who were punching above their weight since his meeting with Putin in Anchorage on August 15, which was a turning point. Trump and Putin had agreed that a ceasefire in Ukraine should be sequenced after a peace settlement, rather than be a 'standalone' putatively heart-warming pause in the fighting, fragile and fraught. So, the fighting in Ukraine may likely run its course through the year—that is, unless the regime in Kyiv collapses, or has a change of heart and engages with Russia. The latter is predicated on the willingness of the Machiavellian interventionists of Western Europe to let Kyiv go, or are driven out militarily from Ukraine. Trump is striving hard to put the EU and Nato on the defensive. The European allies aimed to disrupt the momentum of the Anchorage accord and pull aside Trump from his agreement with Putin by floating the idea of a US-led 'security guarantee' for Ukraine. But Trump saw through the EU ploy to prolong the war and shot it down. Thereupon, the EU came up with Plan B in the nature of imposing draconian sanctions against Russia, in coordination with Washington, with the expectation that it will infuriate Moscow and prompt it to escalate the conflict, which of course eminently suits Nato and the hardliners in EU leadership. But Trump already had a riposte in mind. Sensing that the EU and Nato hardliners in Brussels are moving in tandem to undermine any Russian-American 'entente

cordiale' in the endgame in Ukraine, Trump switched to what New York businessmen might call the 'judo business strategy'—that is, no biting, punching, kicking, gouging, or even head-to-head struggle, but to simply move sideways to bring the highflying Brussels hawks 'in'. In a stunning manoeuvre, Trump threw his weight behind Plan B to impose "very strong" sanctions on Russia but added a caveat—the EU should first stop all energy imports from Russia; impose 100 percent secondary sanctions on China; and all Nato member countries should also fall in line. Therein lies the catch, since out of the 27 EU member states only 23 are in Nato, and six European states are Nato members but not of the EU (and they include Turkey, which is heavily dependent on Russian energy supplies). In reality, Trump's offer to the EU is a feint, a zugzwang, a manoeuvre—call it what you will—designed to distract and mislead. His conditions are unlikely ever to be met. Politico has run a scorecard on Trump's ruse, as things stand at the moment, and predicted that the conditions are actually deal breakers. Trump's game plan is to create space and time to navigate the peace process with Putin, going forward. He intends to speak with Putin shortly. There's going to be a foreign minister-level meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York as well. Meanwhile, Fortuna, the ancient goddess of luck in Roman religion, is smiling at Trump, as the troika that masterminded Europe's forever-war strategy in Ukraine—France, Germany and the UK—are descending into political and economic chaos.

## On Punjab Police's radar, drug smuggling networks functioning from jails

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The operation of narcotics smuggling networks from within high security jails in Punjab once again came into focus Thursday with the police busting two gangs being run from Kapurthala and Goindwal jails, respectively. A drug syndicate — involving a large supply-chain of pharmaceutical drugs — was unravelled by the Jalandhar Commissionerate police with recovery of 1,85,000 Tramadol tablets and arrest of four persons. Tramadol is an opioid-based pain-relieving and habit-forming drug. DGP Gaurav Yadav said preliminary probe reveals that the syndicate was being operated from Goindwal jail.

The bust comes on the heels of another drug syndicate being dismantled by Ferozepur Police on September 13 where it was found that the network was being run from Kapurthala jail.

The police had arrested one Sonu Singh, a resident of Habibwala in Ferozepur and recovered 15.7 kg heroin from his possession. While the network was run from a jail by a group of inmates, the arrested accused had no criminal background.

DGP Yadav, citing preliminary investigation, had said that the drug network was operated by an accused currently lodged in Kapurthala

jail, while the consignment was sent by Pakistan-based smugglers.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior police officer who is involved in the ongoing 'Yudh Nasheyen Virudh' campaign of the state government said that a disturbing aspect of the 'drug epidemic' is the operation of syndicates from within prisons, where incarcerated smugglers and gangsters



coordinate supplies, finances, and distribution using smuggled mobile phones with the aid of "corrupt officials".

"This issue not only sustains the drug trade but also undermines prison reforms and public safety. Certain reports indicate that drug smuggling and consumption occur in at least 15 of Punjab's 24 functional jails, with over 42 per cent of inmates accused or convicted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. This high incarceration rate for narcotics offenses paradoxically turns prisons into hubs for organized crime," the officer said.

Prisons in Punjab have been on the radar of investigating agencies and from time to time raids and surprise checks have been conducted to nab the members of drug cartels. In July 2024, at least 200 repeat-offender inmates running drug rackets were shifted to Bathinda Central Jail's 'dead zone' (no mobile signal) to disrupt operations. This followed intelligence on Pakistan-sourced supplies. In June 2025, the Punjab government suspended 25 jail officials, including three Deputy Superintendents, for aiding drug syndicates — an action which was part of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's anti-corruption drive.

In 2023 Amritsar police, in collaboration with Gujarat's Anti-Terrorism Squad, busted a network manufacturing intoxicant tablets in pharma units in Uttar Pradesh (Hapur) and Gujarat (Ahmedabad). Coordinated from Goindwal Sahib and Mansa Jails by inmates like Major Singh and Yogesh Kumar (alias Rinku), the racket involved fake firms like Elichem Pharma.

**Transgenders create ruckus inside Adugodi police station**

**Bengaluru .(Agency)**

A Deputy Commissioner of Police and an Assistant Commissioner of Police along with over 15 police personnel had a tough time in controlling a group of transgenders who blocked Hosur Main Road in the city after creating ruckus inside the Adugodi police station early on Monday morning.

They had come to the station around 2.10 am to file a complaint against an unidentified person for behaving badly with one of them. They then, without filing any complaint, started humiliating the police personnel in the station. Despite telling them to file a complaint, the gang continued abusing the policemen. When things were going out of control, a message was sent to the South East control room. Immediately all the night patrolling officers rushed to the station. The gang then came to the main road and blocked the road till 5 am.

A criminal case has been registered against Pavithra, Rakhi, Bharani, Pramita Ram, Mallika and another unknown person. "All of them were under the influence of alcohol. They are residents of a nearby slum. No arrests have been made yet," said an officer. The police have also registered the transgenders' complaint as a Non-Cognizable Report.

**Yoga teacher held for sexual assault of student in Bengaluru**

**Bengaluru (Agency)**

The RR Nagar police arrested a 55-year-old yoga teacher and fitness expert on Wednesday on charges of sexually assaulting a student ever since she was a minor. The accused was identified as M Niranjana Murthy, 55, founder and director of Sunshine The Yoga Zone at BEML Layout in RR Nagar. He is also secretary, Karnataka Yogasana Sports Association (KYSAs).

The victim, who is now 19, had filed a police complaint on August 30. Murthy had sexually assaulted her for the last time on August 22.

The police have registered a case against him under POCSO Act since he had been sexually assaulting the victim since she was 17 years old. Unable to bear his harassment and torture, the victim finally reported the matter to the police.

The accused knew the victim since 2019. The victim, who is a yoga practitioner, told the police that in November 2023, when she was 17, she was sexually harassed by the accused in Thailand when they had gone for a yoga event. Following the incident, she quit and joined another yoga training institute in 2024 unaware that the institute belonged to the accused. He again sexually assaulted her, assuring her of a national medal.

The accused, who has a PhD in yoga, has also received a few awards from the state government. "Murthy allegedly lured the victim promising to help her in medicals at national yoga events, which would benefit her getting a government job. He also took her on foreign trips. The police suspect that more women could have been sexually assaulted by the accused," said an officer. The police have requested other yoga students to approach them if any of them was sexually assaulted by the accused.

The police have registered a case of sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means, etc (BNS 69), sexual harassment (BNS 75(2)) and punishment for sexual harassment (section 12 under the POCSO Act of 2012).

## Tamil actor Robo Shankar passes away at age of 46

**Chennai .(Agency)**

Actor Robo Shankar, known for his comic roles in Tamil cinema, passed away at the age of 46. Shankar fainted on the sets of an upcoming film on Monday. He was admitted to a private hospital in Chennai, where, after preliminary tests, his liver and kidneys were found to be severely damaged.

The actor was afflicted with jaundice two years back, for which he underwent significant treatment. His drastic weight loss as a result of the treatment caused significant concern among fans.

The prefix 'Robo' was given to him, due to his robot dance moves. The comedian rose to fame with Kalakala Povadhu Yaaru, a reality TV show that showcased standup comedians. His

initial roles in films like Idharkuthaane Aasaipattai Balakumara and Vaayai Moody Pesavum lead to his breakthrough in Maari (2015), where he starred alongside Dhanush.

Shankar starred in memorable roles in films like Velainu Vandhatta Vellaikaaran, Singam 3, Velaikkaran, Kalakalappu 2, Maari 2, Iravin Nizhal, and Singapore Saloon. His last film role was in the recently released Sotta Sotta Nanaiyuthu.

He is survived by his wife Priyanka, daughter Indraja, and one grandson. His last rites will be conducted at his Chennai residence on Friday.

"My heartfelt condolences to his family members and the artistic fraternity," said CM MK Stalin in his condolence message.



## MBBS seat: Punjab makes parents pledge Rs 40 lakh property, IMA says 'rollback new rule immediately'

**The policy is applicable at Government Medical College in Amritsar, Patiala, Mohali and Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot, apart from other government owned dental colleges.**

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has demanded immediate rollback of Punjab government's new "bond/surety policy" for admission to state's medical and dental colleges for MBBS courses.

For admission, the process for which is currently ongoing, it is mandatory for students to submit a Rs 20 lakh service bond, an amount to be paid to the Punjab government if the student fails to serve in government healthcare facilities for at least two years after completing MBBS. The government has defended the policy citing shortage of doctors in government facilities.

While the rule was notified ahead of the admission process in June this year, what has now added to the worries of parents is the format in which this surety is being taken.

Parents have been mandated to pledge their two properties/chunks of land as sureties, worth at least Rs 20 lakh each, means they have to pledge two properties worth Rs 40 lakh.

Parents, especially those who do own two properties/lands and those who are not into farming, are struggling to fulfil the stringent condition.

The policy is applicable at Government Medical College in Amritsar, Patiala, Mohali and Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot, apart from other government owned dental colleges.

The medical colleges have already started issuing notices that students who fail to fulfil the condition won't be allowed to attend classes.

In a notice issued Wednesday, Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot, has stated that classes for MBBS students who have been selected in first round of counselling will commence from September 24, and students have been instructed to submit the requisite bond by September 19. The notice adds that students who fail to submit the bond, won't be allowed to attend classes. Similarly, Government

## Himachal High Court suspends toll collection at Sanwara till Oct 20

**The court had rapped the NHAI for its failure to properly maintain the highway and cautioned that the collection of toll at Sanwara plaza could be suspended if urgent corrective steps are not taken.**

**Shimla .(Agency)**

The Himachal Pradesh High Court Thursday ordered the National Highways authority of India (NHAI) to suspend collection of user fee at the Sanwara Toll Plaza in Solan district on the Shimla-Kalka National Highway, 5 km from Chakk Mor on September 20 to October 30 citing poor road conditions and inadequate facilities.

A division bench of Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma issued the order while hearing a public interest litigation filed by Utan Monga of Una district.

Advocate Ganesh Barowalia, representing Monga, said, "The court took strict note of the bad condition of the National Highway, particularly at Chakk Mor. The bench, while directing it to stop toll collection at the plaza, asked the NHAI to file a status report on October 30. The detailed order is yet to be uploaded".

Project Director, Kalka-Shimla National

Highway, Anand Dhaiya said, "We are yet to receive a copy of order."

During the previous hearing on August 28, the court had said, "It is a matter of concern that the road remained closed at Chakk Mor on more than three occasions in July and



August, and traffic was reduced to one-way, causing long jams of 5 km on either side". The court had rapped the NHAI for its failure to properly maintain the highway and cautioned that the collection of toll at Sanwara plaza could be suspended if urgent corrective steps are not taken.



with regular flight movements over the district between 8 pm and 11 pm.

At midnight on Friday, Barabanki Police issued a public appeal: "It is an appeal to common

citizens not to spread false information and avoid making the mistake of considering regular flight movement over the district as drones."

The advisory pointed out, "It has

## Stray dog menace: Punjab and Haryana HC transfers plea to Supreme Court

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered the transfer of two contempt petitions concerning the implementation of its 2015 judgment on stray dog management to the Supreme Court, in view of apex court directions to consolidate all such matters pending across the country.

The petitions, stemmed from a Division Bench judgment dated April 28, 2015, in Gurukh Singh vs UT Chandigarh and others, which had laid down measures for controlling stray dog bites and enforcing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules. The contempt proceedings were initiated in 2023 against Chandigarh authorities for alleged non-compliance. Abhilash Gaid, who

represented the Malerkotla Municipal council, says the prayer was later expanded to cover the states of Punjab and Haryana as well, bringing dozens of municipal bodies



from across the two states into the ambit of the case.

The matter gained urgency when, in September 2023, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ambala, Phalit Sharma, wrote a formal representation

complaining that stray dogs had made it difficult for him and his colleagues to carry out their work. In his letter, he stated:

"Since shifting into the allotted house, undersigned got oneself saved from stray dogs' attack twice and official staff also faced the same attack... even general public at large including people moving on two wheelers are commonly experiencing such horrifying experience... I am feeling unsafe because of the total defiance of local authorities concerned against repeated directions of Hon'ble High Court to check this menace." The judge added that despite repeated requests to the Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Commissioner, Ambala, no effective action had been taken.

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Medical College, Patiala, has set September 20 as deadline to submit the bond.

Demanding immediate rollback of the rule, the IMA, Punjab chapter, in a statement issued Thursday, said, "This regressive and punitive measure, which includes a mandatory service

bond of up to two years or a penalty of Rs 20 lakh, coupled with the insistence on property-based sureties, is unacceptable and must be withdrawn immediately.

The policy has created immense financial and mental distress for students and their families, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. It is a move that threatens to dismantle the aspirations of thousands of aspiring doctors who have worked tirelessly to secure a seat in government medical colleges."

Punjab IMA president Dr Vikas Chhabra said, "The Rs 20 lakh penalty, along with the recent annual fee hikes, places an exorbitant financial burden on students. It contradicts the very purpose of government medical colleges, which is to provide affordable and accessible medical education."

# Gang wars, drugs, assaults: Arvind Kejriwal jabs Goa BJP after attack on activist

**Social activist Rama Kankonkar was attacked by six people on Thursday in Panjim's Caranzalem area. The police have arrested five accused, while one suspect is on the run.**

**UP man gets death sentence for raping and killing 7-year-old niece**



Agency New Delhi.

A court in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur on Thursday awarded the death penalty to a 38-year-old man for the rape and murder of his seven-year-old niece, a government lawyer said on Friday, adding that the court also imposed a fine of Rs 13,000 on him. The incident took place under the Imalia Sultanpur police station area in the Sitapur district in January 2019. Additional District Judge (POCSO) Bhagirath Verma held Neelu guilty and awarded him the death penalty. "This brutal incident against an innocent girl shames humanity, and such criminals have no right to live," Verma said in his verdict. The court described the case as "rarest of the rare" and noted that the accused posed a threat to society.

Additional District Government Counsel, Govind Mishra, told reporters here that Neelu raped his seven-year-old niece and dumped her body in the Sarayan river after killing her.

The court awarded the death penalty to Neelu under IPC sections 302 (murder), 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder), 376AB (rape of woman under 12 years of age) and the POCSO Act, added Mishra.

**In Dabur vs Patanjali Fight Over Chyawanprash, A Court Warning For Ramdev**

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court has cautioned Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and Patanjali Foods Ltd against persisting with their appeal in a dispute with Dabur India over advertisements for chyawanprash, warning that the company could face costs if it does not withdraw its challenge. A division bench comprising Justice C Hari Shankar and Justice Om Prakash Shukla, hearing the appeal this week, took exception to Patanjali's decision to contest an earlier order that required the removal of disparaging references from its promotional campaign. The bench noted that the original order, passed in July, did not mandate a complete withdrawal of the advertisement but only directed Patanjali to delete specific objectionable lines.

The conflict traces back to December 2024, when Dabur, one of India's oldest and largest consumer goods companies, moved the Delhi High Court against Patanjali's chyawanprash advertising campaign. Dabur alleged that Patanjali's claims were misleading, defamatory and damaging to its reputation.

Dabur, which has marketed chyawanprash for decades, argued that Patanjali's advertisements suggested that rival products, including its own, contained mercury and were therefore unsafe for children. The company also challenged Patanjali's claim that its chyawanprash was prepared with 51 herbs, while implying that Dabur's version contained only 40.

Dabur maintained that the advertisements harmed consumer trust built over generations. Patanjali, co-founded by yoga guru Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna, defended its campaign as legitimate self-promotion. The company stated that its advertisements did not name Dabur or make direct comparisons.

The company argued that the statements in question were based on public information, including product labels, and therefore could not be deemed misleading. On July 3, 2025, Justice Mini Pushkarna, sitting as a single judge of the Delhi High Court, passed an interim order on Dabur's plea.



Gang wars, drugs, harassment of women and now this assault - show a complete failure of the law and order machinery under the BJP in Goa. The people of Goa deserve better," Kejriwal said in a post on X.

According to the police in Panjim, two accused, Anthony Nadar and Francis Nadar, were caught in Dodamarg, Maharashtra, while Suresh Naik, Mingul Araujo, and

Manish Hadfakar were arrested at the Margao Railway Station while preparing to flee the state.

While confirming the arrests, Superintendent of Police (North) Rahul Gupta assured that the police will take preventive measures to ensure such incidents are not repeated in the future. Gupta added that five to six police teams have been deployed to locate the sixth accused.

Kankonkar, who is currently undergoing treatment at the Goa Medical College and Hospital, told the police that the accused punched and kicked him, smeared cow dung on his face and flung him onto the road. In the wake of the incident, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the accused would be given the strictest punishment.

**"Go See Preamble": Supreme Court Junks Plea In Banu Mushtaq-Dussehra Row**

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court has rejected a petition challenging the Karnataka government's decision to invite Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq as the chief guest to Dussehra festivities at the famous Chamundeshwari Hills on Monday. A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta slammed the petitioner while questioning the grounds to challenge the High Court order rejecting the plea.

Justice Nath asked the petitioner to go and read the Preamble to the Indian Constitution and asked how he might expect the state to differentiate between its subjects on basis of religion. Reminding the petitioner that the Dussehra celebrations are, in fact, an event organised by the state government, the top court cited past precedents, including one in which Kannada poet KS Nissar Ahmed was invited as chief guest to the event.

Justice Nath asked, "Were your fundamental rights not affected back then?" Senior Advocate PB Suresh, who appeared for the petitioner, told the court the invitation to Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate a religious ceremony infringed upon fundamental rights under Article 25, which says the State cannot interfere with religious activity of citizens. He further argued that letting Ms Mushtaq perform the religious ceremonies would breach the constitutional rights to the freedom of religious practices of the Hindu community. He argued that while she could inaugurate the event, she must not be allowed inside the temple, not only because she was a non-Hindu but also because she lacked secular credentials because of her earlier statements. However, the top court reminded the petitioner this is, in fact, a state and not a religious event. The petition was filed by HS Gaurav against the High Court's judgment that held that participation of a non-Hindu person in the festival did not violate any constitutional right.

**Despite Tin-Shed Structures, Schools Performing Well: Delhi Government To High Court**

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi government on Wednesday defended the condition of several government schools functioning under tin sheds, and told the Delhi High Court that despite infrastructural constraints, the schools are performing "excellently" on academic fronts.

The submission came in response to a petition highlighting the plight of students studying in tin-shed classrooms in the national capital. The petition, filed by advocate Ashok Agarwal, concerns three government schools, including Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya at Kamla Market and two schools in Ashok Nagar.

**Delhi Government's response on Kamla Market School**

In its affidavit, the government stated that the Directorate of Education has rationalised that no student is required to sit in tin-shed classrooms. The school has 38 permanent classrooms, all allocated for teaching. Additionally, the multipurpose hall, equivalent to four classrooms, has been converted into two classrooms.

Administrative spaces such as offices, staff rooms, and the principal's room have been temporarily shifted to functional tin sheds until permanent construction is completed. "With this arrangement, all academic activities will be conducted in pucca rooms," the affidavit assured.

**On Ashok Nagar schools**

On the two Ashok Nagar schools, the government defended their functioning under tin sheds, citing strong academic performance. In the 2023-24 academic year, Class X pass percentages were 98.43 per cent at the Girls' School (GGSS) and 95.8 per cent at the Boys' School (GBSS). The results further improved in 2024-25, with pass rates rising to 98.75 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively, the Delhi government said.

## Delhi riots case: Court adjourns hearing of Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid bail pleas

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Friday adjourned to September 22 the hearing on bail pleas of activists Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Gulfishah Fatima and Meenar Haider in the UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots in Delhi. A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Manmohan deferred the pleas. The activists have challenged a September 2 Delhi High Court order which denied bail to nine people, including Khalid and Imam, saying "conspiratorial" violence

under the garb of demonstrations or protests by citizens could not be allowed. Besides Khalid and Imam, those who faced bail rejection are Fatima, Haider, Mohd Saleem Khan,



The high court said the Constitution affords citizens the right to protest and carry out demonstrations or agitations, provided they are orderly, peaceful and without arms, and such actions must be within the bounds of

law.

While the high court said the right to participate in peaceful protests and to make speeches in public meetings was said to have been protected under

Article 19(1)(a), and couldn't be blatantly curtailed, it observed the right was "not absolute" and "subject to reasonable restrictions". "If the exercise of an unfettered right to protest were permitted, it would damage the constitutional framework and impinge upon the law and order situation in the country," the bail rejection order said. Khalid, Imam and the rest of the accused persons were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

## Firing outside Disha Patani's Bareilly house: Delhi Police apprehend 2 minors who did recce, fired single shot day earlier

Agency New Delhi.

Two days after two accused in the firing outside the ancestral residence of Bollywood actor Disha Patani in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly were killed in an encounter, the Delhi Police said on Friday that two minors, who allegedly conducted reconnaissance and fired a shot in the air at the location a day earlier, were apprehended.

The Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar gang had claimed responsibility for the incident.

"The movements of the two minors were caught on CCTV near Patani's residence on September 11, at around 4.40 am. The duo opened one round of fire, but that went unnoticed on that day," a police officer said. The next day, when a dozen shots were

fired and the incident was captured on CCTV, the police registered a First Information Report and started the

minors were apprehended in Delhi by a Delhi Police Counter-Intelligence Unit team. They will be handed over to the Bareilly police, the police said.

In a social media post where they purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack, the Godara-Brar gang stated that the firing was in retaliation for an alleged insult directed at spiritual gurus Premananand Ji Maharaj and Anirudh Acharya Ji Maharaj by Disha's sister Khushboo.

Brar, alias Satinderjeet Singh, is suspected to be hiding in the United States, and Godara in the United Kingdom.

Both gangsters are wanted by the National Investigation Agency and several state police forces.



probe. Ravindra and Arun, the alleged shooters involved in the September 12 incident, were killed in an encounter in Ghaziabad on Wednesday night, in a joint operation by three state police forces.

## Sam Pitroda returns. Says felt at home in Pakistan. BJP takes 26/11 jab

**Sam Pitroda, no stranger to controversies, urged India to focus on its neighbourhood first, asserting that he always felt at home during his visits to Pakistan, a state sponsor of terrorism in India.**

Agency New Delhi.

Controversy's favourite child, Sam Pitroda, called for a shift in India's foreign policy to focus on its neighbourhood first, asserting that he always "felt at home" during his visits to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Interestingly, all the three countries have recently seen regime changes followed by periods of unrest. In an interview with IANS, Pitroda, who heads the Indian Overseas Congress, said that despite issues of violence and terrorism in the neighbourhood, India must engage with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"Our foreign policy must first focus on our neighbourhood. Can we really substantially improve relationships with our neighbours? They are all going through difficult times and there is no need to fight. There are issues of violence and terrorism, but in the neighbourhood

there is a common gene pool," Pitroda said.

### 'FEEL AT HOME IN PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH'

Recalling his visits to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, Pitroda said he always felt at home during such trips.

"I have been to Pakistan, and I must tell you, I felt at home. I have been to Bangladesh, Nepal, and I feel at home. I don't feel like I am in a foreign country. They look like me, they talk like me, they like my songs, they eat my food. We must learn to live with them in peace and harmony," he further said. While Nepal and Bangladesh saw regime changes following youth-led protests, Pakistan also saw a period of violence after the sudden ouster of Imran Khan as Prime Minister in 2022.

Interestingly, Pitroda's call to mend ties with Pakistan comes months after a terror attack in Pahalgam left 25 tourists dead. The attack spurred India to cut down on diplomatic ties as the

Pitroda's remarks drew a sharp response from the BJP, which linked it to the UPA's response after the 26/11 Mumbai attack, which left 166 dead. "Rahul Gandhi's blue-eyed boy Sam Pitroda says he 'felt at home' in Pakistan. No wonder UPA took no tough action against Pakistan even after 26/11. Pakistan's favourite, Congress's chosen!" BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari tweeted.

**NO STRANGER TO CONTROVERSIES**

No stranger to controversy over his frequent off-the-cuff remarks, Pitroda came under fire last year over his racist comments.



relationship reached its lowest ebb. Subsequently, India launched Operation Sindo to destroy key terror camps deep inside Pakistan. The remark also leaves Congress with an

## NEWS BOX

## NZ vs AUS T20I series: Josh Inglis ruled out with calf strain in big blow for Australia

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Australia's preparations for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand have suffered a setback with wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis ruled out due to a right calf strain. Inglis experienced discomfort after a running session in Perth, and scans confirmed the injury, sidelining him from all three matches at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui, from October 1 to 4. In his absence, the selectors have called up Alex Carey as a replacement. Carey, who was set to play for South Australia in the Sheffield Shield opener against Western Australia on October 4, will now join the national squad and take on wicketkeeping duties. "It's an ongoing thing. It's sort of been around for a couple years now. For me, it's been really frustrating. It's not been something that's really kept me out of the game," Inglis was quoted as saying to ESPNcricinfo. "It's just something I've got to manage. So at the minute, I'm not really able to bat as much as I'd like, so I'm not able to spend the time in the nets to be able to work on new things," Inglis added.

Australia dealing with injury concerns

Australia are already dealing with the absence of several key players ahead of the series. Test captain Pat Cummins is sidelined with a lumbar bone stress issue, all-rounder Cameron Green has been rested to focus on Sheffield Shield cricket before the Ashes, and pacer Nathan Ellis has withdrawn due to



personal reasons. With Inglis now added to the unavailable list, the pressure intensifies on captain Mitchell Marsh and senior players like Glenn Maxwell, Travis Head, and Marcus Stoinis as Australia aim to fine-tune their combinations in the lead-up to the 2026 T20 World Cup.

## Skating by day, coding by night: Engineering student Anandkumar's road to glory

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Anandkumar Velkumar, a 22-year-old speed skater from Chennai, did what very few Indian athletes have even dared to dream of. At the World Speed Skating Championships in Beidaihe, China, he zipped past the competition to take gold and also become India's first-ever world champion in inline speed skating. All this while splitting his time between dodging traffic during early training sessions in Chennai and late-night assignments as a computer engineering student. "It actually felt really amazing to be world champion in my sport. It's every athlete's dream to become world champion one day in their respective sport, and I was able to make that happen today,"



Anandkumar said in an exclusive interaction with IndiaToday.in. Since making the jump to senior competitions, Anandkumar has hovered around greatness, earning bronze at the 2023 Asian Games in the 3000m speed skating event. But standing on top of the podium? That wasn't on his radar. "To be honest, I didn't expect to win gold. My target was to be on the podium. I'm really happy that I was able to go one step further," he says. The preparations have been consistent. The only difference was that the race just clicked this time. Everything worked out the right way," he adds. That "one step" turned into history. In the Senior Men's 1000m sprint, every movement from the start to the turns to the finish, aligned perfectly. A race meant to secure a medal instead rewrote Indian skating's record books.

**THE GRIND BEHIND THE GLORY**  
Speed skating demands not just physical endurance and explosiveness but tactical intelligence. "In skating, the way you race, your strategies and tactics, matters a lot, especially at the international level," he

# West Indies hoping to do a New Zealand on India with strong pace attack: Daren Sammy

**West Indies coach Daren Sammy believes his strong pace attack led by Shamar Joseph, Alzarri Joseph, and Jayden Searles can take 20 wickets and upset India in the upcoming two-Test series starting October 2 in Ahmedabad.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

"West Indies coach Daren Sammy is confident that his strong pace attack can help the side pull an upset over India in the upcoming away series, just like how New Zealand were able to do last year. The Blackcaps secured a historic 3-0 win, which was India's first home loss in 12 years. West Indies will be the first team to visit India in the new World Test Championship cycle and Sammy feels that his pacers can operate well in any given condition and excel. The West Indies coach said that the likes of Shamar Joseph, Alzarri Joseph and Jayden Searles can trouble the Indian batters and take 20 wickets. "We have found ourselves in a position where our seam



attack could operate in any conditions," Sammy said in a press conference. "That six-to-eight-metre length works across the world. But in our fast-bowling department, we've got four different guys who have their own variety." "You have Shamar Joseph, who's very skiddy, Jayden, who has a strong front leg and can swing the ball both ways, then you have Alzarri Joseph with his height and the bounce he could extract. So, again,

we take confidence in that, especially the way they've been bowling over the last year. The ability to take 20 wickets, because that's what you will need in India. If you can't take 20 wickets in India, you are on the back foot and we have a bowling line-up of that, especially from the seam department, that could take 20 wickets." "The process remains the same. The lines and lengths don't change in terms of that six-to-eight-metre length.

## Jonathan Trott rues basic errors after Afghanistan's Asia Cup exit: Hard one to swallow

**Afghanistan crashed out of the Asia Cup after a six-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka, with head coach Jonathan Trott blaming "basic errors" in bowling and fielding. Despite Mohammad Nabi's blistering 22-ball 60, Trott said a poor powerplay and lapses in execution sealed their elimination.**

**AMSTERDAM. (Agency)**

Head coach Jonathan Trott admitted Afghanistan paid the price for "basic errors" after their Asia Cup exit following a six-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. The result confirmed Sri Lanka and Bangladesh's progression to the Super Four. Despite Mohammad Nabi's explosive 22-ball 60 with three fours and

six sixes, which powered Afghanistan to 169 for eight, Trott felt his side squandered the advantage with poor bowling and fielding lapses. Trott, also a former England batter, highlighted a wayward powerplay as



the turning point, where Sri Lanka raced to 53 runs, seizing early control and ultimately sealing Afghanistan's elimination from the tournament. "It was a very disappointing loss and a hard one to swallow. We felt we were in a good position, especially after Nabi's heroics helped us reach 170. The batters actually played well, but we let them off with our bowling and fielding," Trott

said in the post-match press conference.

**Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan Asia Cup: Highlights**

"We didn't start well in the powerplay with the ball and gave them an early advantage.

Too many basic errors—whether in batting, bowling, or fielding—cost us. You don't win games at cricket, certainly in tournaments like this with those mistakes. Full credit to Bangladesh, who go through along with Sri Lanka," Trott said.

Trott shares an update on Rashid Khan. Trott also shared an update on Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan, who landed awkwardly on his back in the 16th over while attempting a run out but managed to complete his spell before walking off.

"Given the amount of cricket he plays and his history of back surgery, I think he just landed a bit awkwardly on his back. He was fine, though—came off for a short rest, then went back on, but unfortunately wasn't able to win us the game today," Trott added.

## Australia captain Pat Cummins on Ashes participation: A bit of wait and see

**Pat Cummins said that he is hoping to play all five Tests during the Ashes series, but admitted that it will be a bit of a waiting game for him when it comes to his fitness. Cummins hasn't bowled since the West Indies tour earlier in the year.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Australia captain Pat Cummins has said that he hopes to play all five Tests against England during the Ashes series but admitted that it will be a bit of a waiting game for him when it comes to his fitness. The Aussie skipper has been ruled out of the upcoming white-ball series in October against New Zealand and India due to a 'lumbar bone stress'. The 32-year-old hasn't



bowled since the West Indies tour in June–July and no return date has been set so far for his return to the fold. Speaking to reporters on Friday, September 19, Cummins said that there are no hard and fast plans in place as he is doing a bit of gym work but said that rest will be key for

him. "There are no hard and fast plans yet," Cummins told reporters. "I'm still doing a bit of gym and keeping things kicking over, but with this kind of injury, it's rest and then we'll build back and kind of work back from the Ashes. Still really hopeful to be able to be part of the Ashes. But it is a little bit of a wait and see. At the moment, I'm feeling pretty good, so nothing's changed from what it was a couple of weeks ago really." "Too far out to say anything." Cummins went on to say that the Ashes is a bit too far out to say anything at the moment, and he is keeping himself ready for the series. "The aim is five. Every summer, you kind of aim for five." "This one might be a little bit different because you're coming in a little bit different than other ones. But the starting aim is for five. Once we get closer, we're probably going to chat through potentially more realistic situations. It's honestly too far out to say. But the aim at the moment is to try and be ready for all of it," said Cummins.

# FIFA Rankings: India drops down to 134, Spain reclaims top spot

**TOKYO. (Agency)**

India have dropped one place to 134 despite a good showing in the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan, where they finished third. Spain, meanwhile, moved to No.1 for the first time in 11 years while Germany dropped out of the top 10 altogether. Under new coach, Khalid Jamil, India had finished third in the eight-nation tournament after beating Oman on penalties in the play-off game earlier in the year. India will be next in action against Singapore in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, with both legs taking place in October. Spain returns to the top European champions Spain have returned to the top of the rankings, ending Argentina's two-year reign as No.1. The reigning world champions have slipped to third in the rankings as France moved one spot up to second after their back-to-back wins over Ukraine and Iceland. Spain have returned to the ranking summit after a

making a sensational start to qualifying for World Cup 26. They kicked off their campaign with a 3-0 win in Bulgaria, then made it back-to-back away victories with a 6-0 trouncing of Trkiye. La Roja last topped the ranking back in June 2014, when they were world and European champions," read the statement from FIFA. Argentina dropped down after their latest defeat to Ecuador during the World Cup qualifiers. Portugal has also moved up a spot to No.5 in the rankings, while Italy round off the top ten. Slovakia were the biggest movers in the rankings after the latest update as they jumped ten spots to be placed at No. 42. This comes after a sensational 2-0 win over Germany, who slipped down three spots after the loss. The four-time world champions are currently 12th in the rankings. Canada also reached their best-ever ranking of 26 after the latest update while Kosovo's stunning win over Sweden made them go to 91.



Maybe it's just adjusting whether it's a touch fuller or touch further back into the pitch. I have full confidence in that and it makes me smile knowing that we go out bowling and we take 20 wickets. And that's the first objective in the Test match," said Sammy. "Going to India with the mindset to win West Indies last won a series in India against India all the way back in 1983. Sammy said that he has spent the last few weeks checking through data to come up with the best team for the series. The Windies coach said they will try to emulate what New Zealand did last year and spring a surprise. "From my end, the ten days leading up to the [first] Test match [in India], we'll be drilling in all these things and planning very well as to how we're going to beat India in India," Sammy said. "We're definitely going down there with the mindset to win. We're not just going to go down there and think, 'oh, it's India'. No. New Zealand went there and did incredibly well and that we should take inspiration from. But again, it's understanding the things that New Zealand did in those conditions and try to emulate it with our guys as well," said Sammy.

## PV Sindhu crashes out of China Masters with quarterfinal defeat to An Se Young

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

PV Sindhu crashed out of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament in Shenzhen on Friday, suffering a straight-games defeat to World No.1 An Se Young of Korea in the women's singles quarterfinals. The two-time Olympic medallist went down 14-21, 13-21 in just 38 minutes, unable to match the Korean star's consistency and control. The loss extended Sindhu's winless run against An Se Young, with the Korean now holding a commanding 8-0 lead in their head-to-head record. More tellingly, Sindhu has managed to win only one game across those eight encounters, underlining her struggles against Young. Friday's performance was in stark contrast to Sindhu's earlier matches in Shenzhen, where she looked sharp and aggressive. In the opening round, the Indian demolished Denmark's Julie Dawall Jakobsen 21-4, 21-10 in just 27 minutes, showcasing her dominance. She followed it up with a



composed 21-15, 21-15 win over World No.6 Pornpawee Chochuwong in the pre-quarterfinals. However, against Young, Sindhu appeared rushed and erratic, often gifting points through unforced errors as she tried desperately to break her opponent's rhythm. The defeat also means Sindhu's wait for a semifinal appearance on the BWF World Tour in 2025 continues.

Despite flashes of brilliance in recent tournaments, consistency and the ability to overcome top-ranked opponents remain concerns for the former world champion.

An Se Young in excellent form in China Masters An Se Young, meanwhile, marched into yet another semifinal and will face the winner of the quarterfinal between Japan's Akane Yamaguchi and Indonesia's Putri Wardani.

## Waiting for your ITR refund Here is how to track it

### MUMBAI (Agency)

After the 16 September ITR deadline, many taxpayers are closely monitoring their bank accounts for refunds. While a few have received them swiftly, others are still waiting as processing delays or checks by the Income Tax Department slow things down.

#### HOW TO CHECK YOUR REFUND STATUS

To check your ITR refund status, visit the official Income Tax e-filing website at [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in) and log in using your PAN and password. Ensure your PAN is linked with Aadhaar, or you can link it via the "Link Now" option. Once logged in, go to the Services menu and select Know Your Refund Status. You can also navigate through the e-File tab, click on Income Tax Returns, and then choose View Filed Returns. Here, you'll be able to see the refund status for the relevant assessment year.

#### WHAT YOUR ITR STATUS MEANS

The portal displays different statuses depending on where your return stands. "Submitted and pending for e-verification" means you have filed but not confirmed your return.

"Successfully e-verified" means it has been received but not processed yet. "Processed" confirms completion. A "defective" status signals missing or inconsistent details, and you may get a notice under Section 139(9) to fix it. In rare cases, your file may be transferred to your assessing officer for further review.

#### WHY REFUNDS GET DELAYED

Refunds may be held up for several reasons. The most common include: a bank account that is not pre-validated, incorrect IFSC codes, closed accounts, or a mismatch between bank details and PAN records.

Refunds also face delays if your PAN is not linked with Aadhaar, or if TDS details in your return do not align with those in Form 26AS. In some cases, large refunds undergo additional scrutiny.

## Sensex tumbles 500 points: Is the stock market rally over

### CHENNAI (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices fell sharply on Friday after a string of gains in the previous sessions, signaling that the market may be taking a short breather. Around midday, the S&P BSE Sensex was down 471.67 points, settling at 82,542.29, while the NSE Nifty50 declined 130.20 points to 25,293.40.

Most of the broader market indices were also in the red during the session, as volatility saw a slight uptick. The decline primarily reflected profit booking by investors, who cashed in on the rally driven over the past few days by optimism around US rate cuts and progress in India-US trade discussions. Despite the pullback, market experts remain confident that the fundamentals supporting Indian equities remain strong. They believe that, barring any adverse developments, markets could continue higher, especially during the festive season. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, noted, "The market is on an uptrend and is well positioned to set new records soon. Fundamentals, technicals, and sentiments are favourable for a steady uptrend."

Explaining further, Vijayakumar said, "Fundamentally, earnings are likely to improve from Q3 onwards. Technically, the market construct is favourable for an up move since there are shorts in the system and short covering is happening, which can accelerate further." He also highlighted the positive market sentiment generated by reports of a potential India-US trade deal, which could see the removal of the penal tariff and a reduction in reciprocal duties, according to high-level government sources.

## Personal advance tax falls 7.3% while overall direct taxes rise

### New Delhi (Agency)

Advance collection of personal income tax has seen a decline of 7.3 percent to Rs 96,784 crore as of September 17 of 2025-26 against Rs 1,04,411 crore collected during the same period last fiscal year. The decrease is likely owing to an increase in the threshold limit from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 12 lakh, which was announced in the Budget this year. However, corporate advance tax collection showed a growth of 6.11 percent to Rs 3,52,129 crore during the said period. As a result, the total advance tax collection for 2025-26 saw a modest growth of 2.9 percent, reaching Rs 4,48,913 crore. Despite the dip in advance collection of personal income tax, the broader direct tax story remains positive.

Net direct tax collections (after adjusting for refunds) have registered a robust growth of 9.18 percent for the fiscal year so far. The net collection until September 17 stands at Rs 10,82,579 crore, compared to Rs 9,91,512 crore in the corresponding period of FY 2024-25.

Net corporate taxes grew by 4.93 percent to Rs 4,72,297 crore, while net personal income tax collections showed a jump of 13.67 percent to Rs 5,83,685 crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) remained nearly flat with a minor increase, collecting Rs 26,306 crore.

A key driver behind this strong net growth is a substantial reduction in refunds issued by the department. Refunds have fallen by nearly 24% to Rs 1,60,527 crore this year, from Rs 2,10,858 crore last year. This indicates improved efficiency in tax assessment and processing. According to Vivek Jalan, partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, the direct tax collections till 17th September 25 seem to be in alignment with the policy changes by the ministry of finance and procedural changes by CBST in the recent past.

## India Is Largest Flexible Office Market In Asia-Pacific: Report

**According to the report, flex demand has risen nearly sixfold since 2020, fuelled by occupiers prioritising shorter commitments, managed solutions, and speed-to-market strategies.**

### NEW DELHI (Agency)

India is the largest flexible workspace market in the Asia-Pacific region (APAC), with 79.7 million square feet (MSF) of stock, across top 8 cities as of the Q2 2025, a report said on Friday.

"It is expected to reach 85 MSF by year-end and surpass 100 MSF by 2026," Cushman and Wakefield said in its report on Friday. According to the report, flex demand has risen nearly sixfold since 2020, fuelled by occupiers prioritising shorter commitments, managed solutions, and speed-to-market strategies.

In 2024 alone, flexible space accounted for 15 per cent of total new office leasing, confirming its mainstream adoption.



Operator expansion has also accelerated sharply. Over the past three years (2022-2024), flexible workspace providers leased 33.5 MSF, equivalent to more than 5 lakh seats. Annual operator take-up has tripled in just five years, from 4.3 MSF in 2020 to 15.4 MSF in 2024, firmly establishing flexible workspace as a core workplace solution rather than an alternate option, the report stated.

Flexibility and agility are driving India's flex space story, and this trend is set to accelerate as firms actively seek business-ready offices to rapidly scale or adjust

headcount as needed.

"The bulk of this demand is coming from international enterprises, which accounted for 72 per cent of flex seat absorption in 2024, while start-ups took up 28 per cent," the report noted.

The significant influx of Global Capability Centres and other new companies entering India is accelerating this shift, further solidifying flexible workspaces as the preferred model for companies seeking speed, resilience, and growth in a dynamic market. The managed office/enterprise model now dominates,

accounting for 70-80 per cent of demand post-COVID, well ahead of traditional coworking. According to the report, the bulk of this stock remains concentrated in the top 8 cities, with Bengaluru leading the charge, holding 30 per cent of the national flex inventory, followed by Delhi-NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad.

Bengaluru also leads the demand, accounting for an average of one-third of annual enterprise transactions in the country. Beyond these leading Metros, occupiers are increasingly expanding to Tier-II cities such as Chandigarh, Jaipur, Kochi, Trivandrum, Coimbatore, Visakhapatnam, and Bhubaneswar to tap into new talent pools and capitalise on lower operating costs. India stands out for the strength and maturity of its flexible workspace market.

"Scoring a perfect 100 on Cushman and Wakefield's maturity index, India has outpaced its global peers with well-established office markets, including the United Kingdom at 98 per cent, France at 97 per cent, the United States at 81 per cent, and both Japan and Singapore at 77 per cent respectively," the report highlighted.

## Explained: Why Intel shares jumped 22% after Nvidia's \$5 billion investment

### New Delhi (Agency)

Shares of Intel jumped 22% on Thursday following news of a \$5 billion investment by Nvidia and a strategic deal between the two chipmakers, news agency Reuters reported. Analysts said the agreement could strengthen Intel's next-generation manufacturing technology, even without a direct commitment from Nvidia to use it for its own chips. Under the deal, Nvidia will acquire roughly a 4% stake in Intel, and both companies agreed to collaborate on multiple generations of joint products. These products aim to link Intel's central processors with Nvidia's artificial intelligence and graphics chips using Nvidia's proprietary NVLink connection technology, promising faster and more integrated performance.

#### BOOST TO INTEL

Analysts quoted in a Reuters report noted that this partnership could give Intel an edge over rivals such as Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) because Intel chips will now be paired with Nvidia's flagship products in a way no other third-party chipmaker currently achieves.

Early development of these joint products could also provide an indirect boost to Intel's 14A manufacturing process, slated for 2027, which is a critical project whose viability depends on securing sufficient customer commitments.

"Any relationship with Nvidia at this point, while not explicitly talking about foundry services, should be seen as a possible extension of the partnership in the future," said Jack Gold, principal analyst at J. Gold Associates, referring to Intel's manufacturing arm. Intel Foundry will supply central processors for the joint products and package Nvidia chips for some, while engineers from both companies collaborate to turn Nvidia's technology into physical chips at Intel facilities.

#### WHY THIS DEAL MATTERS

Traditionally, both Intel and Nvidia have relied on external foundries such as TSMC, making this closer collaboration significant for production volumes and future manufacturing investments.

"It gives me a higher degree of confidence that 14A continues, at which point Intel should have very good returns on its 14A investments," Ben Bajarin, CEO of Creative Strategies told the news agency. For Nvidia, the deal offers access to a wide range of business and government customers with decades of software built for Intel chips. Industry analysts noted that AMD may face challenges as the partnership aligns two major competitors in ways that could intensify market pressures.

## PFRDA Permits Physical Submission Of UPS Requests To Nodal Offices Till 30 September 2025

### TIRUPPUR (Agency)

New Delhi: As the deadline for exercising the option to switch to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is approaching on 30 September 2025, the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) has informed that subscribers put in their request via physical submission also.

In case a subscriber is unable to submit the UPS request online through the CRA system due to any reason, including non-availability of the online platform or technical issues, they may submit a duly filled physical application form to their concerned Nodal Office on or before the due date, PFRDA has said. Such requests will be processed by the Nodal

Office as per the prescribed procedure. Ministry of Finance has asked all eligible employees to exercise their option well before the deadline to

further the one-time, one-way switch facility for Central Government employees who have already opted for UPS, allowing them to revert to the

National Pension System (NPS) under specified conditions: Eligible employees under UPS can switch to NPS only once, and cannot switch back to UPS. The switch must be exercised at least one year before superannuation or three months before voluntary retirement, whichever is earlier.

The switch facility will not be allowed in cases of removal, dismissal, or compulsory retirement as a penalty, or where disciplinary proceedings are ongoing or contemplated. Those who do not opt for the switch within the stipulated time will continue under UPS by default.



avoid any last-minute difficulties and to ensure timely processing of their requests. Employees who choose to remain in NPS cannot opt for UPS after this date.

## New GST rates from September 22: Why you should double-check product MRPs

**Consumers must remain alert as new GST rates take effect September 22; checking MRPs carefully ensures savings are realised, avoiding overpayment due to old pricing or retailer confusion.**

### New Delhi (Agency)

New Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates will come into effect across India from September 22. While this is good news for consumers, it also means shoppers need to be extra careful when buying packaged goods. The Department of Consumer Affairs has issued a revised advisory to make it easier for companies to implement the changes, but the system could create some confusion at local stores. Under the new rules, manufacturers, packers, and importers



may choose to stick new price labels on products made before September 22, while the old MRP will still remain visible. This could result in some products showing two MRPs—the original price and the revised GST price. For example, a pack of biscuits that

originally had an MRP of Rs 50 may now show a revised MRP of Rs 48 reflecting the new GST. A shopkeeper unfamiliar with the change may still charge Rs 50, meaning you could end up paying more than you should. Previously, companies were asked to advertise revised MRPs in

two newspapers. This step is now waived. Instead, they only need to circulate updated price lists to dealers and retailers, with copies shared with legal metrology authorities.

Old packaging can continue to be used until March 31, 2026, or until the stock runs out. MRPs on old packaging can be corrected using stickers, stamps, or even digital printing. Manoj Mishra, Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat, said, "The government's clarification reduces compliance burdens for businesses while still ensuring transparency for consumers. But shoppers need to double-check MRPs to make sure they benefit from the GST reduction." In short, the new GST rates mean lower taxes, but buyers must stay alert. Always check the MRP on the package and the bill before paying, especially at smaller shops where old prices may still be charged. Being vigilant ensures that the benefit of the GST cut reaches your pocket.

# Neha Kakkar

To Join Avika Gor-Milind Chandwani's Wedding Festivities On Pati Patni Aur Panga



Pati Patni Aur Panga, the celebrity couple reality show, has been captivating viewers with its star-studded cast, energetic hosts, and engaging format. Every week, the show comes up with fascinating tasks that highlight the couple's lighter side and emotional anecdotes from their marriage. This week, the couple reality show is all set to kick-start participants Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani's wedding festivities.

As the countdown to their grand shaadi begins, Pati Patni Aur Panga will kick off the celebrations by revealing their wedding invitation card. Adding to the charm of the much-awaited wedding, the makers have invited some famous personalities who will join the celebrations. Among those joining the upcoming episode is spiritual leader Radhe Maa. He will make a special appearance to bless all the couples, especially the bride and groom-to-be.

#### Neha Kakkar to appear in Pati Patni Aur Panga

Besides her, one of India's most popular singers, Neha Kakkar, will also join to stir up fresh pangas among the couples. Known for her infectious energy and hit tracks, Neha will definitely turn the stage into a musical feast and leave fans enthralled. Confirming her appearance, Abhishek Kumar recently dropped a post on Instagram with the singer. The television actor, who is now part of the reality show alongside Isha Malviya, shared some cheerful pictures with Neha from the Pati Patni Aur Panga sets. In the carousel, the two are seen sharing laughs and exuding their million-dollar.

## Divyanka Tripathi

Channels Her Inner 'Morni' In A Gorgeous Peacock Green Lehenga

Divyanka Tripathi is setting the internet ablaze with an enchanting traditional attire. The actress took to Instagram to share a series of pictures from her latest photoshoot, where she was seen exuding princess vibes in a gorgeous peacock green lehenga.

Divyanka dazzled in a contemporary lehenga which featured a peacock green voluminous skirt and a top adorned with intricate thread work featuring traditional Indian designs and a gorgeous peacock detail at the centre of the stone-studded top. Her lehenga created a fusion between traditional Indian craftsmanship and contemporary charm, making it a one-of-a-kind piece. She paired matching Kundan jewellery to complete the look. With her irresistible charm and a bright smile, Divyanka took the whole look to the next level. Sharing the pictures, the actress wittily wrote in the caption, "Yeh dil mange Morni!"

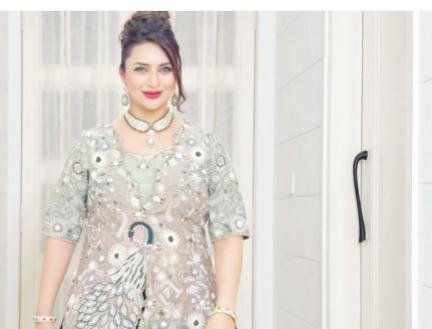
#### What Were the Fans' Reactions?

Divyanka Tripathi looked like a real-life princess in the gorgeous traditional ensemble. As soon as the actress shared the pictures, fans became awestruck and quickly took over the comment section to praise her beauty. One fan wrote, "Prettiest princess. You are looking so pyaari." Another fan commented, "You look so beautiful in his green outfit. You wear every outfit like it was made just for you," followed by a

bunch of heart emojis. A fan complimented her, saying, "Just look at you, simply adorable, uff." Someone else wrote, "Indeed a Morni," while another fan called her "Queen." Other fans were seen flooding her comment section with heart and fire emojis.

#### Divyanka Tripathi's Career

Divyanka Tripathi is one of the leading and highest-paid actresses of Hindi television. For nearly two decades, the actress has been capturing thousands of hearts with



her impressive screen presence and charm. On the work front, Divyanka Tripathi was last seen in the web series titled The Magic of Shiri in 2024. The Magic of Shiri contains 10 episodes and follows the journey of a homemaker who pursues her long-forgotten dreams and becomes a stage magician after her family business shuts down. Divyanka Tripathi was seen performing in the titular role, for which she had received wide praise from critics as well as audiences.

## Natasa Stankovic's Sweet Gesture Towards Underprivileged Kids Viral



Natasa Stankovic, actress and ex-wife of Indian cricketer Hardik Pandya, is a hardcore fitness enthusiast and often shares her workout videos with her fans and admirers on social media, motivating others to focus on their health. On Thursday, the diva was papped walking out of her gym after an intense workout session. During her appearance, what grabbed the viewers' attention was her kind gesture towards the underprivileged children on the streets of Mumbai. She expressed gratitude for all the love and support she received, adding that although her Bigg Boss 19 journey was short, it will remain unforgettable and special in her heart.

#### Natasa Stankovic's Kind Gesture

In a video shared on Instagram, Natasa is seen exuding her post-workout glow and heading towards her car after a workout. As she stepped ahead, a few underprivileged kids arrived and requested some food. However, Natasa didn't deny their request and offered them a few water bottles from her car.

#### Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Panday's Relationship

Natasa's personal life has always been under the spotlight, particularly her relationship with cricketer Hardik Pandya. The couple got married in an intimate ceremony in May 2020, and their son, Agastya, was born a few months later. In 2023, they repeated their vows in grand ceremonies based on both Hindu and Christian customs, demonstrating their cultural oneness. However, in July 2024, the couple announced their split, leaving their fans heartbroken. Despite their separation, the two continue to share parenting responsibilities for their kid and are frequently seen prioritising his happiness.

#### Natasa Stankovic's Work Front

On the acting front, Natasa made her big screen debut with director Prakash Jha's 2013 political drama film, Satyagrah, co-starring Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn and Kareena Kapoor. In the film, she had a special item number, Aiyo Ji, which turned out to be a hit.

## 'Salman Khan Would Come At Night And Leave In The Morning': Aishwarya Rai's Co-Star Recalls Their Affair



The buzz around Bollywood romances of the '90s still fascinates fans, and few tales are as talked-about as Aishwarya Rai and Salman Khan's brief but high-profile relationship. Actor Himani Shivpuri, who worked closely with Aishwarya during that era, recently shared candid memories of the stars on Red FM Podcasts.

Himani first met Aishwarya on the sets of Aa Ab Laut Chalein and later collaborated in films like Humara Dil Aapke Paas Hai and Umrao Jaan. "She was not very established back then. We were very close then," Himani recalled. She also reminisced about filming in Hyderabad, when Salman would frequently visit Aishwarya on set. "This was the time when she and Salman were going very strong, so Salman used to come every night and leave in the morning," she shared.

Beyond the glitz, Himani remembers acting as the mediator during heated moments between the couple. "I remember once we were shooting in Film City. Aishwarya was shooting with Abhishek for Rohan Sippy's film and Salman had come. He was telling me, 'Kya hai? Isko samjhao. Waheeda Rehman ko dekhe. Apne aap ko boht khubsurat samajhti hai.' I used to tell him to calm down, to stay quiet," she recounted.

Reflecting on their breakup, Himani stayed respectful: "It didn't work out. They will know best what was the problem between them." She also praised Aishwarya's character, saying, "More than a beauty, I think she is a very nice person."

Aishwarya Rai and Salman Khan were one of Bollywood's most talked-about couples in the late 1990s. Their relationship began after working together in Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam and quickly became a media sensation, with fans fascinated by their chemistry both on and off screen. The affair was intense and widely covered, marked by public attention and personal ups and downs. Though the relationship eventually ended, it remains one of the most memorable and high-profile romances in Bollywood history. Aishwarya went on to marry Abhishek Bachchan in 2007, and they welcomed daughter Aaradhyaa in 2011.

# Standing desks may help reduce weight in kids



Struggling to shed those extra kilos in your kids? Standing desks in schools may prove beneficial as they cut down on sedentary time in classrooms as well as help reduce body mass index (BMI) -- a key indicator of obesity -- by an average of 5.24 percentile points, new research has found. The findings showed that the students who had the stand-biased desks for two years averaged a three per cent drop in BMI, while those in traditional desks showed the two per cent increase typically associated with getting older. However, even those students who spent just one year in classrooms with stand-biased desks had lower mean BMIs than those who had traditional seated classrooms in their third and fourth grade years.

In addition, there weren't major differences between boys and girls, or between students of different races, suggesting that this intervention works across demographic groups. "These types of standing desks encourage the students to move instead of being forced to sit in poorly fitting, hard plastic chairs for six or seven hours of their day," said

Mark Benden, Associate Professor at the Texas A&M School of Public Health, US.

Moreover, these standing desks might also help students who aren't overweight maintain their BMI, while at the same time help those who are overweight or obese get to a healthier weight, said the paper published in the American Journal of Public Health.

"Research has shown that standing desks are positive for the teachers in terms of classroom management and student engagement, as well as positive for the children for their health, cognitive functioning and academic achievement," Benden added.

Previous studies have also shown that children who stand burn 15 per cent more calories, on average, than those who sit in class.

For the study, the team followed 193 students from three elementary schools in US, from their third grade to the end of fourth grade.

At each school, four classrooms were outfitted with stand-biased desks (which allow students to sit on a stool or stand at will), and four classrooms in each school acted as a control and utilised standard classroom desks.



According to psychologist Daniel Goleman, "Emotional intelligence matters twice as much as technical and analytical skill combined for star performance... And the higher people move up in the company, the more crucial emotional intelligence becomes." Going back in time, there were jobs for everyone. However, since then the rules have changed drastically, giving no choice to employees to choose their own path. Moreover, they have accustomed to shorter deadlines, long working hours with no promises of job security.

Recent rise in deadly health threats are mostly linked to hectic work schedule. Several organisations in India are taking steps towards better health for their employees, some have allied with wellness companies to monitor employees' health.

According to Ravi Krishnan, CEO & Co-founder, Stepathon, "One of the biggest challenges we face is changing the mindset about fitness and embedding the gravity of the ill-effects of a sedentary lifestyle. Historically, in India, companies and employees have focused on illness, not on wellness. The rest of the developed world realised, more than two decades ago, that preventative programs benefit both individual and company from both a health and productivity perspective."

The companies should also take special interest in their employees and gain their trust by offering them options to work from home or reduce their hours of work. Recently, Cognizant Technology Solutions has asked its employees in India to work from home. Too add on "Developed countries realize this and lay a lot of emphasis on productivity and efficiency. Countries like Sweden have introduced 5-6 hour work days keeping in mind that employees are most productive in that time frame. Indian organizations must initiate employee wellness programs that enable them to live better personal and professional lives", remarks Ravi Krishnan.

However, some employees need to cut down on certain bad habits that can alter their life. For instance, cigarette breaks at work or going for drinks post work. These habits will only pile up more health issues while one is burdened with work. Time that's gone will never come back.

There are several ways to pursue healthy lifestyle. Nonetheless, it's crucial to segregate these issues into mental and physical categories. Usually, health deteriorates when one stops listening to body needs. It could be a simple thing like drinking water at regular intervals or stretching at your desk while working on computer. However, one of the most common health issues at work is stress. Stress alone can magnify issues that would lead to bigger risks. It is difficult to diagnose problems at the beginning, but it's not impossible—few good habits can do the trick!

How does one inculcate good habits? It's simple, one has to understand the knowledge, skill and desire to create a habit. For instance, an obese who wants to lose weight because it is affecting his health—is the

# Are you fit to work?

## Fit for Work launches



knowledge. To understand what skills are required to lose weight, he

has to find out different ways that will help him achieve the goal. At last, he requires motivation to persevere with his plan to lose weight. Nonetheless, according to psychotherapist Alfred Adler, "The hardest thing for human beings to do is to know themselves and to change themselves."

In some countries, like India, employees are usually over loaded with work without sufficient breaks, which can lead to stress. And stress increases the level of hormones—the rest is history when it comes to making bad choices at work in regards to health. However, it takes two hands to clap, which means organisations should help employees to work in a stress free environment. Companies can offer recreational activities to their employees—it could be a simplest thing like a small library or provide healthy food in the canteen.

"The World Economic Forum listed health as one of the top 10 global concerns last year. India's diabetes rate has gone up by 123% in the last 25 years. We are sitting on a ticking time bomb, with an alarming 70% of our urban population in the obese or overweight bracket. An ASSOCHAM survey shows that nearly 42.5% employees in the private sector suffer from general anxiety disorders. This highlights a burning need to address employee health and wellbeing across all companies and industries", adds Ravi Krishnan.

As an employee, it's important for him to be self-aware of his surroundings to choose what suits him in long run, rather than become part of a never-ending rat race. As rightly put by psychotherapist Alfred Adler, "The power-hungry individual follows a path to his own destruction." Nonetheless, all one has to do is break the bad habits, and follow a better lifestyle that will lead to his well being.

## Wearable activity trackers may not boost

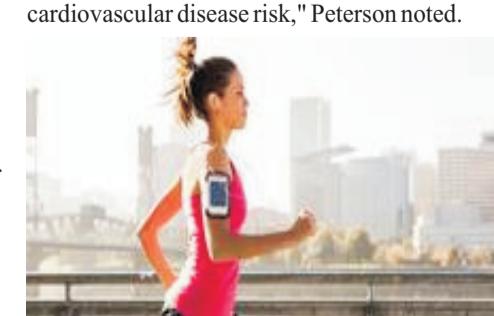
# Weight loss



and physiology are not fully understood. "Our programme of research is dedicated to addressing these gaps in the literature," first author Christine Tara Peterson said. "Panchakarma refers to a detoxification and rejuvenation protocol involving massage, herbal therapy and other procedures to help strengthen and rejuvenate the body," Peterson pointed out. The study involved 119 healthy male and female participants between 30 and 80 years of age who stayed at the Chopra Center for Wellbeing in Carlsbad, California.

Slightly more than half were assigned to the Panchakarma intervention and the remainder to a control group. Blood plasma analyses, using liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, were taken before and after the six-day testing period. The researchers found that in the Panchakarma group there was measurable decrease in 12 specific cell-membrane chemicals (phosphatidylcholines) correlating with serum cholesterol and inversely related to Type-2 diabetes risk.

"These phospholipids exert broad effects on pathways related to inflammation and cholesterol metabolism," Peterson explained. "Plasma and serum levels of the metabolites of phosphatidylcholine are highly predictive of cardiovascular disease risk," Peterson noted.



One week of Panchakarma programme -- an Ayurvedic-based well being programme that features a vegetarian diet, meditation, yoga and massages -- can lead to measurable decreases in a set of blood-based metabolites associated with inflammation, cholesterol regulation and cardiovascular disease risk, the results of a clinical trial have shown.

"It appears that a one-week Panchakarma programme can significantly alter the metabolic profile of the person undergoing it," said senior author Deepak Chopra, Professor at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and a noted

proponent of integrative medicine. The findings, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, represent an attempt to use metabolic biomarkers to assess the reported health benefits of integrative medicine and holistic practices. "As part of our strategy to create a framework for whole systems biology research, our next step will be to correlate these changes with both gene expression and psychological health," Chopra said. The research team from the University of California San Diego School of Medicine noted that alternative and integrative medicine practices, such as meditation and Ayurveda, are extremely popular, but their effects on the human microbiome, genome

## 4 stretches you must do every morning

Now finally, you have a legit reason to stay in bed a tad bit longer. And no, you won't be branded lazy for it! Experts say that stretching your body gently post waking up, helps deal with the sluggish early-morning feeling, and also give relief to your aching and tight muscles. Do the following stretching exercises, before you kick-start your day.

Sit in Padmasana or with your legs crossed in the lotus position. As you stretch out your hands in front of you, slowly link and interlace fingers. Your palm should be facing outwards. Stretch your arms out as far and then slowly extend your arms up above your head. Keep your fingers interlaced all the time as you stretch. Then, slowly (from your waist) bend towards your right as far as you can, come back straight up and then bend towards your left.

Lie down on your back. Now, raise your leg and bring one knee towards your stomach and hold it with your opposite hand. Next, gently twist your spine as you pull your knee towards the floor across your body. You don't need to touch the floor with your knee. The key is to keep both your shoulders on the floor as you stretch and twist your spine. Once back to the starting position, you can do the opposite side.

Sit with your legs crossed and place both hands behind you with palms flat on the floor and fingers pointing outwards. Shift your weight to your hands as you slowly let your head fall back. Apply pressure on your palms as you lift off your body and butt off the floor, and you slowly bring

your chest and hips towards the ceiling. Pause for a few seconds, go back to the starting position and repeat.

Stand straight and inhale as you reach your arms high up over your head. Stretch your arms up as you gradually stand on your toes. Feel your entire body stretching. Exhale and return to the standing position. Now slowly bend forward and touch your toes. Feel every bone in your spine bend one after the other slowly. Avoid bending your knees. You can feel your entire torso stretch, beginning from your neck, to upper back, middle back, lower back, hamstrings, feet, shoulders and hands.

