

CM Rekha Flags Off Inter-State AC Bus Service After Nearly 18 Years

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 23rd September 2025 : On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta flagged off the fully-electric Delhi-Baraut Inter-State AC Bus Service from Maharama Pratap ISBT and also inaugurated the Automated Fare System (AFCS), launched the 'Chalo App' on the ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) platform, and The event was attended by Hon'ble Transport Minister, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Baghpat MP Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan, senior officials of the Transport Department, and Canara Bank. The occasion also marked the signing of an MoU between Canara Bank and DTC for rolling out AFCS across the bus network. During the event, Delhi Chief Minister also distributed POS machines among the conductors of the inter-state buses. CM Rekha Gupta extended her greetings to citizens on the festive occasion of Navratri, calling it a time

when "every new initiative itself becomes historic." She highlighted the continuous efforts of the Delhi Government to provide daily benefits and modern facilities to Delhi residents. Expressing gratitude to senior officials of the Delhi Government, DTC family and Bank representatives, she praised the administration for their energy, creativity, and dedication, calling government officers the real "Hānumāns" of Delhi's development. Speaking about the launch of the inter-state bus service, the CM recalled that Delhi had not run its own inter-state buses for nearly 18 years, while buses from other states operated within the city. "When private buses could run, why not the Delhi Government? Our citizens deserve these facilities," she said, announcing that the Delhi-Baraut service is only the first step, and new inter-state routes will be introduced every month especially for the religious places. The CM also highlighted



critical operational reforms. She announced a complete route rationalization to ensure bus connectivity reaches every corner of Delhi, addressing disruptions. On infrastructure, CM Gupta affirmed the government's vision to revitalize DTC, transform all bus depots into charging stations, and redevelop ISBTs into grand transit hubs, a process that has already begun. The AFCS, developed in partnership with Canara Bank, replaces outdated manual ticketing with modern PoS/ETM machines supporting cash, UPI, debit/credit cards, static Universal QR codes, and National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC). Stickers with Universal QR codes have already been deployed across the fleet, enabling contactless payments. CM Gupta stressed that these machines will ensure transparency, prevent revenue leakages, and guarantee that every passenger's fare directly contributes to DTC's accounts. Initially, 3,000 machines are being installed free of cost in collaboration with Canara Bank.

Continued news page 2

"Wish Some People Would Grow Up": Congress MP On Row Over 'Nepo Kids' Post

With BJP claiming that Manish Tewari's remarks target Rahul Gandhi, he has said "everything does not have to be dumbed down to a Congress-BJP".

New Delhi.(Agency)
Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari's social media post about the regime changes in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal has landed him at the centre of a political row. With the BJP claiming that his remarks target Rahul Gandhi, Mr Tewari has said "everything does not have to be dumbed down to a Congress-BJP".

Sharing a news report on a mass protest in the Philippines to protest alleged corruption over bogus or substandard flood control projects, Mr Tewari said the huge public movements in Asia show that "entitlement is no longer

acceptable".

"The toppling of - President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka in July 2023, Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh in July 2024, KP Sharma Oli in Nepal in September 2025 and now the protests against Ferdinand Marcos Jr in the Philippines have one word written over them. ENTITLEMENT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO GEN X, Y, Z," he said. "Watch for my piece on 'The Social Media Trends that toppled or are challenging 'DYNASTS'



MP's remark to target the Congress leadership.

"Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, member of the G-23 rebel group, takes

aim at Rahul Gandhi - the ultimate 'Nepo Kid' of Indian politics. Forget Gen Z, even Congress's own veterans are fed up with his regressive politics.

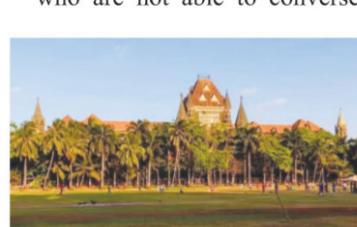
The revolt is now from within," senior BJP leader and head of its IT wing Amit Malviya said in a post on X. Mr Tewari hit back at Mr Malviya with a swipe. "Gosh, I just wish that some

people would grow up in life. Everything does not have to be dumbed down to a Cong-BJP," he said she said" or targeting X or Y.

Bombay High Court questions public interest case against Raj Thackrey

An FIR was sought against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Raj Thackeray and his political workers over alleged assault on citizens over the use of the Hindi language.

Mumbai.(Agency)
The Bombay High Court on Monday questioned the maintainability of the petition filed by a Mumbai-based lawyer seeking registration of an FIR against Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Raj Thackeray and his political workers over alleged assault on citizens over the use of the Hindi language.



affects a large number of people," Jha replied. "It affects the sovereignty of the nations. How can anyone be targeted for their language?" Jha further pointed out that the petition had mentioned many instances where people were physically assaulted over the issue of them being unable to speak Marathi.

The bench responded by asking if Upadhyay had given any complaints on the issue. The bench told Jha, "You are also a senior at the bar. The complaint should have been to a Magistrate, not to these authorities. You know the law; it says that it has to be given to a senior police officer." Jha replied that the complaint was given to the Deputy Inspector General of police, Commissioner of police and reminders were sent asking why no action was taken against those indulging in unlawful activities.

Gangster Rohit Godara Calls Lawrence Bishnoi "Traitor", Claims Nexus With US Agency

New Delhi.(Agency)

In what appears to be a war between two rival gangs, Rohit Godara has accused Lawrence Bishnoi of being a traitor, claiming he colluded with an American agency and revealed sensitive information.

In an unverified social media post, Godara claimed a nexus between Lawrence and an American agency, and said that Lawrence had joined forces with the American agency to save his brother Anmol and now provides them with intelligence

information about the country. He alleged that Lawrence Bishnoi intends to harm actor Salman Khan to gain fame. Godara has also urged the media not to link him or his associates with Lawrence Bishnoi, whom he described as a traitor. Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara are wanted by the National Investigation Agency and several state police units; Brar is suspected to be in the US, and Godara in the UK. A few days back, a shocking incident unfolded in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, when gunshots were fired

outside Bollywood actress Disha Patani's residence around 3:45 am on September 12. The attack, claimed by notorious gangsters Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar on social media, sent

shockwaves through the community. Later on September 17, the two accused involved in the firing outside actor Disha Patani's father's residence in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, succumbed to injuries following an encounter in a joint operation by Delhi Police and UP STF in Ghaziabad. Ravindra alias Kullu and Arun, affiliated with notorious gangsters Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara, were injured during the encounter near the Tronica City area of Ghaziabad and later succumbed to injuries.

BJP seizes on Manish Tewari's 'Nepo Kids, Dynasts' post to target Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress leader Manish Tewari's recent remarks on the growing public rejection of entitlement in South and East Asia have triggered a fresh political controversy, with the BJP linking his statements to an indirect attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Tewari, in a post on X, highlighted the political upheavals in several Asian nations, citing the toppling of leaders such as President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka in July 2023, Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh in July 2024, KP Sharma Oli in Nepal in September 2025, and the ongoing protests against Ferdinand Marcos Jr in the Philippines.

Commenting on these developments, he

wrote, "ENTITLEMENT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO GEN X, Y, Z," pointing to the growing resistance



against dynastic politics and public outrage fueled by social media trends. However, the BJP quickly seized upon

Tewari's statements, linking them to Rahul Gandhi, whom the party described as the "ultimate Nepo Kid of Indian politics". Amit Malviya, head of the BJP IT cell, took to X to assert, "Forget Gen Z, even Congress's own veterans are fed up with his regressive politics. The revolt is now from within!" Responding to Malviya, Tewari dismissed the linkage, saying, "Gosh, I just wish that some people would grow up in life." He clarified that the discussion should not be reduced to a political slugfest between Congress and BJP, emphasising instead the broader developments in South and East Asia.

>The BJP linked Manish Tewari's comments on dynastic politics in Asia to Rahul Gandhi. Tewari hit back, urging a focus on regional trends rather than domestic political jabs.

Front continued news

CM Rekha Flags Off Inter-State AC Bus Service After Nearly 18 Years

CM Gupta also addressed efforts to reduce pollution and ease life for commercial vehicle operators. "Previously, commercial vehicles had to go to neighbouring states for pollution checks. Our government has established Delhi's first major automated pollution checking station in Nand Nagri, so our drivers no longer need to go through this hassle," she stated. Agreements with private schools, starting with Sardar Patel School, to transition their fleets to electric buses were also highlighted.

Adding to existing digital ticketing platforms, the government integrated the "Chalo App" under ONDC, allowing passengers to book tickets digitally with a 10% discount to encourage adoption. CM Gupta noted that the app will simplify commuting, particularly for younger citizens, and align Delhi's public transport system with global standards.

CM Gupta emphasized civic responsibility, urging citizens to maintain cleanliness and actively contribute to a "swachh, sundar, and harit" Delhi. "Our transport, cleanliness, and governance initiatives are intertwined," she said, underlining that modern infrastructure and transparent systems benefit not only the government but also every resident of the city.

News box

QR codes, stickers will tell you about e-rickshaw route, owner in Ghaziabad



Ghaziabad. (Agency)

In an effort to manage traffic congestion and enhance women's safety, cops have introduced colour-coded stickers, QR codes, and unique numbers for 200 e-rickshaws operating in the city. By scanning the QR code, passengers can now access detailed information about the vehicle owner and driver.

The colour system will specify the zones for e-rickshaws — red for the city, green for the trans-Hindon, blue for Sahibabad, yellow for Loni, and orange for Modinagar. The scheme mandates online registration of all public transport vehicles via the police portal. Once verified, a QR code will be issued, which must be printed and pasted on the vehicle's front screen. Alok Priyadarshi, additional CP (LO & traffic), told TOI that the move aims to control the rise in illegally operating e-rickshaws and ensure the safety of women. Approximately 26,570 e-rickshaws are registered in Ghaziabad, but due to the lack of any permits for e-rickshaws, route determination is not done by the regional transport officer.

"We launched 'Project Safe Ride' that makes it mandatory for all auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws in the city to register and display a unique QR code on their vehicles. We aim to create a city-wide verified database of public transport operators and eliminate unregistered or unsafe vehicles," he said. Sachidanand, ADCP traffic, said that all e-rickshaws in the city zone have been assigned red colour stickers. These vehicles will operate from Vijay Nagar, Kotwal, Sihani Gate, Kavi Nagar, Nandgram, Madhuban Bapudham, Crossing Republic, Wave City, and Masuri. The Trans-Hindon Zone e-rickshaws running in Indirapuram, Khoda, Kaushambi, and Link Road have been given green colour stickers.

The e-rickshaws in the Sahibabad zone running in Sahibabad, Shalimar Garden, and Tila Mod area have been given the blue sticker. Similarly, e-rickshaws plying in Loni, Loni Border, Ankur Vihar, and Tronica City are assigned the yellow colour. The e-rickshaws under Modinagar and Niwari are orange.

Man (22) shoots himself dead with father's gun in Greater Noida condo park

Noida. (Agency)

A 22-year-old student allegedly shot himself dead with his father's licenced revolver in the park of Amrapali Leisure Valley in Greater Noida West early on Sunday.

The alleged suicide came days after the student failed to secure admission for an MBA programme in Goa. Police said the young man, who lived in A Block of the society, was found lying on the bench of the park by morning walkers and guards who rushed there after hearing a gunshot around 4.30am. His spectacles and the revolver were found under the bench where he lay. He was rushed to a nearby hospital in an ambulance, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. According to police, it had just been a few days since the student failed to secure a seat at an MBA institute in Goa. He had completed his graduation and was preparing for competitive exams, hoping to study management too. The recent setback in his academic journey appeared to weigh heavily on him. A few residents recalled seeing the young man sitting alone in the park for nearly half an hour before returning to his flat the previous night. He is likely to have sneaked his father's revolver out of the almirah in his room before heading to the park again a few hours later. It was then that he allegedly shot himself in the head. The sound of the gunshot drew the attention of the society guards, who immediately alerted his family and police. A handwritten note was recovered from his pocket, addressed to his younger brother. In the note, he urged his brother to look after their father — a businessman — and the rest of the family. "It appears he was under prolonged mental stress," said a senior officer at Bisrakh police station. Family members later told police that the student had been "disturbed" ever since the MBA results were out. His mother passed away in 2014 after a prolonged illness, leaving him with his father, younger brother, and extended family.

Nuh. (Agency)

Difficult as it was to make a selection from a parade of the city's craved living spaces — and Gurgaon has a surfeit of them — the hunt to find the best 12 has narrowed down to the final 20 from the 120 entries vying with each other in TOI's Clash of Condominiums. There's little to choose from when it comes to amenities. The city's condominiums offer an array of them, getting more loaded by the launch with premium add-ons. What makes the final 20 stand apart is strong involvement of its residents in collective wellbeing. The best practices, therefore, are often not how high-end the clubhouse is but how the spirit of togetherness and harmony is fostered, and how care is extended to those who need it most — children, the elderly and all the support staff who maintain the lawns, sweep the pathways, keep the condominium functional through glitches and secure the premises. The final shortlist of 20 societies (see box) comprises five condominiums from four zones that Clash of Condominiums is

split into. These are Old Gurgaon (sectors 1 to 37), DLF phases 1-5 and sectors 38-56, Golf Course Road Extension (sectors 57-80), and Dwarka Expressway (sectors 81-113). Now, it's over to the jury. A jury member will visit each society for an evaluation starting Tuesday. Just like in the qualifiers, you have your say too. The weightage of the jury's assessment and your vote together will determine the top three condominiums from each zone. And eventually, the Top 12. Since we launched Clash of Condominiums, we have heard from our readers across the length and breadth of the city. We have been treated to stories of community bonding, dedication to creating a sustainable environment, enterprising solutions that have come without govt involvement. All of this is a testament to the restless, creative spirit of the Gurgaon resident. It's because of this enterprise that Gurgaon can often seem like two cities cohabiting — one inside the perimeter walls and the one outside, mired in the civic disorder of roadside

garbage dumps, bumpy roads and waterlogging during rain. Swaraj Verma, who lives in M3M Woodshire on Dwarka Expressway, said Clash of Condominiums is an opportunity for all because a healthy competition like it inspires societies to learn from each other and get even better in the process. "Activities — from ghazal and retro musical nights to Holi, Durga Puja and New Year events — have created close bonds among our residents," said Verma. "We are among the most senior-friendly condominiums, with dedicated spaces for the elderly and in-house waste composting that supports horticulture," he added. At Gurgaon One in the old city, community living, residents said, has become the defining feature. "With 2.5 acres of greens, ours is a low-density condominium, a green society with zero discharge of wastewater, 100% wet waste composting, rainwater harvesting pits, and a separate play area for pets. We are also working to maintain the surroundings outside the condominium.

This is a zero-plastic society," said Saket Singh, a resident. For The Legend, community living goes beyond shared spaces, to a sense of belonging. Resident Suman Hooda said, "Gurgaon is truly a city of condominiums where community living brings comfort for all. Around 30% of our residents are seniors, and we ensure their wellbeing through community festivals and regular medical checkups. There is a sense of belonging within the community. Inside, our condominium is well-maintained with a secure environment, but outside the boundary, govt agencies still need to improve basic infrastructure." Residents of Central Park Resorts described safety as their top priority. From managing vehicular movement on the ground floor, where kids cycle and seniors walk, to maintaining a huge green area surrounded by water bodies and walking paths, these are our focus areas. The layout of the towers, with restaurants, cafés, and a bar amid green spaces makes it feel like a resort.

Monsoon starts retreat, Gurgaon records 30% rainfall surplus

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The city is preparing to bid farewell to the monsoon after four months of showers and a surplus of nearly 30% rainfall. The city has received 623.4mm of rainfall this season against a normal of 480.3mm. Sept alone contributed to the excess with 115.7mm of showers, 59% higher than the month's average of 72.7mm. While this year's rainfall has been plentiful, it is still lower than last year's figure of 746.2mm, which marked a 53% surplus over the normal.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from more parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, with the withdrawal line now passing through Jind and Rewari. The system is likely to pull back further from more parts of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir in the next two to three days. An IMD official said, "Conditions are becoming more favourable for further withdrawal of the southwest monsoon over the next two to three days. Dry weather conditions are likely to prevail, with moisture levels likely to drop further."

Overall in Haryana, many districts have witnessed surplus rainfall this season, with the state's cumulative rainfall of 569.4mm showing an excess of 36%. While districts like Ambala with 674.4mm (-15% departure) and Karnal with 467.4mm (-8%) were slightly below normal, the majority recorded a surplus, including Fatehabad with 572.9mm (128% above normal), Mahendragarh with 820.1mm (111%), Kurukshetra with 768.7mm (90%), Rewari with 683.3mm (61%) and Nuh with 716.3mm (52%). Even as the rains ceased, the day remained warm and humid. The minimum temperature was 24.6 degrees Celsius, slightly down from 25.5 degrees the day before. The maximum temperature was recorded at 34.4°C, the same as on the previous day. The relative humidity index oscillated between 29% and 76% during the day. The IMD official said clear skies are expected in the coming days, with the maximum temperature expected to range between 35 and 37 degrees Celsius.

Suspects pre-selected & no evidence, 6 acquitted in attempt to murder case

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Haryana Vidyal Prasaran 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 Chandra Shekhar Khare, 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.

NGT orders probe into toxic leachate seepage from Bandhwari landfill

Gurgaon. (Agency)

NGT has directed the Haryana govt and MCG to verify claims that toxic leachate from Bandhwari landfill is seeping into nearby agricultural fields, degrading soil fertility and harming farmers' livelihoods. The tribunal has asked state authorities to ascertain the facts and initiate immediate remedial action if the allegations are found true. The order, passed by a bench comprising chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel on Sept 18 and released on Sept 20, said the state and MCG should verify the claims and file an affidavit of compliance within four weeks. Meanwhile, TOI reported on Sept 20 that a joint inspection carried out by CPCB and the Union environment ministry on Aug 27 revealed that leachate from the landfill was being discharged through concrete pipes into the Kuchta drain and diverted into a plantation and forest area, where it had collected in a large pond. Photos released along with the report showed what the tribunal described as the "pathetic condition" of the discharge,

raising concerns over its ecological and health impacts. Moreover, HSPCB informed the tribunal that it imposed an environmental compensation of Rs 6.3

crore on MCG between April 2020 and June 2025 for violations at Bandhwari, out of which Rs 3.5 crore is yet to be paid. According to the joint inspection report, there is no arrangement for treating leachate at the site. An MCG representative informed the joint team that leachate is transported by tankers to the sewage treatment plant (STP) in Behrampur village. However, it was also

reported that due to rain over the past two months, leachate has not been transported to the STP by tankers. Instead, it is being sent through the sewage pipeline with untreated sewage, making its volume unmeasurable. Addressing the lack of leachate processing mechanism at Bandhwari, an MCG official said, "We have hired consultants who are preparing a detailed project report to set up leachate processing plants at the landfill. For now, we will have four tankers transporting leachate daily to the STPs." Meanwhile, the civic body has started planting trees across the boundary of the landfill site and has covered it with tree cutters. Recently, the directorate of urban local bodies granted administrative approval for a new tender to process 14 lakh tonnes of legacy waste at the Bandhwari landfill. The Rs 89.9 crore project, to be executed by MCG, aims at the long-overdue remediation and reclamation of the site. Waste processing is not happening at the landfill currently,

7.3k FIRs filed by Noida cops in 1 year since BNS rollout, but digital evidence only in 13%

Noida. (Agency)

A year since criminal laws Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and its companion Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) came into force, replacing IPC and CrPC, Noida's police commissionerate has been slow to adapt to one of the key reforms: digital evidence uploaded on the e-Sakshya platform. According to official data, the Gautam Budh Nagar police commissionerate registered 7,322 cases between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025. However, digital evidence — which is mandatory under BNS — was uploaded in only 978 of them, or about 13%.

In contrast, neighbouring Ghaziabad recorded 12,337 cases in the same period and uploaded e-evidence in 7,436 of them, pushing its compliance rate close to 60%. Similarly, Siddharth Nagar compliance rate is around 40%. Section 57 of BNS requires police to record crime scenes, arrests, searches, and seizures directly from their mobile devices, while maintaining an unbroken chain of custody of evidence. Each upload is linked to the FIR, general diary and CNR (case number register) with time stamps and certification, and is integrated with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), allowing courts to access case-linked digital evidence seamlessly.



It also makes electronic and digital records — such as photos, videos, and documents — acceptable as 'primary evidence' without the need for additional authentication. Yet, despite its potential to streamline investigations and bolster transparency, Noida has struggled to adapt. Senior police officers in Noida admitted the process has been slow. An IPS officer, requesting anonymity, cited poor internet connectivity at crime scenes and technical glitches in the app as main hurdles. "Most recoveries, especially in

encounter cases, happen in forest areas where uploading live videos becomes difficult. If the video is not uploaded on the spot, the app sometimes rejects it later. Training has been conducted, and compliance has improved over the last three months, rising above 50%. We are confident of meeting the standards soon," the officer said. Currently, 2,184 policemen in Noida are registered users of e-Sakshya, but only 516 IDs are actively operational. Legal experts argue that delays in uploading digital evidence

compromise both transparency and trial timelines. Ajit Nagar, president of GB Nagar Bar Association, said video evidence has been made mandatory under BNS for arrests and recoveries. "Courts now expect video proof to ensure there is no doubt about the circumstances of arrest or seizure. Where compliance is lacking, courts have the power to demand it. But sometimes, videos produced are clearly staged later, raising questions about authenticity," he said. Another senior advocate pointed to the broader picture: "Compliance across UP is weak. Delhi Police are comparatively better. It is not enough to produce video.

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SC issues notice to Centre, DGCA on PIL seeking independent probe into Ahmedabad plane crash

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: In this June 14, 2025 file photo, wreckage of the crashed Air India plane, which crashed into a medical hostel and its canteen complex moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, being lifted through a crane, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) to respond to a PIL seeking an independent, fair and expeditious probe into the June 12 Air India plane crash at Ahmedabad that claimed 265 lives, including both pilots and crew members. Expressing concern over the selective leak of the preliminary inquiry report, which led to a media narrative blaming pilot error for the crash of

the London-bound Air India Flight AI171, a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice NK Singh said certain aspects of the July 12 AAIB preliminary report indicating lapses on the part of pilots were "irresponsible". "Suppose tomorrow, it is said pilot 'A' is responsible... The family of the pilot is bound to suffer," Justice Kant said. "Instead of piecemeal leaking of information, somebody should maintain confidentiality till regular inquiry is taken to logical conclusion," the Bench said, terming it as "very unfortunate". On behalf of petitioner 'Safety Matters Foundation', advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted that the probe panel constituted after the crash, included three members from the DGCA and there may be conflict of interest. GST reforms will boost savings, directly benefit every section of society: PM Modi ! "How can officers of the very organi-

sation whose role is likely to be examined be part of the inquiry?" Bhushan wondered. However, pointing out that there was an issue of confidentiality, privacy and dignity, the Bench asked him to wait for the final probe report. Noting that the release of particular kinds of information may be exploited by rival airlines, the Bench said that it's only issuing notice on the limited aspect of free, fair, independent and expeditious investigation of the crash. The Bench also questioned the petitioner's

demand for disclosure of the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR). As Bhushan said the DFDR contained critical information about faults that may have occurred, the Bench cautioned against premature release of such data. "It's not advisable to release it..." it said. "It has been more than 100 days since the crash occurred. All that has been done so far is a preliminary report...it doesn't say what has happened or what may have happened and what precau-

tions should be taken ... The result is all passengers who are travelling on these Boeing planes are at risk today," Bhushan said. The said the DFDR contained critical information about faults that may have occurred, the Bench cautioned against premature release of such data. "It's not advisable to release it..." it said. "It has been more than 100 days since the crash occurred. All that has been done so far is a preliminary report...it doesn't say what has happened or what may have happened and what precau-

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Britons, seven Portuguese nationals, one Canadian and 12 crew members. The lone "miracle" survivor of the crash was Vishwashankar Ramesh, a British national of Indian descent.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Anjum Kataria D/O Anil Kumar Bholia R/O D-61, Naraina Vihar, Delhi-110028, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANIKA BHOLA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Salim Ahmed alias Saleem Javed S/O NAEEM AHMED, B-294, GALI NO-13, SHRI RAM COLONY, Karawal Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Salim Ahmed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Ajay Kumar S/O Darbar Lal, R/O B-1/26 AMAN VIHAR, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, Nithari, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110086, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ajay in my minor daughter name Mohini aged 13 years in her birth certificate no MCDOLIR-0112-00512054. The actual name of mine is Ajay Kumar which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Mohd. Nazim Sheikh, s/o Mohd. Ziauddin, r/o House No. 2150, 2nd Floor, Tughlak gate, Delhi 110006, declare that my name in my passport is Md. Nazim, whereas my full name is Md. Nazim Mohd. Nazim Sheikh. In future I will be known as Mohd. Nazim Sheikh for all purposes and synonyms.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Ajay Kumar S/o Subhash Chand R/o H.No.17, Ganj No.5, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Ajay Goel.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Hemlata D/O Janki Prasad W/O Late Birbal Chaudhary, R/o house no-111, Block-2, ASHOK MOHALIA NANGLOI, Bakheri Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110041, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Kalpana Rathore in my minor son Krish aged 16 years in his 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine is KALPNA RATHAUR, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I ABHISHEK MAHENDRADIA S/O SUSHIL CHAND MAHENDRADIA R/O 136, Gali No. 10, West Guru Angar Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my minor daughter PURVI MAHENDRADIA aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as VAMIKI MAHENDRADIA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Hemlata D/O Janki Prasad W/O Late Birbal Chaudhary, R/o house no-111, Block-2, ASHOK MOHALIA NANGLOI, Bakheri Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110041, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Hemma Chaudhary and bharat Chaudhary in my minor daughter namely Akansha aged 16 years in her school records. The actual name of mine and my husband are HEMLATA AND BHARAT CHAUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. NARESH KUMAR, S/O RAM NAMAS AGGARWAL R/O HOUSE NO-54, SHAKTI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARESH AGGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. ASHOK KUMAR, S/O PANKAJ KUMAR LAL, R/O PLOT NO- 50, KH. NO-21/22, BLOCK-F, QUTUB VIHAR PHASE-1, QUTUB PUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MALA DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. TUSHAR S/O KAILASH BANSAL R/O B-204, DUGGAL HOUSING COMPLEX, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TUSHAR BANSAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. Rakesh Kumar S/o Onkar Nath R/o 152, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi - 110035 have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar to Rakesh Sawal for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. NARAYAN KUMAR, S/O RAM NARAYAN, R/O HOUSE NO-4, SHAKTI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARAYAN AGGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. NARAYAN KUMAR, S/O RAM NARAYAN, R/O HOUSE NO-4, SHAKTI PARK, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NARAYAN AGGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I I. Rakesh Kumar S/o Onkar Nath R/o 152, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi - 110035 have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar to Rakesh Sawal for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of Nani Resorts & Floriculture Private Limited and is without prejudice to all rights and contentions. This publication is not a certificate of title.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Davi Yadav S/O Rajendra Prasad Yadav Permanent resident of Gauri Ka Purwa, Raygarh, District - Pratapgarh Uttar Pradesh-230128 Presently residing at H. No. 2113, Gali No. 60, Sant Nagar Burari, Delhi - 110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arun Yadav

NEWS BOX

Who recognises the State of Palestine, who doesn't, and why does it matter

PARIS. (Agency)

A majority of European countries now recognise the State of Palestine, following official declarations in New York on Monday by France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and others, after nearly two years of war in Gaza. Here is an overview of diplomatic recognition of the state, which was unilaterally proclaimed by the Palestinian leadership in exile in 1988. Of the territory claimed by the state, Israel currently occupies the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is largely in ruins. Which countries recognise the State of Palestine? Answer: Nearly 80 percent of UN members. According to an AFP tally, at least 151 countries out of 193 UN members now recognise the State of Palestine. AFP has not obtained recent confirmation from three African countries. Six European nations -- France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Andorra and Monaco -- added their names to the list with statements at the UN on Monday. The day before, the United Kingdom and Canada became the first G7 countries to make such a recognition, with Australia and Portugal also following suit. Russia, alongside all Arab countries, almost all African and Latin American states, and most Asian nations -- including India and China -- are already on the list.

Algeria became the first country to officially recognise a Palestinian state on November 15, 1988, minutes after late Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat unilaterally proclaimed an independent Palestinian state. Dozens of other countries followed in the ensuing weeks and months, and another wave of recognitions came in late 2010 and early 2011.

The Israeli offensive in Gaza, which was sparked by the Palestinian Islamist organisation Hamas's attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, has now pushed another 19 countries to recognise the state. Who does not?

Answer: at least 39 countries, including Israel, the United States and their allies. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government completely rejects the idea of a Palestinian state. Among Asia nations, Japan, South Korea and Singapore are among those that do not recognise Palestine.

World, business leaders hope to keep momentum in fight against climate change despite US

NEW YORK. (Agency)

The US government is going in the other direction. Temperatures keep rising. More extreme weather is sweeping across the world. Yet hundreds of leaders from government and business are in New York this week to keep the fight against climate change alive. Amid fracture and despair, they are emphasizing progress and hope. More than 110 world leaders will speak at a special UN climate summit Wednesday designed to get nations to strengthen their required -- but already late -- plans to wean themselves from the coal, oil and natural gas that causes climate change. Dozens of business leaders are in the city networking in various conferences aimed at greener and cleaner energy. "We're here to power on. In the end, we either will have a livable planet or we won't," said Helen Clarkson, CEO of The Climate Group, kicking off New York City Climate Week and its more than 1,000 events. "It's an uphill struggle, but we know we don't have a choice. It's up to us to protect what we love."

But on Monday, as leaders talked about stronger national plans and reduction in fossil fuel emissions, Climate Action Tracker, an independent group of scientists who track pledges to fight climate announced that the host nation -- the United States -- had the biggest backslide in history.

"This is the most aggressive, comprehensive and consequential climate policy rollback the CAT has ever analyzed," said Niklas Höhne, a New Climate Institute scientist who helps run the tracker. In much of the rest of the world, progress

But non-US leaders in politics and business highlighted how much of the world has switched to cleaner renewable energy, such as solar and wind, mostly because of price.

"The economic case is clear," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the Global Renewables Summit. She said 90% of new renewable projects generate power more cheaply than fossil fuels, and solar energy is now 41% cheaper than the lowest-cost fossil alternative. "So yes, the momentum is real."

Ukraine Braces As Russia Steps Up Drive To Seize Donetsk's Fortress Belt

Slovenia, Ukraine. (Agency)

Fall is expected to bring another grueling test for Ukraine's armed forces as Russia intensifies its campaign to seize an eastern region, once Ukraine's industrial heartland and a territory it has long sought to conquer. Russia now controls about 70% of the Donetsk region. Ukraine's forces have been pushed back to a string of four cities that analysts have dubbed its "fortress belt," where they've repelled Moscow's efforts to seize the region for years.

But shortages of troops, supplies and chaotic management are making it increasingly hard to resist Russia's relentless pressure in the region.

As the more-than-3-year-old invasion continues despite months of US-led peace efforts, analysts and the military say the country could struggle to resist an intensified push to seize the last cities in the region under Ukrainian control. Analysts and Ukrainian officers say that Russia is unlikely to engage in protracted urban battles and avoid costly fights like the storming of Bakhmut, which dragged on for months with staggering losses on both sides. After Bakhmut and Chasiv Yar, the Russians clearly understood that large cities turn into vast cemeteries for their army, where they lose thousands upon thousands," said Col.

Speaking alongside HHS Secretary and vaccine skeptic RFK Jr, Trump stopped short of opposing all vaccines and declaring a supposed link between autism and acetaminophen (paracetamol).

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump isn't a doctor. But he played one on TV Monday, offering copious amounts of unproven medical advice that he suggested -- often without providing evidence -- might help reduce autism rates. Trump repeatedly implored pregnant women to avoid taking the painkiller Tylenol, the bestselling form of acetaminophen. That's despite the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists long recommending acetaminophen as a safe option during pregnancy. He even weighed in on when children should be given painkillers.

Speaking alongside Health and Human

Services Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr., himself a vaccine skeptic, Trump stopped short of opposing all vaccines. But he said key immunizations should be delayed, or combination shots should be given separately -- even though it has been proven that vaccines have no link to autism. "Don't let them pump your baby up with the largest pile of stuff you've ever seen in your life," he said. Trump also wildly overstated how such shots -- some of which protect against four diseases -- are given. "I think it's very bad. They're pumping, it looks like they're pumping into a horse," he said. "You have a little child. A little fragile child. And you've got a vat of 80 different vaccines, I guess, 80 different blends, and they pump it in." Dr. Trump redux. The presentation recalled the early days of the coronavirus pandemic during Trump's first term, when the president stood for daily White House briefings and tossed out grossly inaccurate claims -- including famously suggesting that injecting disinfectants could help people.

"I see the disinfectant that knocks it out in a

minute, one minute. And is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside, or almost a cleaning?" Trump asked in April 2020. "As you see, it gets in the



lungs, it does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it would be interesting to check that." He later claimed he'd been joking, but those briefings soon stopped. His tone stayed serious Monday. The president suggested unspecified problems with the safe and effective MMR -- measles, mumps and rubella -- vaccine and advised parents to wait years later than now, until age 12, for hepatitis B vaccines to be given

to children.

The theme he hit harder than any other, though, was declaring a supposed link between autism and acetaminophen, which is known in most countries outside the US as paracetamol. Trump repeated, "Don't take Tylenol," with increasing urgency and eventually shouted it. Tylenol maker Kenway disputed any link between the drug and autism and said in a statement that if pregnant mothers don't use Tylenol when in need, they could face a choice between suffering potentially dangerous fevers or using riskier painkiller alternatives. Trump, Kennedy and many of the administration's top health officials all spoke, but largely repeated known statistics rather than new research findings. Trump appeared to acknowledge that science might not be on his side, saying at one point, "I'm just making these statements from me." "I'm not making them from these doctors," the president conceded.

"Cause when they, uh, talk about, you know, different results, different studies, I talk about a lot of common sense."

Egyptian activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah released from prison after presidential pardon

WORLD. (Agency)

CAIRO: Pro-democracy Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abd el-Fattah was pardoned Monday after nearly 12 years in prison. "An exceptionally kind day. Alaa is free," his sister Mona Seif wrote on social media site X along with a picture of her brother smiling with his mother Laila Souef and sister Sanaa Seif. Sanaa Seif posted on Facebook that her brother arrived at home while they were waiting for him at Wadi Natron Prison outside Cairo. Abd el-Fattah and five other prisoners had been pardoned after the National Council for Human Rights acted on behalf of their families and urged President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to consider their situations on humanitarian grounds. He was arrested 2014 for participating in an unauthorized protest and allegedly assaulting a police officer and briefly released in 2019 before he was detained again later that year during a security crackdown that followed rare anti-government protests in Egypt. An Arab Spring activist Abd el-Fattah was one of the most prominent Egyptian activists in the 2011 Arab

Spring uprising and his detention became emblematic of the fraying of Egypt's democracy. He took part in the 2011 uprising that

toppled autocratic former President Hosni Mubarak, and later was active in protests against human rights abuses and military trials of civilians. He was first sent to prison in 2014 for participating in an unauthorized protest and allegedly assaulting a police officer, before being released in early 2019. He was arrested again in September 2019 during a security crackdown that followed rare anti-government protests in Egypt, and after more than two years in pretrial

detention, an emergency security court sentenced him to five years for spreading false news. When his release date came up in September 2024, authorities refused to count his time in pretrial detention and ordered him held until Jan. 3, 2027. Amr Magdi, senior Middle East and North Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, said that while celebrating Abd el-Fattah's pardon, thousands others remain behind bars because of their public views. "Hopefully his release will act as a watershed moment," providing the government with the opportunity "to end the wrongful detention of thousands of peaceful critics," Magdi said in the statement. Hunger strike and a petition. The pardon came after el-Sissi's office said he had ordered a review of a petition submitted from an independent rights group earlier this month. The petition had seven names, and the status of the seventh person wasn't immediately clear. The National Council for Human Rights urged el-Sissi to consider their situations on "health and humanitarian grounds."

Trump to take aim at 'globalist institutions', make case for his foreign policy record in UN speech

NEW YORK. (Agency)

Watched by the world, US President Donald Trump returns to the United Nations on Tuesday to deliver a wide-ranging address on his second-term foreign policy achievements and lament that "globalist institutions have significantly decayed the world order," according to the White House.

World leaders will be listening closely to his remarks at the UN General Assembly as Trump has already moved quickly to diminish US support for the world body in his first eight months in office. Even in his first term, he was no fan of the flavor of multilateralism that the United Nations espouses. After his latest inauguration, he issued a first-day executive order withdrawing the US from the World Health Organization. That was followed by his move to end US participation in the UN Human Rights Council, and ordering up a review of US membership in hundreds of

intergovernmental organizations aimed at determining whether they align with the priorities of his



"America First" agenda. "There are great hopes for it, but it's not being well run, to be honest," Trump said of the UN last week. The US president's speech is typically among the most anticipated moments of the annual assembly. This one comes at one of the most volatile moments in the world body's 80-year-old history.

Global leaders are being tested by

intractable wars in Gaza, Ukraine and

Sudan, uncertainty about the economic and social impact of emerging artificial intelligence technology, and anxiety about Trump's antipathy for the global body. Trump has also raised new questions about the American use of military force in his return to the White House, after ordering US airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June and a trio of strikes this month on alleged drug-smuggling boats in the Caribbean Sea. The latter strikes, including at least two fatal attacks on boats that originated from Venezuela, has raised speculation in Caracas that Trump is looking to set the stage for the ouster of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Some US lawmakers and human rights advocates say that Trump is effectively carrying out extrajudicial killings by using US forces to lethally target alleged drug smugglers instead of interdicting the suspected vessels, seizing any drugs and prosecuting the suspects in US courts.

Kamala Harris claims she 'had a certain responsibility' to argue against Biden running again

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Monday evening that she regrets not expressing her concerns about then-President Joe Biden running for a second term when a majority of Americans felt he was too old for the job. "I have and had a certain responsibility that I should have followed through on," Harris told Rachel Maddow on MSNBC in her first live television interview since the election. Such a conversation, even if it happened privately and behind the scenes, would have been an extraordinary breach in a relationship between a president and vice president. Harris' comments expand on a passage in her book, "107 Days," that looks back on her experience replacing Biden as the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee after he dropped out of the race. Harris ultimately lost to Republican candidate Donald Trump. In the book, Harris wrote that everyone in the White House would say "it's Joe and Jill's decision" about running for reelection, referring to the president and first lady. "Was it grace, or was it recklessness? In retrospect, I think it was recklessness," she wrote.

"The stakes were simply too high. This wasn't a choice that should have been left to an individual's ego, an individual's ambition. It should have been more than a personal decision." In her interview with Maddow, Harris said, "when I talk about the recklessness, as much as anything, I'm talking about myself."

Harris said in the interview she was concerned that "it would come off as completely self-serving" if she had counseled Biden not to seek reelection. She had competed against him for their party's 2020 nomination, and she was well positioned to run again. Although Harris wrote that she wasn't worried about Biden's ability to continue doing the job, she had concerns about him campaigning.

"His voice was no longer strong, his verbal stumbles more frequent," she wrote. Before Biden dropped out, there were plans for him to run a White House-centric campaign while Harris did more traveling. A week after Biden's disastrous debate against Trump, she wrote that "he felt so frail."

Harris turns 61 next month, and she hasn't detailed her future plans. Asked about running for president again in 2028, Harris said "that's not my focus right now."

She's already passed on an opportunity to run for governor of her home state of California.

She backed a plan by Gov. Gavin Newsom to redraw congressional districts to counteract a similar plan by Republicans in Texas that was intended to help Trump keep control of the House in next year's midterms. We tend to play by the rules," Harris said. "But I think this is a moment where you got to fight fire with fire."

She spoke harshly about Trump in the interview, criticizing him as acting like "a tyrant" and "Communist dictators," saying "that's what we're dealing right now in Donald Trump."

Spain's top diplomat dismisses Israeli leader's vow of no Palestinian state, saying it will happen

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

Spain's top diplomat dismissed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement that there will never be a Palestinian state, saying Israelis will one day want to live side by side in peace with Palestinians. Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday that a "real wave" of countries have recognized the state of Palestine since Spain, Ireland and Norway did in May 2024 and an overwhelming number support a two-state solution to the nearly 80-year Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "The day that everyone will have recognized the state of Palestine, we will have to move forward," he said at the United Nations. "I'm sure that we will find someday the right people for peace on the Israel side, in the same way that we have found it in the Palestinian side" in the Palestinian Authority. Spain has been in the forefront in pressuring Israel to end the war in Gaza sparked by Hamas' surprise invasion of southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, criticizing "the atrocities" and "endless killing" it is committing in the

territory. Albares spoke before a UN General Assembly meeting at its annual gathering of world leaders. At the meeting, the Palestinians expected 10 recent and new countries to formally recognize the state of Palestine, adding to the list of more than 145 nations that already have.

France, Luxembourg, Belgium and others did so at the meeting, even after Netanyahu reiterated his vow that there will never be a Palestinian state. Weekend recognitions came from the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The Spanish minister called Hamas "a terrorist organization" that doesn't want a two-state solution. "So let's put aside the extremists, and let's look for the people that want a peaceful and secure coexistence."

Spain is a vocal critic of Israeli action

Albares said Spain has staked out one of the strongest positions against Israel's actions in Gaza because "we cannot accept that the natural way for the people in the Middle East to relate is through war, through violence." Israel has the right to peace, stability, security and a state and so do the Palestinians, he said. "I don't see why they



should be condemned to be eternally a people of refugees." Albares said that it was impossible for Spain, as a democratic country that believes in human rights, to have a "normal relation with Israel" while "this endless war continues." In recent weeks, Spain ratcheted up its opposition to Israel's actions in Gaza. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez called the war a "genocide" earlier this month when he announced plans to formalize an arms embargo and block Israel-bound fuel deliveries from passing through Spanish ports. Netanyahu accused Sánchez of a

"blatant genocidal threat." The following week, pro-Palestine protesters for whom the government expressed its support disrupted the final leg of an international cycling competition in Madrid due to the presence of a team with ties to Israel.

In the incident's aftermath, Sánchez called for Israel to be banned from all international sporting events while the war continues. A diplomatic tit-for-tat ensued in which both countries banned ministers and Israeli leaders accused the Spanish government of being "antisemitic." Albares said that in pressuring Israel to end the war in Gaza, Spain is defending the principles that underpin the creation of the United Nations after World War II -- peace, justice, human rights and human dignity. Balancing demands from Trump

On another contentious issue, the minister defended Spain's refusal to spend 5% of its gross domestic product on defense as US President Donald Trump demanded. At a NATO conference in June, the Sánchez government was the only NATO member to say it would not increase spending to that level.

Hyderabad comes to stop again as rain floods roads, jams traffic

Hyderabad .(Agency)

The city was paralysed on Monday evening as heavy rains turned arterial roads into flowing water channels, leaving commuters stranded for over an hour during peak traffic.

Traffic jams were reported in Kharibabad and Shaikpet flyovers and PVNR Expressway, while waterlogging was reported at many places, including Raj Bhavan Road. Water entering transformers caused localised electricity outages in some areas. Residents of Towlichowki & Hakimpet witnessed chaos as two-wheelers, autos and cars were swept away in gushing waters. Shaikpet recorded the highest downpour in the city at 106 mm, followed by Srinagar Colony in Kharibabad at 100 mm.

Roads beneath several Metro stations turned into mini-lakes, forcing people to seek shelter



under pillars and station roofs. Traffic police and Disaster Response Force teams were deployed to manage vehicles and crowds.

Residents highlighted recurring issues, particularly at Raj Bhavan Road, where a rainwater-holding structure meant to prevent flooding filled within minutes, leaving the stretch submerged under knee-deep water. Despite GHMC constructing 10 rainwater harvesting structures across the city, each with a capacity of 2–10 lakh litres at a cost of ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore, heavy rains continue to overwhelm the system.

Commuters took to social media to vent frustration. "It took me three hours to reach Paradise from Banjara Hills," one X user wrote. Videos circulating online showed cars floating, two-wheelers being washed away and underpasses turning into dangerous water traps. At DV Colony near Patny Nala, residents reported repeated waterlogging: "We just finished draining rainwater from the rains the day before, and now it's submerged again. Motors cannot run due to power cuts."

Police say cab driver died by suicide in Odisha, four held for abetment

Bhubaneswar .(Agency)

Commissionerate Police on Monday clarified that the taxi driver found dead under mysterious circumstances on Baranga-Pitapali Road last week had died by suicide, and four persons have been arrested on charges of abetment.

The victim, Bidyadhar Sahoo (32) of Aranga village in Khurda, was found dead near Jujhagada village under Chandaka police limits on Saturday. He had been missing since September 15, and his wife, Mamina Khatua, lodged a complaint with Badagada police four days later.

Bidyadhar worked as a driver for an online cab service and also assisted Jyotsna Rani Khuntia, who runs a job consultancy in Bhubaneswar. Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said, Bidyadhar and Jyotsna were reportedly involved in a job fraud racket, in which several persons from Gajapati, Balasore, and Jajpur districts were duped of around ₹1.5 crore.

On September 15, a group of aspirants, who were duped by him, confronted Bidyadhar near Bhanja Kala Mandap, demanding their money and certificates. When Jyotsna was contacted, she reportedly abused them over phone. Unable to trace her, the youths kidnapped Bidyadhar, took him to a rented house in Jajpur, and continued to press for the return of their money and documents. During captivity, Bidyadhar spoke to his wife on September 17 and 18 using the mobile phone of one of the accused. With no means to repay, he allegedly ended his life by hanging on September 19.

Husband entitled as wife's family suppressed her cerebral palsy before wedding: Bombay HC annuls marriage

Mumbai .(Agency)

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court on Monday annulled the marriage of a young couple after ruling that the wife's family had suppressed, before the wedding, that she was suffering from cerebral palsy, entitling the husband to seek nullity of the marriage.

The high court allowed the plea filed by the 31-year-old husband who challenged the August 2023 verdict of the family court that dismissed his plea, seeking decree of divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act.

In his appeal, the man stated that he married in April 2018 and soon noticed the respondent wife had health issues such as prolonged sleep, bed-wetting, frequent unconsciousness and unresponsiveness and her father gave unsatisfactory replies when

questioned.

Thereafter, the husband, with her father's consent, got her examined by a doctor who diagnosed cerebral palsy and said it was improper of her father to get her married despite her undeveloped brain and her condition being incurable. Another doctor, giving "second opinion" also advised it was "dangerous" for the appellant and his family to live with her.

The plea stated the wife left her matrimonial home the same year to live with her parents. After an unsatisfactory reply to his October 2018 legal notice for mutual consent divorce, the husband moved the family court with the divorce petition, alleging deceit due to non-disclosure of her



mental disorder prior to marriage and claimed he was "cheated".

On the other hand, the wife contested the divorce plea, denying mental illness. Advocate Jitendra V Patil argued she studied in regular schools and colleges and her medical records showed no disorder. The woman said that the

appellant was her "distant relative" and his mother proposed the marriage, despite knowing one of her hands was weak since birth, after meetings between both families.

The family court dismissed the husband's plea, observing that while she suffered from cerebral palsy, she behaved like an ordinary person during her wedding and did not become violent, prompting the aggrieved husband to approach the high court.

A bench of Justices Nitin B Surwayanshi and Sandipkumar C More, after perusing submissions observed, "We are unable to understand the observation (by

family court) that cerebral palsy is not a mental disorder and relates only to body movement."

The HC noted that one of the members of the medical board of a government hospital, who was examined by the family court, had "specially explained that the disease 'cerebral palsy' from which the respondent-wife is suffering, has been there since her birth and it is not curable."

"Though it would not come in the way of enjoying a happy marital life including sexual pleasure, what is material is the suppression of said disease from the side of the respondent wife at the time of marriage. Had it been disclosed prior to the marriage, then it would have resulted in the appellant-husband having a second thought about whether to go for the marriage," Justice More noted.

Two hospitalised after stray dog bites in 2 days in a Gujarat village; sarpanch writes to Surat development officer

Surat .(Agency)

In Gujarat's Kosamba village of Surat district, a gram panchayat member was bitten by a stray dog on Tuesday, while a day earlier, six stray dogs mauled a six-year-old boy returning home from tuition. Both were rushed to hospital.

In the last ten days, six incidents of stray dog bites have been reported in Kosamba. The village sarpanch, Yasmeen Dawooji, wrote to the District Development Officer and the Veterinary Department on Tuesday, seeking help to tackle the issue.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Dawooji said, "In the last ten days, five incidents of stray dog attacks on residents have been reported. Victims have to get shifted to a private hospital from our town. The condition of Shehzad and Dineshbhai is stable. We have written to the District Development Officer, Taluka Development Officer, and Veterinary

Department officials to help us tackle the menace of stray dogs and get them sterilised. People are afraid of going out of their homes



alone late at night, and there have even been stray dog attacks on those riding bikes. In our letter to the authorities, we have asked for swift

action." Residents said people walking on the roads in Kosamba in Mangrol taluka have been in danger due to repeated dog attacks.

On Tuesday afternoon, Kosamba gram panchayat member Dinesh Vasava (54) was walking to the Gram Panchayat office when three stray dogs attacked him. He managed to escape and reached the Community Health Care Centre in the town before being shifted to a private hospital in Bharuch. Doctors said his condition is stable.

On Monday evening, Mohammed Shehzad Shah (6), a resident of Kosamba, was returning home from tuition when a group of six stray dogs attacked him near his house. They dragged him to the ground and bit him on different parts of his body. Passersby rescued the boy and took him home before he was rushed to the

Community Health Care Centre and later shifted to a private hospital in Bharuch for further treatment.

For Rising Telangana, CM Revanth eyes development at the core

Hyderabad .(Agency)

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to develop the "Telangana Rising Core Urban City Area" as a model global city, with priority given to education, healthcare, roads, sanitation and public health. He said the plan should cater to the growing population in Hyderabad, including migrants from across the state and other regions, providing infrastructure in line with world-class standards.

Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan presented a plan dividing the development into five components, covering 111 proposals. The chief minister instructed authorities to focus on improving living standards for poor and middle-class residents rather than superficial beautification.

On education, Revanth directed the identification of all government schools and colleges in GHMC, corporations and municipalities for modernisation, particularly for nursery to Class 4. He suggested

consolidating smaller schools into complexes, addressing teacher shortages, and providing meals and transport to reduce the burden on families.



Medical reforms will include special clinics to ensure immediate assistance for the poor. On sanitation, Revanth urged municipal officials to maintain cleanliness and warned of action

against negligence, offering incentives for successful implementation.

The chief minister made it clear that no government office should operate from rented buildings and called for solar energy installation in all public buildings. Ponds and lakes will be prioritised for conservation, while a digital land database will prevent encroachments.

To address traffic issues, he instructed a study for management solutions, including a sophisticated signalling system, integration with the ICCC, drone policing and water harvesting wells to prevent flooding. Departments overseeing municipal, police, electricity, and water services will align boundaries for better coordination.

Other directives included the use of robots for drainage cleaning, upgrading parks, setting up vending zones, improving electricity and sewage systems, and creating a rehabilitation centre for drug users at Cherlapalli jail with ex-military supervision.

Memon is a resident of Memon colony, while Shaikh resides in Bhandwada and Saiyyed is a resident of Fatehpura, and all of them were among those gathered in the area where the riot broke out, police said.

Police records have shown that Memon had previously been booked seven times for rioting, assault, attempt to murder and possession of firearms while Shaikh had been booked in two previous cases of extortion and gambling.

Another accused arrested in the case — Ifran Ibrahim Shaikh — had also been booked in a previous case of rioting.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone IV) Andrew Macwan told The Indian Express: "The search for the other accused is underway. The police remand of the three accused will end on Tuesday. The person arrested for posting the social media post has been remanded to judicial custody. We are checking if he has any previous record of committing such an act."

Campus Talk | How a community radio run by a Mumbai college offers hands-on learning opportunities

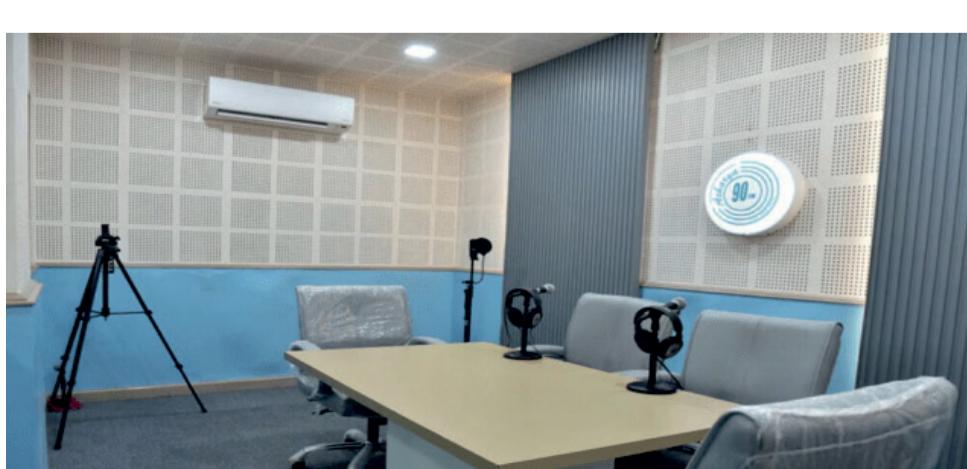
Mumbai .(Agency)

For those looking to build a career in radio broadcasting, enrolling at NG Acharya and GK Marathe College in Chembur could be a good choice. The reason: its very own 24-hour community radio, Acharya 90 FM. Equipped with a professional-grade studio and trained staff on campus, the radio station offers students hands-on experience that mirrors the workings of a real-world radio channel.

Launched in 2022, Acharya 90 FM is one of the rare college-run community radios in Mumbai. Initially broadcasting for just eight hours a day, the station has since expanded to a full 24-hour schedule. Apart from dedicated segments by two in-house RJs, the community radio features academic and career-related content recorded by faculty members, along with the traditional entertainment content of mainstream radio channels, such as music. One of the two RJs, Tejaswini Mundye, who also serves as the

overall coordinator of the Acharya 90 FM, said the radio station broadcasts in Marathi, Hindi, and English, or a mix of these languages, tailored to suit the specific audiences. Besides music, the radio's content includes interviews with celebrities or people who are in the news locally, interactions with inspiring personalities, and academic or career-oriented sessions for the local youth. "The idea is to provide a dedicated platform for the local community," she said.

Responsibility towards the local community was the idea behind the launch of this community radio by the Chembur Trombay Education Society, the parent body of the college. The society's general secretary, Subodh Acharya, said, "It all started with an application to the Central Government in 2016 after reading about the impact of a community radio station. After years of follow-up to obtain permission, we launched in 2022. And our college was selected as the base, so students could benefit directly."



Not just for mass communication students, Acharya said the management had arranged for consultations with radio experts. The studio and the logo were designed by students of the trust's architecture college, while students of

mass media and other courses have become a critical part of the station's day-to-day operations. Elaborating further, Mundye said, "Our radio station mirrors the setup of any professional

radio channel with dedicated teams handling marketing, advertising, content creation, etc. This allows students the opportunity to gain experience in an area of their choice. Apart from students from mass media courses, students from other disciplines also intern with us to gain hands-on experience."

Acharya 90 FM also features recorded academic and career guidance programmes by faculty, available as podcasts via the station's mobile app. "These podcasts are especially popular during exam and admission seasons—not just among our students, but also across the wider community," said Mundye.

Dr Sunil Kadam, the principal in-charge of the college, said, "Acharya 90 FM extends classroom learning into real-world application. Our teachers also record remedial lectures for past learners to clear pending papers, which invariably help a larger student community from the locality."

Goddess Durga: Slayer of darkness

Sharad Navaratri begins today, commemorating the battle fought by the Goddess Durga against the titan Mahishasura, a shape-shifter long before the advent of the Harry Potter books. He was half-man, half-buffalo, and kept changing his form in the fight until he was finally killed when Durga plunged a trident into his chest. Mahishasura had gained a boon from Agni that no man could kill him. So, it had to be a woman, a possibility he found too absurd to remotely consider. He went on a rampage, terrorising the three worlds with his brutality. The celestials, led by Indra, were unable to vanquish Mahishasura. So, they strategised. They assembled in the mountains and decided to transfer their combined divine energies into the goddess Durga. Suitably armed, she set forth to challenge Mahishasura.

At first, he laughed at her, confident of his brute strength against a mere 'woman', failing to recognise her power as the Parashakti, or Supreme Goddess, for had he not beaten all the celestials soundly? When she didn't back down, he tried frightening her with threatening moves. Durga did not budge, only looked at him with calm contempt. Finally, he was forced to attack head-on, unable to believe that a feminine entity had the strength and skill to withstand him. In desperation, he tried to change from his original form, which was half-man, half-buffalo. In turn, he became a charging buffalo, a lion, a man and an elephant, before finally being killed. He returned in his dying throes to his original half-and-half form. At a symbolic level, Mahishasura represents arrogance, cruelty and ignorance, the dark forces that repeatedly threaten the smooth functioning of life. But they can be overcome by the bright, sincere strength that the goddess represents. That is the underlying message of the festival, with its fasts and its holdbacks from meat and drink—that the recommended physical detox should enable a process of mental detox. That we should ask ourselves honest questions without excuses or deflections, and without transferring blame. That we should pray for the strength and wisdom to identify whatever we may be doing that is harmful to others and to ourselves, and resolve to fix it. This is the greatest gift that the festival wants to give people—an annual calendar opportunity to update our software and give ourselves new beginnings, the chance to positively refresh both our thinking and our doing. The central text of the Sharad Navaratri is the Devi Mahatmyam, meaning 'The Glory of the Goddess'. It is part of the Markandeya Purana, Chapters 81 to 93. Some scholars suggest that it dates back to the fifth century, while others propose the seventh. It is also known as the Durga Saptasati, or 'Seven Hundred Verses for Durga', which are arranged into thirteen chapters. However, while wrapped in a powerful story and beautiful verses of praise that begin 'Ya Devi' (Hail, Goddess), the Devi Mahatmyam is essentially a philosophical text on the reality of the human condition and the nature of life. The frame story of the Devi Mahatmyam concerns a dispossessed king called Suratha, who has lost his kingdom, and a merchant named Samadhi, who is betrayed by his own family. Both men have been evicted from their respective homes. Shattered by these events, they decide to renounce the world and retreat to the forest ashram of a famous sage of their era, Rishi Medhas. They meet in the forest and discover each other's unhappy stories. What troubles them most is that despite the betrayals and being kicked out of their home, they still yearn for their families. They find Rishi Medhas and pour out their woes. The rishi's teachings lead them out of their misery into a state of better understanding.

DURING the 1965 India-Pakistan war, 4 Mountain Division was deployed at Khemkaran in Punjab's Majha region. Among 4 Division's most distinguished battalions was 4 Grenadiers. Lt Hari Ram Janu, my course-mate at the NDA, was the Forward Company Commander of this battalion's C Company. He had been in service for two years and three months. His platoon commander, 2nd Lt BK Vaid, had less than a year's service. The company was deployed on the Khemkaran-Chima road. A roadblock had been laid. In the afternoon on September 10, 1965, two jeeps followed by a tank were seen coming up the road from Khemkaran. The jeeps came to a stop near the roadblock.

The forward jeep had two stars on it; an officer stood up and shouted to the nearest Grenadiers trench that had three men and a light machine gun (LMG): "Throw down your weapons; you are surrounded!" The Bren gunner stood up in the trench and froze; he was astonished to see a senior officer standing next to the driver. 2nd Lt Vaid ordered the gunner, "Fire, open fire!" The gunner finally opened fire at the officer and the driver. Both collapsed.

The items recovered from the jeep included an officer's beret, star plates and a swallow-tailed pennant; it was presumed that Maj Gen Naseer Ahmad Khan, GOC of Pakistan's 1 Armoured Division, had been killed. This was confirmed because the rescue tank commander had shouted for the 'General' and there was a wireless intercept to the effect that 'Bade imam sahib' had been killed. The three young men in the trench were Naushad, Sulleman and Shafi. What had transpired was that the GOC, confused about the whereabouts of the Indian forces, had given his jeep to his Artillery Brigade chief Brig Ahsan Rasheed Shami, who volunteered to carry out a reconnaissance. It was he who stood up to challenge the occupants of the trench and was shot. The Brigadier's map case and an operational order marked "top secret" was also found. It was the order for Pakistan's operation to bypass both the 4 Division and 7 Division defences and then capture the Beas brigade, severing the GT road and communications to all 11 Corps formations.

When the Western Army Commander, Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh, arrived at the 4 Division HQ on September 11, the Op order and the map were shown to him. I was then instructed to take the documents back to the Command HQ. It wasn't a pleasant task as the papers were soaked in blood. Along with these were the officers' identity cards and personal effects. On reaching the Command HQ, I handed them over to the Chief of Staff and they were immediately sent to the Army HQ in New Delhi.

After detailed discussions and a late dinner, Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh, left at 2 am to take rest. We were to leave for 11 Corps at 5 am. Around 3 am, I was in my

Abdul Hamid was among the architects of Asal Uttar victory during the 1965 war

sleep when I heard the telephone ring. I answered it and a voice asked for the Commander. I asked him to identify himself. In response, he shouted, "I'm the Chief. Who else do you think?" I said, "Sorry, Sir. I will get the Commander for you." I called up but got no response. I told my roommate, Capt Jiti Choudhry of Hodson's Horse — who had been ADC (aide-de-camp) to Gen



Daulat Singh — that I was going to the Commander's room and that when I rang up, he should put the call through. Lt Gen Harbaksh was asleep when I entered his room. I shook him awake, saying, "The Chief is on the line, Sir". Jiti put the call through. I stood by as the Commander spoke. The Army Chief said: "I have seen the Pak Op order for the dash to the Beas. I suggest you withdraw 11 Corps formations to hold a line on the Beas river." The Commander responded in the negative: "I've just come from 4 Division. The situation has stabilised. The 2nd Armoured Brigade is now under its command and 3 Cavalry is also now with 4 Division." It was decided that the Commander would postpone his visit to 11 Corps and the Chief would visit him at the Command HQ at Ambala. At 10 am the next day, the Chief arrived at Ambala. A lengthy discussion took place on various matters, but the contentious issue of the Western Command's withdrawal to the Beas, thereby giving up a large area of Majha (including Amritsar and Tarn Taran), was not taken up as the situation had changed overnight. Had a pliant Commander been in charge, a large chunk of Punjab would have been lost and the morale of the Army would have hit a new low just three years after the

Chinese debacle. Earlier, on September 8, Pakistan's 1 Armoured Division confronted the battalion at Bhura Kuhna and Asal Uttar. Around 9 am, an LMG section deployed about 20 yards from the road shouted that two tanks were approaching their position from the direction of Khem Karan and were about 200 yards away. Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid's RCL (recoilless rifle) detachment was around 30 yards to the right of the Company HQ. Lt Janu called out to him to engage the tanks as soon as he could see them. Hamid got the lead tank with his first shot. The following two tanks were abandoned intact by their crews. At 11 am, following a severe artillery barrage, another tank attack took place. Hamid once again knocked out the lead tank. The following tanks were also abandoned. The troops attacking B Company disengaged and withdrew.

By 11:30 am, a column of 1/9 Gorkhas withdrew from Bhura Kuhna due to an enemy armoured assault. Around noon, enemy tanks entered the 4 Grenadiers' battalion defences at Chima and opened fire at close range. The RCL platoon commander, despite being wounded, ordered his detachments to engage the enemy tanks. Hamid's detachment knocked out two of the tanks that made an attempt to overrun their defences. Another attack was also repulsed, with the enemy losing two more tanks in the process. The battalion suffered six casualties. At 3 pm, a squadron of Centurion tanks of 3 Cavalry reached the spot and forced the enemy to withdraw from Bhura Kuhna. At 2:30 pm, a third attack, this time on B Company, took place and two more tanks were shot by the RCL detachment. At 9 am on September 9, a fleet of four F86s strafed the area. This was followed by tank attacks at 9:30 am, 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Hamid accounted for two tanks, and Havildar Bir Singh of B Company two more.

On September 10, the most important day of the Asal Uttar battle, enemy artillery started its bombardment of the Grenadiers at 6 am. One tank led the way on the road, followed by one on either side. The tanks were spotted at 200 yards, but Lt Janu ordered Hamid not to engage them till they were closer. Hamid then destroyed the leading tank, the other two being abandoned by its crew.

At 9:30 am, Hamid shot two more tanks, and while he was sighting the third, both he and the enemy fired simultaneously, hitting each other and killing both crews. 4 Grenadiers had shot 15 tanks and held its ground despite being under constant armoured attack. It received the Battle Honour 'Asal Uttar' and the Theatre Honour 'Punjab 1965'. Hamid was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra for his gallantry during this battle.

Prioritise innovation, build India's future as deep tech destination

Four months after Amit Shah announced AIADMK's return to the NDA fold, the alliance seems to be rudderless

The Trump administration's proposal to impose a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa holders, clarified later as a one-time charge, is not a minor policy tweak. It is a warning shot, exposing an uncomfortable truth. The United States no longer sees foreign talent as a strategic asset. Instead, it treats them as transactional, welcome only on its terms and when politically convenient. This move strikes at the heart of what has long powered America's tech dominance: its ability to attract the world's best minds. In 2024, Indians accounted for 71 percent of all H-1B visas. They aren't low-skilled workers; they are the engineers, researchers, and system architects behind cutting-edge platforms at Amazon, Google, Microsoft and Meta. This isn't just shortsighted. It's strategic self-harm. Yes, the H-1B system has been misused. Some companies gamed the process, underpaid workers, and exploited loopholes to the hilt. To punish the entire ecosystem, including top-tier talent that has driven US innovation for decades, is to



undercut your own future in a world increasingly defined by technological supremacy. Advertisement For India, this signals more than a diplomatic issue. It demands clarity and resolve. If America chooses to tax skills and limit opportunities, India must stop waiting for acceptance and

shift focus inward. That era is past. Now is the time to build at home. India cannot just be a talent exporter. It must become a destination for ideas, innovation, and investment. The message from Washington is clear: merit now has a price tag. India must respond even louder: opportunity has a new address.

This is not retaliation. It is reclamation. If Indian talent is pushed out, let's pull them in. Let's make India a hub where global minds build what's next. Nowhere is this urgency more pressing than in deep tech—AI, semiconductors, robotics, quantum and drone technology. These are not buzzwords; they are the foundations of global power in the 21st century. India has the raw material, talent, risk-hungry startups, and a policy intent. However, piecemeal progress won't get us there. The government's ₹10,000 crore deep tech fund is a start. What India needs is a ₹1 lakh crore deep tech mission over the next decade focused on R&D, IP, and commercialisation. The age of dependence must now give way to an era of leadership.

Sri Lanka: Year of change, many hills to climb

The administration has failed to ease the economic burden in a tangible way, and the public continues to reel under the skyrocketing cost of living. People pin hopes on a systemic overhaul

Exactly a year ago, Sri Lankans wrote political history by decisively bringing traditional two-party politics to an end by elevating a party that was not expected to rule. Their radical choice: Anura Kumara Dissanayake, a neo-leftist and leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front). For the JVP, it had not been a cakewalk. For decades, it has struggled to overcome a debilitating three percent vote, which permanently confined them to the opposition ranks. Despite radical appeal, political power had continuously eluded them until Sri Lanka hit an economic nadir in 2022. A simmering governance crisis, combined with an economic crisis, provided a potent formula for seismic political change, and Dissanayake soon emerged as a beacon of hope for a nation tired of corrupt regimes and family rule. Despite his popularity, Dissanayake's meteoric rise was the culmination of the 2022 'Aragalaya' protest movement, which forced the then President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to resign amid massive public protests. Opinion polls showed Dissanayake as the country's most trusted politician at the time, as public sentiment strongly opposed the traditional ruling class—amidst allegations of large-scale corruption, kleptocracy, nepotism, and a mismanaged financial crisis. Despite the political upheaval, Sri Lankans also demonstrated political prudence and patience by holding elections and by ensuring a smooth transition of power. When selecting a successor, JVP's own violent history and the responsibility of two uprisings in the South did not deter voters from electing Dissanayake as their president. A year on, public expectations

remain high, and Dissanayake and his government's delivery remains a mixed bag. Among the key changes expected was to reset the economic policy. However, Sri Lanka has already signed up for the IMF's formula for debt restructuring to weather the economic storm. Ultimately, Dissanayake chose economic pragmatism, opting to honour the commitments made while managing domestic priorities—a difficult balancing act.

The government has begun to liquidate identified non-performing public institutions, and the spiralling cost of living is creating public irritation; however, there appears to be a dogged determination within the government to go through the painful process. This brings no praise for Dissanayake, who is criticised for following a Western economic formula, once the topic of acid criticism by the JVP. There is unhappiness about the government's failure to prosecute the country's corrupt elite, another lofty election promise.

The NPP, meanwhile, claims to have taken measures to contain the budget deficit and sustain economic growth, while also trying to attract foreign direct investment. Presenting his first budget in February 2025, President Dissanayake informed parliament that four major Port City projects, worth \$1.4 billion, are underway. The government also initiated public sector salary reforms to be implemented in phases through 2027, aiming to increase salaries and reduce wage disparities. Beyond its shores, Sri Lanka is also required to deal with the competing geostrategic interests of both China and India. A member of the Official

Creditors' Committee, India's bilateral debt to Sri Lanka is approximately \$1.74 billion, whereas debt owed to China is primarily for infrastructure projects, totalling \$4.9 billion.

To win New Delhi's favour, Dissanayake had to put in some work. The JVP has a publicly declared anti-India stance and had played a pivotal role in driving the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from Sri



Lankan soil through violent protests in 1987-89. The new administration has been strategically moving forward to strengthen bilateral ties. Symbolic of this shift was the conferring of the highest civilian award, Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana, on visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi this April. The administration has failed to ease the economic burden in a tangible way, and the public continues to reel under the skyrocketing cost of living. Recently, the government has scrapped perks from former

presidents, a move that has generated mixed reactions, with only some claiming this would not save state funds. Beyond such optics, people pin hopes on a systemic overhaul, particularly in curbing corruption and holding the political elite accountable.

A month ago, former president Ranil Wickremesinghe was arrested by the Criminal Investigations Department for allegedly misusing state funds. It was also the first time a Sri Lankan president had been arrested on any charge. Wickremesinghe, now out on bail, marked the 79th anniversary of the United National Party (UNP) on September 20 in Colombo, where he referred to the current administration as a 'constitutional dictatorship'. For those fast losing patience with the government, Wickremesinghe's arrest was the spark they were looking for. For his part, Wickremesinghe has used it to send out a rallying call for all anti-JVP/PP forces to come together.

Then there are the unmistakable aspirations of the island's North, where the people overwhelmingly voted in favour of the NPP last November. They broke tradition and placed their faith in a southern politician to deliver justice and bring closure. There are many unresolved issues in the former conflict zones—missing persons, displacement, landlessness, and absence of justice for atrocities committed during years of war. The list is endless, and the people are waiting for the government to start moving. Dissanayake will do well to remember the northern mandate and to honour that fragile faith—one that is not easily given to a southern political leader.

Khalistani extremist Inderjit Singh Gosal arrested in Canada on firearms charges

Chandigarh (Agency)

Canadian authorities have arrested Inderjit Singh Gosal, a 36-year-old prominent organizer for the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) group and close aide to designated terrorist Gurpartwan Singh Pannun, on multiple charges related to the possession of unlicensed firearms.

The arrest took place in Ottawa on September 22. Gosal, a resident of Brampton, Ontario, was arrested by the Peel Police along with two associates while traveling from Brampton to Ottawa, for possession of unlicensed firearms. All three individuals remain in custody and are expected to face formal charges and possible jail time.

The detention comes just days after a high-level meeting on September 19, between India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart, Nathalie G. Drouin, where both nations committed to enhanced cooperation on counter-terrorism

Karnataka HC quashes RERA circular imposing delay fees on developers

Bengaluru (Agency)

In a relief to developers and promoters, the Karnataka High Court quashed a circular issued on September 3, 2020, by RERA-K, mandating a "delay fee" for belated submission of quarterly updates and annual audit statements, without distinction to the scale of the project, the stage of development, or the peculiar circumstances surrounding it.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing 75 petitions by builders, developers and promoters questioning the impugned circular. The court said if RERA wanted to impose a pecuniary burden on any citizen, however big or small, it cannot be presumed nor can it be implied; it must be through legislation.

If the legislation delegates such power, the delegation must be express, unambiguous and circumscribed within the boundaries of the legislation's policy. Tested on the anvil of these principles, the impugned circular stands exposed as utterly failing of statutory parentage.

Reliance on Sections 11, 34 and 37 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, by RERA is wholly misplaced. Therefore, from any of these provisions, the "delay fee" cannot be imposed. The circular to impose it is arbitrary, illegal and void.

The petitioners in all these cases become entitled to consequential benefits that would flow from the quashing of the circular. The quashment will not come in the way of legislation or imposition of subject fee in a manner known to law, the court said.

Bengaluru's dog feeding initiative put on hold as BBMP hands over to Greater Bengaluru Authority

Bengaluru (Agency)

In the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) transition to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the ambitious dog feeding initiative has been put on hold. The BBMP had charted out a plan to feed around 4,000 stray dogs every day morning with one meal of chicken rice at an estimated cost of Rs 2.88 crore a year.

A senior official stated that when the dog feeding file was submitted to GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao for clearance, he indicated that it is now up to the five corporations to decide. "During the Covid-19 pandemic, BBMP initiated feeding the community (street) dogs. As a statutory requirement, in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, notified by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the BBMP charted a plan in July to feed street dogs.

The intention behind the scheme was to reduce aggression among dogs and to reduce instances of dog bites", the senior official said. "As per our plan, we aimed to feed 4,000 dogs out of the estimated 2.7 lakh in the city with chicken rice, weighing 367 grams, that would provide them with 750 calories. The civic body also went ahead to identify places for the dog feeding initiative and was gearing up to float tenders. However, before that, the BBMP's era ended and GBA was born with five corporations," he said.



and transnational crime. Indian agencies reportedly provided Ottawa with detailed dossiers on Gosal, including financial trails and evidence linking him directly to Pannun,

Gosal rose to prominence within the Khalistani movement following the June 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, another SFJ leader in Surrey, British Columbia. Nijjar's death, which Canada alleged involved Indian agents (a claim denied by India), strained bilateral relations and led to mutual diplomat expulsions. After Nijjar's death, Gosal stepped up as a key Canadian coordinator for SFJ's referendum campaign, organizing rallies and providing personal security for Pannun during events.

This is not Gosal's first brush with Canadian authorities. In November 2024, he was arrested by Peel Regional Police in connection with

a violent clash at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton. Gosal faced charges of assault with a weapon.

The incident had drawn sharp condemnation from India, which labeled it "extremist violence."

the general counsel of SFJ, a U.S.-based organization advocating for a "Khalistan referendum" to establish an independent Sikh state in Punjab. SFJ has been banned in India as a terrorist outfit, and Pannun himself is designated a terrorist by New Delhi.

Chandigarh (Agency)

"When a bitumen road is constructed, it just requires an emulsion spray for preventive maintenance. With this spray, neither the aggregate comes off nor potholes appear." Associate professor Ajay Duggal from the NITTTR further said that even lives of such roads increase with the use of an emulsion spray.

However, authorities in Chandigarh stayed mum on the issue despite examples presented, for reasons best known to them.

The road of Sector 16 towards Matka chowk which has been given touches by the NITTTR stands intact as the emulsion spray has been sprinkled, making the entire stretch weathered the heavy rainy season. The cost of the entire spray is not even 5 per cent of the complete estimates. Similarly, the road towards the Industrial Area is good despite having a 25 mm thickness even as others

which have developed cracks have 40 mm thickness. Here too, the emulsion sprays have been done. "If you see, the airport's runway is also a bitumen stretch and it can withstand the weight of the plane, which is 10 times more than an average loaded truck. At such stretches also, periodic maintenance with such steps are initiated and they rarely become potholed," he said.

Some roads are too good

While officials blame heavy monsoon showers for the deteriorating condition of Chandigarh roads, there are good roads also in the city which do not have a single pothole.

The road from Kisan Bhawan towards Matka chowk, Madhya Marg, the one in front of

Assaulted by seniors, BTech student ends life in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (Agency)

A 19-year-old engineering student allegedly died by suicide at a hostel in Narapally on Sunday night. The victim, a second-year BTech student at Siddhartha Institute of Technology, was found hanging in his room.

Police said the student, a native of Utnoor in Adilabad district, was harassed by senior students who forced him to consume liquor and accompany them to a bar. When the bar staff handed them a bill of '10,000, they insisted he pay, assaulting him when he refused. Unable to cope with the humiliation, he is believed to have taken his own life. Before ending his life, the student recorded a selfie video alleging harassment by his seniors and sent it to his father. Medipally police have

registered a case. The victim's father expressed doubts about the circumstances of his son's death, alleging it was not a suicide and demanding a probe and strict action against those responsible.

DRUNK, MENTALLY ILL MAN MURDERS PARENTS

Hyderabad: Under the influence of liquor, a 35-year-old mentally ill man allegedly murdered his elderly parents at their house in Neredmet on Sunday night. The suspect, had been living with his parents. Police said he attacked them with a stick, killing them on the spot. He had been undergoing treatment at the Government Mental Health Centre in Erragadda for the past few months, but his parents had brought him back home about a month ago.



Three Haryana farmers booked for burning stubble, one says accidental fire while making tea

The action by Haryana authorities, however, has sparked outrage with farmers condemning the FIRs.

Chandigarh (Agency)

The Haryana Police have registered FIRs against three farmers for allegedly setting fire to crop residue after harvesting paddy in Karnal district, the action coming a time when Supreme Court has mooted reintroduction of penal provisions, including arrest, in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, so that agriculturists who continue to indulge in stubble burning can be prosecuted to send "the right message" and to act as a deterrent.

Deputy Director, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, Wazir Singh, told The Indian Express that a red entry has also been made against the accused on the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal, which will bar them from selling their crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the grain markets for two seasons. Wazir Singh added that all three cases involved crop residue burning on less than two acres of land. The farmers named in the FIRs include Jasmer Singh, a resident of village Kaimla; Dinesh Kumar from Phurlak; and Vikki, a resident of village Beejna, in Karnal. They have been

charged under Section 39 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and Section 223(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Of the three, Dinesh owns 1.5 acres of land, but the stubble burning was detected in a one-acre portion of his field, an official said. The official further said that Vikki's father, Rajkumar, shares a joint landholding of approximately 14 acres with his brother in Beejna village, and the stubble burning was reported in a one-acre field from where paddy had been harvested.

Sub Inspector Manjeet Singh from Gharaua police station, one of the investigating officers, said that the accused will be arrested once the necessary revenue records are obtained. Officials also confirmed that, in addition to the FIRs, penalties of Rs 5,000 on each of the accused farmers will also be imposed. In the third FIR, Mohan, a junior engineer from the Public Works Department, alleged that instead of

attempting to extinguish the fire, farmer Jasmer Singh left the scene on his tractor. Jasmer Singh, however, claimed the fire was



accidental, ignited while labourers were making tea in the fields. "When the officials arrived, I was trying to put out the fire," he said. Jasmer Singh further said that although he owns only half an acre of land, he cultivates 7.5 acres taken on contract.

Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, hearing a matter related to filling of vacancies in the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and state pollution boards, on September 17 asked: "Why don't we consider reintroducing (penal provisions)? If you have a provision for criminal prosecution, if some people are sent behind bars, it will send the right message".

The CJI said that farmers must be taken along, by providing other options for utilising the stubble like for biofuel. "You take them (along)...you should have some alternative mechanism for using this stubble. At the same time, you use both carrot as well as stick. Give them carrot, but at the same time..." he said. "Farmers have a special position. Because of their efforts, we are getting what we eat. That doesn't mean they should not be brought in, in order to protect the environment of the country," he said.

Man shot dead at his tavern in Ludhiana: argument over Rs 120 bill or there is more to it, police begin probe

Pune (Agency)

Unidentified assailants allegedly shot dead a man at his ahaat, a local term for a tavern-like informal drinking space, in the Sahnewal area of Ludhiana Monday, said the police.

The deceased was identified as Amit Kumar, 36, a resident of Sahnewal. His elder brother Anuj Kumar, a local Congress leader, told the police that the assailants shot him dead at his tavern next to a liquor vend after an argument over a bill amounting to around Rs 120.

"Last night, around 10.30 pm, three men came on a bike posing as customers and ordered some food. When asked to pay the Rs 120 bill, they entered an argument with the workers, and then my brother intervened. The situation escalated, and they brandished a revolver and opened fire at my brother. He suffered a bullet injury near his heart and died on the spot," said Anuj, general secretary, Ludhiana district Congress committee.

Anuj said they suspect some people are



behind the killing and have given their names to the police. Inspector Gurmukh Singh, Station House Officer, Sahnewal police station, said an FIR for murder has been registered on the complaint of Pramod Kumar, another elder brother of the deceased.



Punjab and Haryana High court too has no craters, and a similar case is of the Industrial Area road as well. Chandigarh Municipal Corporation (MC) manages V4, V5 and V6 roads. Recently they gave V3 roads to the administration for maintenance. A network of 1,800 kilometres is managed by the MC.

In a bid to ensure good quality checks and specifications, in 2022, then commissioner K K Yadav had given the work of specifications to NITTTR after taking it from the inhouse engineers who would further sublet it. But after Yadav left the office, the task was given to inhouse engineers again.

Lawyers observe a 'no work day' to protest 'threats' to senior advocate

Jalandhar (Agency)

The Bar Association in Jalandhar observed a "no work day" on Monday to protest alleged threats, extortion attempts and online defamatory attacks on senior advocate Mandeep Singh Sachdev and sought cooperation of all lawyers, judicial officers and administrative departments.

The district Bar body also held a meeting that continued late into the evening, where lawyers voted in favour of observing a "no working day" on Tuesday as well. The Bar Council also passed a resolution, demanding that an "Advocate Protection Act" be enacted at the earliest.

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has written to Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav

Yadav, seeking urgent intervention, action and protection to advocate Sachdev, former president of the Jalandhar District Bar

Association.

Jain said, "Our colleague, senior advocate Mandeep Singh Sachdev, was asked to pay extortion money. The accused also threatened to harm his family. Although an FIR was registered, charges were not properly framed."

Jain said, "A trap was laid, and when the accused, identified as Sam, came to collect the money, the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) staff caught him. But police later released the accused, saying he is innocent."

Questioning his release, Jain said, "If someone comes to collect extortion money, can he truly be considered innocent?"



On Tuesday, a meeting between Jalandhar's lawyers and city Commissionerate officials has been scheduled to chalk out a further strategy.

In Devangana Kalita plea, Delhi HC allows case diaries linked to anti-CAA stir to be preserved, turns down appeal for reconstruction

►The HC had first directed the preservation of the case diaries in an order dated December 2, 2024, after Kalita accused the police of antedating statements in their case diaries

Agency New Delhi.
The Delhi High Court on Monday directed a trial court to preserve the case diaries in a probe against activist Devangana Kalita by the Jafrabad police station. The matter relates to an offence lodged at the police station in 2020 during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The High Court, however, refused her plea to reconstruct the diaries in its order.

The HC had first directed the preservation of the case diaries in an order dated December 2, 2024, after Kalita accused the police of antedating statements in their case diaries.

Justice Ravinder Dudeja of the HC on Monday, noted, "The case diary is not the evidence but its absence may affect the fairness of trial and therefore directions may be given to preserve it."

While rejecting the request for reconstruction, the High Court reasoned that the other pages of the police diary "which do not form part of case diary in the present case and which would have been used by the investigating officers for recording statements in various other FIRs



being investigated by them at the relevant time cannot be reconstructed as the same is being beyond the scope of Section 172 and 91 CrPC and also because petitioner (Kalita) is not entitled to have the copy of the same."

The order read, "The court is within its competence to read the police diary only for aid and for satisfying its conscience in appreciating the legal evidence available on record but not beyond. The entries in the case diaries are not

evidence nor they can be used by the accused in the court unless the case comes within the scope of Section 172(3) CrPC," Justice Dudeja recorded. CrPC Section 172 deals with maintenance of police diaries during an investigation and CrPC Section 172 (3) holds that an accused is not entitled to call for or see such case diaries, unless they are used by the police officer who made them to refresh his memory, or if the court uses them for the purpose of contradicting such a police officer. A criminal court, under provisions of CrPC Section 172 may send for diaries and may use them not as evidence, but to aid it in an inquiry or trial. Such entries in the case diaries are usually utilised as foundation for questions to be put to the police witness and the court may, if necessary in its discretion, use the entries to contradict the police officer, who made them. But the entries in the police diary are neither substantive nor corroborative evidence, and that they cannot be used against any other witness than against the police officer that too for the limited extent as detailed in the provision.

Midnight shootout in Ghaziabad: All-women police team nabs armed thief with stolen electronics

Agency New Delhi.

It was close to midnight on Sunday at the Lohiya Nagar outpost in Ghaziabad. A six-member all-women police team was carrying out a routine vehicle check when they spotted a scooter approaching the barricade on a stretch near the Meerut Road.

They signalled to the rider to stop, but he allegedly ignored them, turned sharply and lost control of his vehicle. As the officers rushed forward, he scrambled to his feet, pulled out a pistol and allegedly opened fire. The women officers ducked and then retaliated by firing back. Within moments, the man fell to the ground with a bullet wound.

By the end of the night, the Ghaziabad Police had arrested the man who they said was carrying a bunch of stolen goods and an illegal weapon — the outcome of a rare operation carried out entirely by women officers.

Police said the man was identified as Jitendra (22), a resident of Kunewali Gali in Vijaynagar. Police said he has eight cases of robbery, theft and snatching registered against him. From his possession, officers recovered a scooter stolen from Delhi, a Samsung tablet, a Samsung mobile phone, and a country-made pistol of .315 bore along with cartridges.

He was taken to MMG District Hospital for treatment.

During questioning, police said Jitendra admitted to stealing motorcycles and scooters across NCR, snatching phones and money from passersby, and selling the items at cheap prices. "He claimed the tablet and phone recovered were stolen last night near Crossings Republik, while the scooter was stolen last year from Delhi," officers said.

Later, a video captured the aftermath. Limping heavily, Jitendra was held up by two women officers, as they led him to a police van.

Mohenjodaro 'Dancing Girl' replica stolen from National Museum, university professor was behind it

Agency New Delhi.

A 45-year-old professor from a reputed university in Haryana was booked for allegedly stealing a replica of the famous Mohenjodaro 'Dancing Girl' from the National Museum in Lutyens' Delhi, an official said.

The incident took place on Saturday. According to a complaint to the police by Nikhil Kumar, a clerk at the National Museum, he received a call around 4 pm from a sub-inspector (SI) posted with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The SI said that a statue of the 'Dancing Girl' had been stolen from Anubhav Vithika (Gallery).

"Checks were conducted immediately, and visitors were scanned. On reviewing CCTV footage, one individual was seen picking up the replica. CISF officials managed to identify the person, who was a professor, on the museum premises and nabbed him," the police said.

The CISF — which looks after security of the museum — immediately informed the local police and handed him over to them. The statue was recovered. According to police, the professor had come to Delhi for a visit but the actual reason for his stealing the statue was yet to be ascertained.

The official said that a case under sections 305 (e) (theft in a dwelling house or means of transportation or place of worship) and 317 (2) (receiving stolen property) has been registered at Kartavya Path Police station and the accused was further questioned. The 4,500 years old bronze figurine of the 'Dancing Girl' was excavated in 1926. Just 10.5 cm in height, the figurine is dark and completely in the nude with the exception of multiple bangles and a necklace.

In 2018, in a similar theft from the museum, a man from Haryana stole a replica of an Olduvai hand axe, believed to have been used around 1.5 million years ago in Tanzania.

Why is Delhi's sex ratio dipping? Experts explain

Agency New Delhi.

In an alarming trend, Delhi continues to see a drop in the sex ratio at birth for the fourth consecutive year — a trend that has persisted ever since the pandemic hit the Capital.

From 933 females per 1,000 males in 2020 to 920 in 2024, the latest data was revealed last week in the Annual Report on Registration of Births and Deaths in Delhi, released by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and the Office of Chief Registrar (Births & Deaths) of the Delhi government.

According to experts, some of the factors behind the trend are violation of sex abortion laws and low fertility rate. Data also reveals the trend has been witnessed in other parts of the country too and not just in Delhi.

What is sex ratio?

Sex ratio serves as a social indicator of gender equality within a society with a ratio of 1,000 denoting an equal number of male and female births. Ratios above 1,000 indicate more females than males, while ratios

below 1,000 signify a deficit. Various studies have shown that the "natural" or expected sex ratio at birth is around 952 females per 1,000 males.

In the Capital, sex ratio at birth rose continuously for eight years from 2012 to 2020 — from 886 to 933. However, after Covid hit in 2020, the



city has been seeing a persistent decline. This has come across as an unexpected phenomenon in the densely urban and prosperous national capital.

Indicating prevalence of sex-selective abortions, experts say the data points to deeper faultlines in our society.

Why the decline?

According to Srinivas Goli, Associate Professor, Demography at the

International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, the sudden drop in fertility rate in Delhi can be linked to the skewed sex ratio.

A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) — the average number of children a woman is expected to have over her lifetime — of 2.1 children per woman, which ensures a broadly stable population, is called a replacement rate.

A TFR below 2.1 means a population cohort is not producing enough children to replace itself, suggesting future population decline.

India's TFR fell below the replacement rate to 2.0 by 2021, government data showed. Delhi's TFR fell to 1.2 by 2023, the lowest in the country, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report.

"A lower fertility rate, combined with a persistent preference for a son, has led to a skewed sex ratio. If a family is choosing to have fewer children, they still prefer sons over daughters," Goli said, adding that while surveys show a massive decline in such preferences, these numbers tell a different story.

'Must be a protector of law, not a predator': Delhi HC raps sub-inspector for misbehaving with woman advocate

Agency New Delhi.

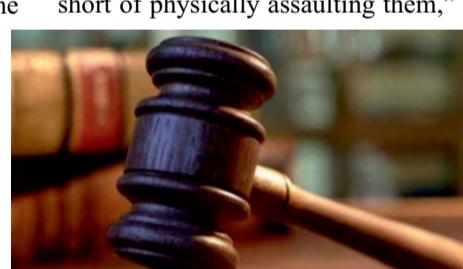
Pulling up a Delhi Police Sub-Inspector (SI) for misbehaving with a woman advocate, her client and another lawyer, the Delhi High Court said "he is supposed to be a protector of law and not a predator".

The incident took place on Monday before proceedings were supposed to begin. The woman advocate informed the judge about the matter, following which an order was passed.

The order stated that cognizance is being taken of a complaint in relation to an "unsavoury incident which took place in the precinct of this Courtroom (just outside the entrance)".

"The Investigating Officer (IO) of the case was not only verbally abusive

with the learned counsel for the applicant as well as the complainant, but also intimidated and threatened them with dire consequences, just short of physically assaulting them,"



the order passed by Justice Arun Monga read. "When a learned senior counsel, who is leading the matter to assist this court, tried to intervene, he was meted out similar treatment," it was meted out similar treatment," it said in the order.

added. "In the premise, I am of the view that such misconduct on the part of SI Narinder cannot be countenanced under any circumstances."

"He is supposed to be a protector of law and not a predator. He cannot turn his khaki to the level of such arrogance that not only did he misbehave with officers of this Court who are doing the honourable duty of assisting the Court in discharge of justice, but also threatened them with dire consequences merely because he thinks he is above law. Be that as it may, the entire matter needs to be investigated by an officer not below the rank of the Assistant Commissioner of Police," it said in the order.

The finest jamdani saris from Bangladesh makes a pitstop in Delhi

Delhi saw its craftsmanship in a first-ever Jamdani Exposition at the National Crafts Museum. The show that closes on Tuesday, is co-curated by Indian craft and textile revivalist Chandrashekhar Bheda and Chandrashekhar Saha, one of the pioneers of Bangladesh's craft revival.

Agency New Delhi.

When a jamdani master weaver sits side-by-side with his apprentice on the pit loom, he isn't really talking, he is humming, singing. A song of loose threads and plait: "Eight threads to the left and to the right, and four threads up". The number and direction keep changing as motifs appear, as flowers, paisleys, and geometrical patterns line up the translucent weave. Mathematics, it is said, holds a stern austerity, not just truth but supreme beauty, where logic, order, harmony and purity reside. In these equations lie the innovation and novelty of the jamdani, the celebrated, signature weave of Bangladesh.

Delhi saw its craftsmanship in a first-ever Jamdani Exposition at the National Crafts Museum. The show that closes on

Tuesday, is co-curated by Indian craft and textile revivalist Chandrashekhar Bheda and Chandrashekhar Saha, one of the pioneers of Bangladesh's craft revival. Brought together by the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, over 100 saris by master artisans, including two rare 150-year-old pieces, tell the story of the ancient weave.

Since the 15th century, fine malmals and jamdanis have found their way on caravan routes to Iran and Uzbekistan. Patronised by the Mughals till the late 17th century, the Bangladeshi jamdani as a textile made its way into European and American markets. But with the rise of mechanised cotton and

materials, jamdani saw a decline. Between the world wars, the Partition and shifts in consumer preferences, the

international exhibitions, books or research by scholars. Saha is one such expert, who has been working on patterns by rural craftspeople since 1981. Both Bheda and Saha, classmates from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, have made the sari the hero of this exhibition. On customised bamboo racks, saris float as "woven air", streaming down in shades of white, beige, browns, moss green, corals and blues. "We didn't want to crowd the aisle but allow the viewer

space to breathe as they move from one sari to the next, feeling the fabric, its translucence, experiencing the warp and weft of the cloth, the shadows that it creates on the walls," says Bheda.

textile got relegated to the back-end of history shelves. The golden lining was the documentation of the fabric, the weave and the motifs that kept it alive, be it through



NEWS BOX

Grace Harris ruled out of Women's World Cup 2025 due to calf strain

New Delhi. (Agency)

Australia's title defence at the Women's World Cup 2025 has taken a major hit as all-rounder Grace Harris has been ruled out of the tournament due to a calf strain. The tournament is all set to start on September 30 with Australia beginning their campaign on October 1 against New Zealand.

However, ahead of the event, defending champions have been struck by injury as Harris suffered a calf strain while fielding against India during the third ODI at Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi. It was the only appearance for Harris in the three-match series, having been added to the squad as a replacement for Annabel Sutherland, who was ruled out with hip soreness. As a result, Harris, who's played 12 ODIs in her career, has been ruled out of the upcoming World Cup. Harris has scored 16 runs from seven innings in her ODI career and has also scalped 12 wickets with best figures of 3/31. She will be replaced by Western Australia all-rounder Heather Graham. The 28-year-old



has played one ODI and five T20Is for Australia, with her last appearance at the international level coming in September, 2024 against New Zealand. Meanwhile, Australia have been suffering from injuries to multiple players ahead of the World Cup as Phoebe Litchfield missed the last two ODIs against India due to a quad issue, while Darcie Brown suffered back spasms. Sophie Molineux was unavailable for the entire series as she is still working towards gaining full fitness coming off her major knee injury. Ahead of their title defence, Australia will play a warm-up fixture against England on September 28. Australia's squad for Women's World Cup 2025: Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ash Gardner, Kim Garth, Heather Graham, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Elyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham

Shahid Afridi slams umpire for Fakhar Zaman dismissal vs India: They need the IPL job

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has reigned debate over umpiring standards in the Asia Cup 2025 after Fakhar Zaman's controversial dismissal during the Super 4 clash against India in Dubai on Sunday, September 21. Speaking on a panel with Samaa TV, Afridi took a cheeky dig at the officials, remarking, "They need to work in the IPL also." His comments came after several members of the Pakistan cricket fraternity expressed dissatisfaction with the third-umpire decision. The incident occurred



in the third over of Pakistan's innings after India elected to bowl first. Fakhar Zaman, who looked in touch with three early boundaries, edged an off-cutter from Hardik Pandya. Wicketkeeper Sanju Samson dived forward to claim the catch, but replays suggested the ball may have touched the ground before being gathered. After a lengthy review, the third umpire ruled the batter out, leaving Fakhar frustrated. Former batting legend Mohammad Yousuf also backed Afridi, pointing out that he had begun confidently against India's premier fast bowlers, including Jasprit Bumrah, before his innings was cut short. "He was our main player, he started off well hitting a few boundaries against world-class bowlers (Jasprit Bumrah)," Mohammad Yousuf also commented in the same panel. Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha voiced his doubts at the post-match press conference. "I don't really know about the decision. As far as I'm concerned, I thought it bounced. Umpires can make mistakes, and that's understandable. To me, it looked like it bounced, but I could be wrong," he said. He further suggested that Fakhar's aggressive start could have powered Pakistan to around 190 had he continued. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table.

Asia Cup: Even on rare off-days, India outclass Pakistan, says Sanjay Manjrekar

Asia Cup 2025: Former India cricketer, Sanjay Manjrekar, believes that even when India are not at their best, their talent-stacked players somehow find a way to win showcasing the gap in levels with Pakistan.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar has praised the Men in Blue for their immense depth in talent, pointing out that even on an off day, India can comfortably outclass arch-rivals Pakistan. India, led by Suryakumar Yadav, secured a four-wicket win against Pakistan in the Super 4 clash on Sunday, earlier this week. While the Indian batting lineup dominated, the bowlers had a rare off day, with Jasprit Bumrah emerging as the



most expensive bowler in the innings. Manjrekar highlighted this in a video shared on Instagram. "India wasn't at their best, clearly. I mean, just imagine Bumrah being India's most expensive bowler. He had an off

day, India dropped three catches, so they were well below their best, and despite that, they won comfortably against Pakistan," he said.

BIG GAP BETWEEN IND-PAK

From ambulance jibes to Ballon d'Or glory: Dembele's chapter from the book of panache

Ousmane Dembele's journey from ridicule at Barcelona to Ballon d'Or glory with PSG epitomizes resilience and redemption. Once mocked as injury-prone, he now stands among football's greats, silencing critics with brilliance on Europe's grandest stage.

AMSTERDAM. (Agency)

It wasn't long ago that Ousmane Dembele endured ridicule from the very fans he had long dreamed of impressing. During FC Barcelona's 2022 LaLiga title celebrations, images of him being jokingly pulled away



from the trophy by captain Marc-André ter Stegen went viral, while supporters mocked him with ambulance comparisons as injuries kept interrupting his career. For many, frustration outweighed his flashes of brilliance, and the 100 million euros man looked destined to be remembered more for inconsistency than talent. Fast forward to

2025, and the story could not be more different. Dembele, once the target of jeers, now stands on the summit of individual football glory, holding the Ballon d'Or. After a sensational season with Paris Saint-Germain, he lifted football's most prestigious personal honour, a triumph born out of resilience, persistence, and undeniable quality. The man who once left Camp Nou divided is now celebrated worldwide, his critics silenced by the weight of his performances. A season that resined his legacy

Dembele's resurgence came in a campaign where he evolved into PSG's heartbeat. Across 49 appearances, he delivered 33 goals and 15 assists, spearheading a historic quadruple — the UEFA Champions League, Ligue 1, Coupe de France, and Trophée des Champions. His European exploits stood out most, scoring in both the semi-final and final, including PSG's stunning 5-0 rout of Inter Milan in Munich, one of the most dominant UCL finals in history.

Rahul Chahar joins Surrey for County Championship finale against Hampshire

Indian spinner Rahul Chahar has joined Surrey for their decisive County Championship clash against Hampshire. His late inclusion bolsters Surrey's depleted spin department as they chase a fourth successive domestic title.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Surrey's push for a fourth straight County Championship crown will have an Indian flavour this week, with leg-spinner Rahul Chahar drafted into the squad for their season finale against Hampshire at the Utilita Bowl. The 26-year-old has been on Surrey's books since early September but was not called upon for the side's recent fixtures at The Oval. A string of injuries to



key spin options, however, has opened the door for him to make his first appearance in county cricket. "I'm excited to join Surrey for this week's match. I'm coming here to have an impact and help the team in their final match of the season," Chahar said. "Adding Rahul to the squad gives us another spin option at the Utilita Bowl... We had originally earmarked for Sai Kishore to return for the latter stages of the season but he unfortunately has a finger injury resulting in an operation that has meant he

was unavailable," Surrey advisor Alec Stewart said. Chahar, who plies his trade for Rajasthan in domestic cricket, has 87 wickets from 24 first-class matches to his name, with a best haul of 9 for 148. He last featured on the international stage between 2019 and 2021, playing seven white-ball games for India, and was a member of Mumbai Indians' back-to-back IPL-winning squads in 2019 and 2020. His inclusion comes at a crucial juncture for Surrey. Nottinghamshire's narrow victory over Surrey earlier this month has left Alec Stewart's side 14 points adrift at the top. To retain their title, Surrey must beat Hampshire and hope Warwickshire can deny Notts too many points at Trent Bridge. Adding spice to the contest, Chahar may find himself in a direct duel with Washington Sundar, the Indian allrounder recently signed by Hampshire for the closing stages of the competition. Surrey had originally intended to bring back R. Sai Kishore after his successful stint earlier in the season, but

Sandesh Jhingan ready for more than spectacle as FC Goa face Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

It's a sentiment echoed by every Indian football fan, and one that comes straight from Sandesh Jhingan, the rock at the heart of India's defence. When FC Goa faces Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr on October 22 at the Fatori Stadium in the AFC Champions League 2, the clash will be about far more than just a result. It is moment for Indian football to step onto the global stage, to showcase grit, panache, and the spirit of a nation eager to be seen, even in the shadow of one of the sport's most recognisable names. For India, and for FC Goa, the match is as much about representation as it is about results. And who better to marshal the backline against a world-class attack than Sandesh Jhingan, a defender whose career has spanned more than a decade, becoming synonymous with reliability, resilience, and leadership. Even for someone of his experience, the prospect of facing global stars such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Sadio Mane,



Joao Felix, and Marcelo Brozovic carries a unique blend of excitement and responsibility. Speaking candidly to India Today, Jhingan underlined the significance of this match not just for FC Goa but for Indian football itself. Facing Ronaldo's men in yellow, he said, would be nothing short of scaling Everest. "Firstly, it's very good for FC Goa to be playing at the AFC Champions League level and to be in a group with some of the best teams. Playing against top-class players like Ronaldo, Mane, and Joao Felix helps the team grow. It's exciting because chances to play against some of the greats of the sport don't come often. At the same time, our group is one of the toughest in the tournament, which makes qualifying for the next round a real challenge. But our mindset is clear, our target is to reach the knockout stage, and we'll give our best for it. For all football fans in India who follow the game passionately, this is a

major boost." The chance to test themselves against players who have conquered Europe, and to share the field with Ronaldo, a man who has won five Champions League titles and defined an era of football, is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Yet Jhingan's focus remains sharp. Experience has taught him that Indian football cannot simply be content with participation. The nation needs more in

these times. "Fifteen years ago, when I was walking on the streets of Chandigarh, if someone had told me that Al Nassr and these stars would come to India, I would have been over the moon just to watch them. Now, I have the chance to face them on the field, but my objective is clear, that is going into the next round."

Injury and recovery: Jhingan's determination

Even while recovering from cheekbone surgery sustained during the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan, where India finished a commendable third, Jhingan has kept his focus. The bronze medal, achieved by beating Oman, a side ranked 56 places above India, offered hope to a nation where the sport has long struggled with structural issues and fluctuating performances. Now, FC Goa has a stage to turn that spark into a flame, testing themselves against Al Nassr in front of the world.

H-1B visa concerns drag rupee down 48 paise to record low of 88.76

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Troubles continued to mount for the rupee, which has turned the weakest in Asia this year, for the second consecutive day on Tuesday slumping as much as 48 paise to hit an all-time low of 88.76 against the dollar in afternoon trade, spooked by the steep H-1B visa fee hike by the US administration over the weekend.

The previous low for the rupee, which has already lost close to 2.8% this year, was 88.47 on September 11. The rupee opened weak at 88.41, down from 88.28 in the previous, and then lost further grounds and touched an all-time intraday low of 88.76 against the greenback, a steep decline of 48 paise over the previous close. On Monday, the unit lost 12 paise from Friday's close to close at 88.28. According to forex dealers, the latest spook for the rupee is the steep hike in the new H-1B visa fee to \$1,00,000 by the US government. The move has sparked worries over remittances and potential equity outflows from the IT sector, which come as double whammy for the currency as foreign outflows have been outweighing inflows this year.

Foreign funds have already pulled out close a tad over \$12.5 billion from domestic equities this fiscal so far. Forex traders are worried that the spiraling crisis will push the rupee further down as the visa levy could result in a slowdown in remittances and curtail service exports to the US. Already merchandise exports are badly hurt by the 50% tariffs that the US has slapped on our goods. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six large currencies, was trading 0.04% higher at 97.38. The domestic equity market was also jittery for the second consecutive day with the Sensex and Nifty falling opening sharply lower on Tuesday after the bloodbath on Monday. However towards early afternoon the indices recovered largely to marginally trade in the green.

Indusind hires ex-BofA, Citi executive Viral Damania as CFO

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The troubled private sector lender Indusind Bank, which witnessed the top management leaving after an accounting scam in its foreign exchange trading book hit it in March, has appointed Viral Damania, an ex-BofA India executive as its new chief financial officer (CFO), with immediate effect.

The Hinduja group-owned lender did not have a CFO since last January when Gobind Jain resigned, two months before the lender said that it found some accounting discrepancies in its derivatives portfolio and reported massive losses in the March quarter. Jain was replaced by Arun Khurana who took over the additional responsibility of CFO while being the deputy CEO. Khurana and his boss Suman Kathapalia resigned late April. Both these executives are now under Sebi probe for alleged insider trading. Damania, who till recently was the CFO at Bank of America India, will replace Santosh Kumar who was handling CFO charges as a special officer.

Damania is a qualified chartered accountant, company secretary, and cost & works accountant and holds an Isaca certification in information systems audit and control, the bank now helmed by Rajiv Anand as the CEO, said. Anand joined the scam hit bank end August from the larger rival Axis Bank where he was the deputy managing director. Damania has over 27 years of professional experience across banking and professional services. Till recently, he was the chief financial officer of Bank of America India, where he oversaw the bank's brokerage BofA Securities India as a non-executive director on its board. Prior to BofA, he worked with Citibank in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka and also with Price Waterhouse Coopers.

India's private sector growth moderates as flash PMI eases in September

CHENNAI.(Agency)

India's private sector growth slowed slightly in September, with the flash composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipping to 61.9 from 63.2 in August. Despite the decline, the index remains comfortably above the 50-mark that separates expansion from contraction, indicating continued strength in both manufacturing and services activity. The latest data shows that both sectors expanded at a softer pace. The manufacturing PMI eased to around 58.5 from 59.3, while the services PMI declined to 61.6 from 62.9. New orders, including exports, continued to rise but at a slower rate, reflecting weaker overseas demand and heightened competition.

Job creation also lost momentum, with fewer firms reporting payroll increases. On the price front, input cost pressures eased slightly, but manufacturers continued to raise selling prices sharply, sustaining inflation risks. In contrast, services firms reported a modest cooling in output charges. Business confidence, however, improved to a seven-month high, supported by expectations of stronger domestic demand during the festive season and the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts. The moderation in September's PMI follows an exceptionally strong August reading, which was among the highest in nearly two decades. The latest numbers suggest that while growth remains robust, the pace is normalising. Several factors contributed to the easing momentum: Exports: International demand softened, with export order growth slowing to its weakest level in six months. Recent U.S. tariff measures added to the pressure.

EPFO pre-retirement withdrawal rules likely to be relaxed: Report

At present, EPFO members can withdraw their entire corpus only after reaching the retirement age of 58, or if they remain unemployed for more than two months.

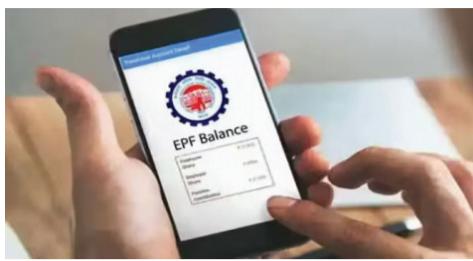
NEW DELHI.(Agency)

The government is considering changes to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) rules to give subscribers more freedom in using their savings. According to a report by Moneycontrol, officials are working on easing withdrawal limits for purposes such as housing, marriage and education. Two senior government officials told Moneycontrol that while there is no set timeline yet, the Centre is looking to bring in the changes within a year. "We don't want to put restrictions for the members,

it's their money they should have the freedom to manage their fund according to their needs," one official said, on the condition of anonymity.

CURRENT WITHDRAWAL RULES

At present, EPFO members can withdraw their entire corpus only after reaching the retirement age of 58, or if they remain unemployed for more than two months. Partial withdrawals are allowed, but only under specific conditions. For marriage, a member with at least seven years of service can withdraw up to 50% of their own contribution and the interest earned. This applies not only for their own marriage but also for that of a sibling or child. For housing purposes, the withdrawal limit is up to 90% of the total accumulated balance. The property must be in the name of the member, their spouse or jointly owned, and the member must have completed a minimum of three years of service. For education, a subscriber can withdraw up to 50% of their contribution with interest, but again, a minimum of seven years of service is required. This is



only applicable for post-matriculation education of children.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Moneycontrol had earlier reported in July that the government was considering a new framework under which EPFO members could be allowed to withdraw the entire corpus, or a part of it, once every 10 years. "Every 10 years, there would be some addition to the accumulated corpus of each and every EPFO's member they should decide what they need to do," an official had said. The latest discussions are part of a broader push to make EPF rules more flexible and aligned with the financial needs of members at different

SIP vs SWP: How to turn your retirement corpus into reliable income

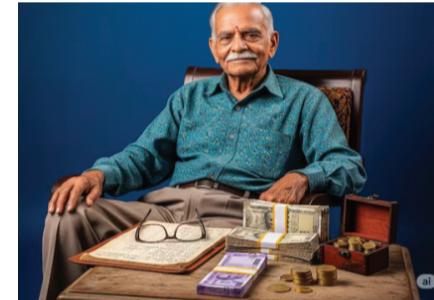
Accumulating wealth through SIPs is just the beginning of retirement planning. The real challenge is turning that corpus into a steady income. Here's how you can do it.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Many investors know the power of systematic investment plans (SIPs) to build wealth over time. But as investor and stock market expert, Rajnish Mehan, points out, accumulating wealth is only one side of the retirement equation. He wrote on LinkedIn, "We all know SIPs create wealth. But how will you use that wealth when you stop earning? That's the question most investors push aside until it's too late." According to Mehan, most people focus on building a retirement corpus through SIPs but overlook how to turn that wealth into a reliable income stream. "They prepare for retirement by building a corpus, but not by designing cash flows," he says. This is where systematic withdrawal plans (SWPs) come into

play. While SIPs are about inflow and accumulation of money, SWPs are about outflow and distribution. "Without SWP, wealth is just numbers. With SWP, it becomes income," Mehan explains.

SWPs offer retirees several advantages.



They effectively convert a retirement corpus into a personal pension without locking investors into rigid insurance products promising assured returns. Withdrawals are also tax-efficient, as only gains on the withdrawn units are taxed. Additionally, SWPs allow flexibility in choosing the amount, frequency, and funds for withdrawals. Mehan adds, "It builds

discipline, prevents panic exits, and keeps money working. There are no lock-ins – you can pause, change amount or frequency, or stop anytime. It also lowers sequence-of-returns risk because near-term cash flows are diversified." SWPs can be coordinated with other income sources such as pensions, rent, or fixed deposits, ensuring that retirees withdraw only what they need. They are also estate-friendly; remaining units stay under the investor's control and pass on to nominees. Given these advantages, Mehan predicts strong growth in SWP usage. "I won't be surprised if SWP books cross Rs 19,000 crore monthly till 2030. Because retirement is no longer about products, it's about cash flow discipline." He sums it up simply: "SIP makes us wealthy. SWP makes us free. And in financial planning, freedom is the ultimate goal."

For retirees, the key takeaway is clear: building a corpus is important, but designing a withdrawal plan is what ensures financial independence and a worry-free retirement.

Tata Advanced Systems opens India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit in Morocco

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), the defence and aerospace arm of the Tata Group, has inaugurated India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility in Morocco. The new unit, named Tata Advanced Systems Maroc, will focus on producing wheeled armoured platforms, strengthening India's global footprint in defence manufacturing. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to formally inaugurate the facility during his official visit to Morocco. His visit will be significant as it marks the first time an Indian Defence Minister is traveling to the North African nation, underscoring growing

strategic and defence cooperation between the two countries.

Industry analysts view the move as an



important milestone for India's efforts

to expand its defence exports and build partnerships beyond its traditional markets. The Morocco unit is expected to cater not only to local requirements but also to regional and international demand for advanced armoured solutions. The development comes at a time when India has been pushing for greater self-reliance in defence while simultaneously aiming to emerge as a major exporter of military platforms and equipment. Tata Advanced Systems' overseas foray reflects this dual strategy of expanding India's defence manufacturing base and increasing global engagement.

Launching a startup This government scheme simplifies early funding

New Delhi.(Agency)

Thinking of launching your own startup? You're not alone; many aspiring entrepreneurs face the same challenge of getting funds in the early stages. That's why the government introduced the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme in 2021, which offers seed funding through incubators to help startups build prototypes, conduct trials, and enter the market.

WHAT THE SCHEME OFFERS

Under this scheme, startups can receive up to Rs 20 lakh as a grant to test proof of concept, build prototypes, or conduct product trials. For bigger needs such as market entry, commercialisation or scaling up, funding of up to Rs 50 lakh is available in the form of debt, debt-linked instruments, or convertible debentures. The funds must be used strictly for the purpose for which they are granted, including the creation of facilities and other business requirements.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme is designed to be flexible and inclusive. It is sector-agnostic, meaning that startups from any industry can apply. There is no requirement for physical incubation, and the programme runs across India without geographical restrictions. Applications are open year-round, and startups are free to approach up to three incubators at the same time, increasing their chances of receiving support.

WHO CAN APPLY

To qualify, a startup must be incorporated not more than two years before applying. It should have a strong business idea with potential for market fit, commercialisation, and scalability. The startup is also expected to use technology in its core product, service, or business model to solve a specific problem. Preference is given to ventures working on innovative solutions in areas such as agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, mobility, defence, biotechnology, food processing, textiles, and social impact sectors. A key condition is that the startup should not have already received more than Rs 10 lakh in monetary support from other government schemes, although allowances such as prize money, subsidised workspaces, or lab access are excluded from this limit. In addition, at least 51 percent of the startup's shareholding must be with Indian promoters at the time of application. Each startup can seek seed support in the form of both grants and debt/convertible debentures, but only once under the guidelines of the scheme.

A NATIONWIDE BOOST FOR YOUNG BUSINESSES

The scheme represents a major effort to support the startup ecosystem by easing one of the toughest challenges faced by entrepreneurs—early-stage funding.

Gold prices scale record highs amid festive demand and further Fed rate cut hopes

Investors are increasingly convinced that the US Fed will cut interest rates in upcoming meetings. Lower rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold prices surged to fresh lifetime highs on Tuesday, September 23, supported by robust festive demand in India, a weaker US dollar, and growing expectations of further interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. In domestic markets, 24-carat gold climbed to around Rs 114,300 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was quoted near Rs 104,800. Silver also joined the rally, trading above Rs 1,40,000 per kg in some markets. Globally, spot gold rose above US\$ 3,700 per ounce during Asian trading hours, extending its record-setting momentum. There are about four key factors that drive the price rally:

1. Festive season demand in India

The start of the Navratri festival lifted jewellery buying, traditionally considered auspicious in Indian households. Seasonal purchases, coupled with advance buying for upcoming Diwali and wedding season, have kept physical demand strong despite elevated price levels.

2. Federal Reserve rate cut expectations

Global investors are increasingly convinced that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates in upcoming meetings. Lower rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold, making it more attractive as a store of value. Traders are now watching Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments later this week for confirmation.

3. Weakness in the US dollar

A softer US dollar has added momentum to bullion's rally, making gold more affordable for buyers holding other currencies and fueling investment demand worldwide.

4. Safe-haven appeal

Uncertainty around global economic

growth, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and volatile equity markets are pushing investors toward gold as a safe-haven asset. Gold's role as a hedge against



inflation and currency fluctuations is once again in focus. The markets reacted accordingly. In India, jewelers reported strong footfalls as buyers chose to advance purchases ahead of further price increases. However, analysts caution that extremely high prices could limit bulk buying, especially among price-sensitive households. Globally, investment flows into gold ETFs and futures remain strong, with speculators increasing long positions. The global risk sentiment is supporting sustained inflows into

bullion. Riding on gold's momentum, silver prices also rallied sharply, with industrial demand and festive purchases adding to the uptrend. The broader implications of the gold price rally will reflect in various fronts. On the domestic consumption front, affordability concerns could slow momentum if prices rise much further, although cultural demand remains resilient. Gold is increasingly being seen as a hedge in portfolios in the investment front, especially as equity markets stay volatile and bond yields fall. As far as the inflation outlook is concerned, the ability of manufacturers and traders to pass on high prices will influence wider inflation trends in India, especially if the rupee weakens further. However, a strong rally in gold often pushes up imports, which could weigh on India's current account balance unless offset by strong exports elsewhere. Analysts believe that in the near term, gold prices are expected to remain firm, supported by festive season demand, a weaker US dollar, and expectations of Fed rate cuts.

Outfit Transition? Check. iPhone Transition? Only

Neha Kakkar

Can Pull That Off Without
Breaking A Sweat

The fever of Dino Morea and Neha Kakkar's sizzling track *Tu Pyaasa Hai* is still going strong.

The party pepping song released on September 5 continues to create waves. Fans are going gaga over its catchy tune, vibrant visuals, and sensational lyrics, and the glamorous singer herself is also grooving to it.

Taking to Instagram, the *Mile Ho Tum Humko* singer shared a look transformation video set to the song, serving

pure main character energy just like in the music video. But what truly stole the show was her brand-new iPhone from the iPhone 17 lineup.

Neha Kakkar's Glam Look On *Tu Pyaasa Hai*

In the video, the singer is first seen taking a mirror selfie in a casual outfit, but it quickly transitions into a head-turning look. She donned a chic all-blue ensemble, featuring a lacy black crop top paired with high-waist, fringed blue pants adorned with sequins. The look was accessorised with chunky silver bangles and a stylish belt, perfectly complementing her curly hair and confident pose.

Fans React to Her Transition Reel

Neha's iPhone transition with her outfit instantly struck a chord with fans, who flooded the comment section with reactions. One fan wrote, "Congratulations on the new iPhone, Queenie!" Another commented, "Neha Kakkar and her iPhones!!" A third fan added, "I love this active era of hers so much," while a fourth cheekily remarked, "Nehu haters be like: ab to rukjao."

Neha Kakkar's *Tu Pyaasa Hair*

Presented by Tony Kakkar Productions, the much-awaited track *Tu Pyaasa Hai* was released on YouTube on September 5, featuring Neha Kakkar and Dino Morea. Directed by Adil Sheikh, this upbeat party number highlights the sizzling dance chemistry between the 37-year-old singer and the Bollywood star. Dino Morea can be seen romancing Neha Kakkar in the water throughout the song, exuding dreamy, royal vibes.

What truly caught fans' attention, however, was the transformation of her phone along with her outfit. While she held her old iPhone with a casual look, the phone changed as her outfit transformed.



Karishma Tanna

On Her Navaratri 2025 Style Tips: 'I Don't Like Chubhne Wali Choli'

Today marks the first day of Navratri 2025, and across the country, people have begun celebrating the nine-day festival with devotion and joy. Celebrities are also joining in the festivities, including The Scoop actress Karishma Tanna, who shared memories of playing garba, her take on Navratri fashion, and more. Reflecting on her childhood, she said, "I grew up in South Mumbai and have very fond memories of

competitions, where our teachers were the judges and almost every year, I used to win the best dancer award."

She added, "Even after we grew up, I would go to a club where we played garba for hours. I won competitions and then went out with my group to some of our favourite food joints to eat pav bhaji and other late-night munchies. I really miss the Navratri celebrations from the good old days."

Karishma Tanna On Navaratri Fashion

When it comes to style, Karishma Tanna prioritises comfort while effortlessly making a statement with her glam looks. The Sanju actress shared, "The first and foremost thing is that my chaniya choli should be comfortable. I don't like chubhne wali designs. I have always preferred wearing chaniyas that are simple but look grand. It is simple; I have to stand out at any garba event I go to. Log mud ke dekhna chahiye bas (laughs)!"

Karishma Tanna Reveals Skincare Routine During Navaratri

If you're someone who always ends up with skin problems after festivities, take note from the actress. Karishma never negotiates with skincare rituals. She mentioned that while she has healthy and good skin, she doesn't take it for granted. She always washes her face, moisturises it and applies the required creams before sleeping.

celebrating Navratri there."

Karishma Tanna On Her Childhood Memories Of Garba

In an interview with Times of India, the actress said, "Our school had a big compound, which was decorated beautifully, and it hosted garba nights on all the days of the festival. I was always excited for this and asked my mom to dress me up in certain colour combinations and full-flared chaniyas. I was also excited about the garba



Fans, Kajol Too Wants Bigg Boss 19 Star Tanya Mittal's Tailor's Number. Don't Miss Salman Khan's Reaction



Kajol recently made a vibrant appearance in the Weekend Ka Vaar episode of Salman Khan's controversial reality show Bigg Boss 19. She came to promote the second season of her recently released legal drama, The Trial, along with co-star Jisshu Sengupta. The duo engaged in a light-hearted conversation with Salman, which quickly turned into one of the most entertaining segments of the night. As Salman introduced the contestants sitting on the sofa inside the house, Jisshu couldn't help but comment on Tanya Mittal, saying, "Sir, yeh Tanya Mittal badi kamaal ki hai (Tanya Mittal is amazing). 150 bodyguards, and a huge collection of sarees."

Tanya Mittal's Sarees Catch Kajol's Eyes
Visibly impressed by the revelation, Kajol jumped in with a hilarious remark that left everyone laughing. The actress said, "Iska tailor ka number lena padega (Will have to take her tailor's number)."

The playful comment had everyone, including Salman, laughing. Salman added to the fun, saying, "Inka khud ka business hai, I think sarees ka. Tel ka bhi business hai (I think she has her own business of sarees and even oil)."

Salman Khan And Kajol's Dance
The episode took a nostalgic turn when Salman and Kajol recreated their iconic number Odhli Chunariya from the 1998 film Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya. In a surprise twist, the duo even performed Ajay Devgn's signature steps from Singham and Son of Sardaar 2, leaving the audience cheering. Fans couldn't get enough of the Salman-Kajol chemistry, with social media abuzz over their reunion on stage.

The Trial Season 2's Star-Studded Lineup And Plot
Inspired by Robert and Michelle King's The Good Wife, the second season of The Trial delves deeper into Nayaka's struggle to establish herself in the cutthroat law world. As she navigates fresh challenges in her career and personal life, the series offers a gripping mix of courtroom drama, political twists and emotional depth that viewers definitely don't want to miss.

'I Have A Room There': Riddhima Kapoor On Her Space in Ranbir, Alia Bhatt's New Rs 250 Cr Home



Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's luxurious new Mumbai home has reportedly been completed, and the couple, along with their daughter Raha and Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor, are expected to move in soon. The six-storey mansion located in Bandra's upscale Pali Hill area is reportedly valued at around Rs 250 crore. In Farah Khan's recent vlog, she playfully asked Ranbir's sister Riddhima Kapoor whether she has an entire floor to herself there. She clarified that she and her husband Bharat Sahni have one room there, while another room is reserved for Samara. She revealed that both rooms are located on Neetu Kapoor's floor, as her mother wants to keep them close.

Farah Khan gave fans a sneak-peek into Riddhima's lavish Delhi house, and the latter revealed that she has an entire floor dedicated to herself. Farah then cheekily asked Riddhima whether she also has an entire floor to herself in her family's new Rs 250 crore home in Bandra, Mumbai. "Mumbai mein jo tum logon ka ghar ban raha hai, aapke liye ek floor rakha hai ki nahi? (Do you have a floor in the house that is being constructed in Mumbai?)", asked the filmmaker-choreographer.

Riddhima smiled and clarified that she does have a room in the luxurious house, and it is going to be on her mother Neetu Kapoor's floor. "I have a room there. I am going to be on my mother's floor. So, there's one room for me and Bharat, and one for Samara too. My mom wants to keep us close."

Meanwhile, last month, a video of Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's newly constructed dream home in Bandra, Mumbai, went viral on social media. The video showcased the full front view of the celebrity couple's six-storey bungalow. Alia Bhatt strongly condemned the unauthorized filming and circulation of the video, calling it a 'clear invasion of privacy' and a serious security issue. She stated that the video was recorded and circulated without her knowledge or consent, and urged anyone who has posted it to remove it immediately. The property, which originally belonged to Ranbir's grandparents, Raj Kapoor and Krishna Raj Kapoor, was inherited by Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor, Ranbir's parents, in 1980. The house has been under construction for a few years, during which Alia, Ranbir, and their daughter Raha have often been seen visiting the site.

Skincare generally involves making an effort to get one's skin to look healthy and beautiful and then trying to maintain that healthy skin.

6 things that damage your

Skin

Even though we try hard to achieve soft and smooth skin we neglect several factors in our daily lives that end up damaging our skin. Here are a few things that we need to avoid if we want beautiful skin.

Sleeping with make up on

This is not a myth, sleeping without washing off your make up will damage your skin. Make up clogs pores and prevents the sebum glands from breathing. This causes pimples and acne. Sleeping with make up also leaves smudges on your pillow that will lead to accumulation of bacteria on it. When you sleep on that pillow again, it will lead to bacterial infection on your skin.

Excess coffee intake

Coffee can give you an energy boost, but it can cause your skin to age faster and wrinkle. Having two cups of coffee in a day is fine but when you increase your intake, you accelerate the ageing process.

Chlorine

Swimming may be an ideal fitness exercise but it is not good for your

skin. Chlorine is a cleaning ingredient and can dry your skin by robbing it of its moisture. Chlorine tends to stay on your skin even after a shower. So remember to use a good body wash and loofah to scrub the chlorine away.

Too much Spa time

Frequent spa treatments

Quick tips to prep up for the evening



To make sure that your skin complements the outfit you will wear today, here's an easy skin care routine.

Head in for a cleanup

A face cleanup will de-clog your pores. Light products can work wonders for your skin. Opt for a light massage to only rejuvenate your skin.

Yoghurt to your rescue

Mix some curd with lemon and apply it to your face. Keep it for 20 minutes and wash it off with cold water. Yoghurt will remove the tan and lemon will lighten your skin. Further the cold water will aid in tightening your pores.

Choose light makeup

The trick to look your best on this day is to ensure that you apply less makeup. Opt for a natural look to sport—a nude lip gloss and eye shadow.

Get a ample rest

Though we would suggest you to start dressing up a bit

early to avoid last minute confusion, make sure that you get ample rest before you begin with the celebrations. This will ensure that you do not feel lethargic but look your best.

For most of us, acne woes begin during our teenage years and usually subside when we approach adulthood. During our teens, we experience a lot of hormonal changes and sometimes, these changes can cause acne.



However, many people suffer from acne even as adults and the reasons for this outbreak may not be the same as teenage acne. As an adult, dealing with acne can be very stressful, so understanding its causes and treating it appropriately, is important in order to get a clear complexion.

Causes of Adult Acne:

Sebum: Sebum is one of the main causes of adult acne. It is an oily substance that is produced by the sebaceous glands in the skin. This sebum clogs up pores and becomes inflamed as it attracts bacteria.

Hormones: Hormonal changes affect the sebum production in the skin, one

should take skincare very seriously. Wash your face with a face wash, specially created for oily skin. Also, try and splash your face with water, several times a day.

Oil-free cosmetics: If you have acne, you must invest in cosmetics that are non-acnegenic (won't cause acne) and non-comedogenic (won't

make the skin sag as its elasticity and collagen is weakened. If you love a good sauna every other day, you should reconsider your choices.

Popping pimples

You may be tempted to break a pimple and get rid of it but this will

only damage your skin. When you break a pimple it pushes the bacteria and dirt deep into the pores of your skin which could leave a mark. What's worse is that, this could also cause an outbreak of pimples. So remember not to pick on your pimples and use home remedies instead.

Mobile phones

We all spend long hours on our mobile phones without knowing that this could be a cause for acne. If you notice that you have more breakouts on that side of your face, it is probably due to excessive use of your mobile phone. This happens because bacteria builds up on the mobile screen and causes pimples when we place the mobile across our face. To avoid this, make sure you clean your mobile phone often or use a hands free device.



Tips to beautify nails

Keep your nails healthy by focussing on cleanliness. Try olive oil, milk cream and acetone-free nail polish removers for clean and healthy nails.

Preethi.S, training head, Naturals Salon Training Academy, doles out tips for perfect nails:

- After washing hands, apply a hand cream to prevent them from drying up. Dry nails have more chances of breaking.
- To further avoid dryness, use nail polish removers that are acetone-free.
- Gently massage your nails after applying milk cream.
- Use the finishing side of a nail buffer to help in blood circulation in the nail bed



Adult acne: Causes and Treatments

Ready to dazzle? Here are a few tricks to try out

Go bold with red lips

A red lip is an easy way to achieve the glamourous look. However, you need to keep your skin tone in mind while doing so. For those with cool tones, you should choose a blue-based one, while those with warm tones, should choose an orange-red lipstick. Further, make sure that you do not overpower your eyes with a dramatic look. Let the red lips take the centre stage.

Choose liquid liners

Liquid liners look much neater than pencil or gel-based eyeliner. It also helps to define your eyes well. The best way to apply liquid eyeliner is to make sure that it does not smudge on the sides.

Add sparkle

Adding sparkle is a great way to glam up your look.

You can add it by using a sparkly eye shadow or eyeliner. Opt for a light shade of eye shadow so that it does not overwhelm your face. If you wish to flaunt less, choose a glitter-based eyeliner.

Flaunt a smokey eye

A style which has never gone out of fashion, the smokey eye look is every woman's favourite. There are many variations of doing a smokey eye. Try black and charcoal shades of brown. You can also mix a little purple in it so that your eye calls for attention.

Don false lashes

These lashes have so much wow power. They can easily add more definition to your eyes. It's a little tricky to apply them, but keep practising and you will surely learn to wear it well before you head on for your party.

