

## Arvind Kejriwal To Get Government Home Within 10 Days: Centre Tells Court

**During the hearing, Senior Advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing for AAP, argued that Mr Kejriwal is entitled to a Type 7 or Type 8 bungalow .**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal will be allotted an appropriate government residence within 10 days.

Appearing virtually, Solicitor General Mehta assured Justice Sachin Datta, "He (Kejriwal) will be allotted the

appropriate accommodation within 10 days from today. You may record my statement." The Court recorded the assurance and noted that the matter should not be left hanging. Justice Datta said the practice of the Ministry in handling allotments must be addressed comprehensively, not only for politicians but also for non-politicians. "It is an issue that has to be resolved," the judge remarked. During the hearing, Senior Advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing for AAP, argued that Mr Kejriwal is entitled to a Type 7 or Type 8 bungalow and that the government could not downgrade him to a Type 5. "I am not favoured, I am not Bahujan Samaj Party," he said, suggesting discriminatory treatment. The Court, however, advised that the solution lay in dialogue rather than litigation. "If you are not happy, don't take it. The

solution lies in you having a conversation with the Solicitor General," Justice Datta observed.

He also granted liberty to Mr Kejriwal to approach the Ministry directly to

accommodation will be given within 10 days. We will record your statement and pass an order."

The Court said it will pass a formal order in the matter later. On the previous date, the High Court had expressed displeasure at the Centre's handling of Kejriwal's housing request, observing that the allotment process should not appear arbitrary or selective.

Mr Kejriwal vacated his official residence at 6, Flagstaff Road in October 2024 after stepping down as Chief Minister and has since been staying at another party member's official quarters near Mandi

House. Mehra, in response to the Solicitor General's countered that "all this sloganizing was appropriate at elections, this is court." The exchanges prompted the judge to conclude: "I will record that appropriate



resolve the issue.

## Billing smoke, screaming crowds: Massive fire erupts at Kolkata hotel

Kolkata.(Agency)

As Kolkata struggles to recover from the aftermath of recent torrential rains ahead of Durga Puja, a major fire broke out at the Blue Cherry Guest House on Anwar Shah Road on Wednesday, triggering fresh concern in a city already battling disruption. Three fire engines rushed to the scene and managed to bring the blaze under control swiftly.

According to the fire department, no one was trapped inside, and no injuries have been reported.

The exact cause of the fire is still under investigation.

A video from the incident spot shows thick black smoke

billowing as

huge flames engulf the building. While the fire has been doused and cooling operations are underway, the twin impact of fire and flood highlights the mounting challenges Kolkata faces as it counts down to its biggest festival. This incident comes at a critical time, with just five days left for Durga Puja.

On Monday, heavy rainfall submerged large parts of Kolkata, paralysing public life and throwing festive preparations into chaos. The downpour left major roads and marketplaces waterlogged, with key commercial hubs such as New Market, Gariahat, Hatibagan, Burrabazar, and College Street either shuttered or difficult to access.



## India Must Become Self-Reliant, Russia Our Time-Tested Partner: PM Modi

**PM Modi said that this time, the country partner of the trade show is Russia, which means "we are further strengthening this time-tested partnership".**

**Greater Noida.(Agency)**

Stressing that the country must become self-reliant, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that despite global uncertainties, India's growth remains resilient and remarkable. During his keynote address at the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 here, PM Modi said that this time, the country partner of the trade show is Russia, which means "we are further strengthening this time-tested partnership".

Stressing that the government is doubling down on its efforts towards the 'Make in India' initiative, PM Modi said that we aim to make 'chips to ships' in the country. The Prime

Minister also informed that the first, fully indigenous AK-203 assault rifles are set to be delivered to the Army soon.

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) is a joint venture company that has been established for the indigenous production of AK-203, named 'Sher' in India, in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi. The AK-203 rifles are significantly more modern compared to the AK-47 and AK-56 rifles. They are one of the most lethal rifles in the Kalashnikov series.

PM Modi further stated that Indians now believe that swadeshi products are getting

better, user-friendly and long-lasting. "Hence, there should



be no compromise on quality," the Prime Minister told the gathering, adding that the country must become self-reliant and every product that can be made in India should be made here.

As soon as the Prime Minister reached the venue to inaugurate the mega trade show, he took a tour of the exhibition area, where he witnessed next-generation innovations across the spectrum. The third edition of the mega event -- envisioned under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath -- is taking place at the India Expo

Centre and Mart from September 25 to 29 -- showcasing the state's industrial, agricultural, cultural, and innovation strengths on a global stage.

## Air Force Use Would've Slowed Chinese Offensive In 1962 War: Defence Chief

**Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has said the use of Air Force would have slowed the Chinese offensive considerably during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, and it may have been termed as "escalatory" then, but that is not the case now as seen in Operation Sindo.**

**Pune.(Agency)**

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has said the use of Air Force would have slowed the Chinese offensive considerably during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, and it may have been termed as "escalatory" then, but that is not the case now as seen in Operation Sindo. Speaking about the war with China 63 years ago, he noted the forward policy should not have been applied uniformly to Ladakh and NEFA (North-East Frontier Agency) or present-day Arunachal Pradesh, arguing the two regions had different histories of dispute and entirely different terrain, and following identical policies was flawed. Over the years, the security situation has changed and the face of warfare itself has got transformed, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) maintained.



General Chauhan made the remarks in a recorded video message played on Wednesday during the release of the revised autobiography of the late Lieutenant General S P Thorat - 'Reveille to Retreat' - in Pune.

Lt Gen Thorat was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, in the lead-up to the Sino-Indian war. General Chauhan said the autobiography of Lt Gen Thorat was more than a soldier's memoir, and it offered valuable insights into leadership, strategy and India's military history. The CDS said he was requested to speak about forward policy and about not using the Indian Air Force (IAF) during the 1962 war. "To comment on the adequacy or inadequacy of the forward policy at this time is slightly difficult. Our views will be coloured due to many reasons, like geography has changed entirely and so has geopolitics," he noted.

## Edappadi Palaniswami alleges cracks in DMK-Congress alliance amid power-sharing row

**Tamil Nadu.(Agency)**

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) claimed that the alliance between the DMK and the Congress is under strain, with Congress leaders beginning to press for a greater share of power. Speaking at an election rally in Udhagamandalam, Palaniswami said "cracks have appeared" in the ruling coalition and predicted that the DMK camp "is going to get deserted."

Pointing to recent remarks made at a Congress meeting in Tirunelveli,

Palaniswami alleged that the party's Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar had made a "fifty-fifty demand," seeking a coalition government and 117 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections -- half of the state's 234 constituencies. He further claimed that Congress legislature party leader S Rajeshkumar had admitted that the DMK might not return to power and had therefore called for a coalition arrangement.

Former TNCC chief KS Alagiri, too, had asked for a share in governance, he

said. "Finally, wisdom has dawned on them. Cracks in the alliance between the Congress and DMK are pretty clear. For how long will they (DMK) themselves loot? The frustrated Congress has awakened and is seeking a share in power," Palaniswami told the gathering. Tensions between the allies have also been fuelled by the recent row over DMK leader and former minister Senthil Balaji's induction of S Kavitha, the Karur City Congress Women's President, into the DMK after she quit the Congress. Balaji posted a photograph of her joining, but the message was later deleted following protests.

## Actions On Palestine Issue Driven By PM, Netanyahu Friendship: Sonia Gandhi

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Asserting that India needs to demonstrate leadership on the issue of Palestine, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday slammed the Modi government's stance, saying its response has been characterised by a "profound silence" and an abdication of both humanity and morality. She said the government's actions appear to be driven primarily by the personal friendship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu and rather than India's constitutional values or its strategic interests. "This style of personalised diplomacy is never tenable and cannot be the guiding compass of



India's foreign policy. Attempts to do the same in other parts of the world, most notably in the United States, have come undone in the most painful and humiliating ways in recent months," Gandhi said in her article published in The Hindu.

This is the third article by Gandhi on the Israel-Palestine conflict, published in a national daily in the recent past, in which she has vehemently criticised the Modi government's stance on the issue. India's standing on the world stage cannot be wrapped up into the personal glory-seeking ways of one individual, nor can it rest on its historical laurels. It demands persistent courage and a sense of historical continuity, she said in her article titled 'India's muted voice, its detachment with Palestine'. Gandhi pointed out that France has joined the United Kingdom, Canada, Portugal and Australia in recognising Palestinian statehood -- "the first step in the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the long-suffering Palestinian people".

## News box

## Monsoon exits with a splash, Gurgaon records 28% surplus rain this season

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city has bid farewell to the monsoon, closing four months of rainy days with a seasonal tally of 623.4mm of rainfall — 28% above the normal of 485.4mm. IMD categorised the rainfall this season as "excess". Last year, the city received 746.2mm of rain, a 53% surplus compared to the normal of 489.2mm. By comparison, this year's monsoon was less intense but no less eventful, beginning on a quieter note and wrapping up in surplus. According to IMD, the southwest monsoon, which made its entry with light showers on June 29, withdrew from remaining parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and some more parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan on Sept 24. June ended with 48.6mm of rainfall against a normal of 47.1mm, a marginal surplus of 3%. July quickly changed the picture with 228.9mm of rainfall — 31% above the average of 175.4mm. Aug followed a similar pattern, with 230.2mm of showers, 24% above its normal of 185.1mm, and by the end of the month, the city had already crossed the 500mm mark.

In Sept, the city got 15.7mm of rainfall, a 48% surplus over the normal of 77.8mm. A bulk of this rain came on a single day, Sept 1, when the city received 62.8mm.

Surender Paul, director, IMD Chandigarh, told TOI that monsoon this year was "good," noting that the city and Haryana experienced continuous rainfall without major breaks. "Both the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea systems, along with periodic western disturbances, played a role in regulating the monsoon this season," he said, adding that the consistent rains were beneficial for groundwater recharge and replenishing water reservoirs across the region. Across Haryana, 569.4mm of rainfall from June to Sept was recorded with a 34% surplus compared to the normal of 426.5mm. This was an improvement from last year when the state recorded 409.4mm of rainfall, slightly below the normal of 430.7mm with a departure of -5%, which still falls within the normal range. With the retreat now complete, weather conditions are expected to stabilise. According to IMD, the sky is likely to remain clear in the coming days, paving the way for drier, cooler weather. "Southwest monsoon has withdrawn from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh today. Mainly dry weather is likely to continue during the next 5-6 days," an IMD

## Integrated terminal in Gurgaon Sector 10 to boost bus-metro transit

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

The state-of-the-art bus terminal in Sector 10, which will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 32.4 crore, is being designed as an integrated facility to facilitate seamless transit between the forthcoming metro corridor and bus services. The integration aims at providing a smooth and efficient transfer experience for passengers, enhancing the connectivity between different modes of public transport. A GMDA official said a detailed project report (DPR) has already been prepared, and the authority will soon float tenders for the work. The terminal will ease last-mile connectivity, decongest key city junctions and make public transport a more attractive option for daily commuters. Of the 13 acres of the existing bus depot, around 7 acres will be converted into an integrated terminal. The facility will feature multiple bus bays, spacious waiting areas, and passenger amenities to handle high commuter volumes. Currently, the depot has the capacity to accommodate around 200 buses at a time. Last year, Gurugram Metro Rail Limited highlighted the need for an integrated bus terminal to offer more efficient transit options for metro passengers. It urged the GMDA to construct the facility to improve urban mobility in the city. A senior GMDA official said, "The Sector 10 bus terminal is aimed at ensuring that passengers experience a seamless transfer between metro and bus services, making public transport a more convenient and efficient option. We have received administrative approval and are preparing the tender document for the same. Bids will be invited soon."

## Noida to set up 1,200 stray dog feeding points soon

**Noida. (Agency)**

Releasing its first set of guidelines to align with the Supreme Court's recent order, Noida Authority announced plans to set up around 1,200 designated feeding points for stray dogs across the city. The project, estimated to cost Rs 2.5 crore, aims to regulate feeding practices and reduce conflicts between residents.

The Supreme Court's Aug 22 order directed municipal bodies across the country to create dedicated feeding zones in each ward. The court noted that unregulated street feeding often led to untoward incidents and inconvenience to residents. It made clear that feeding must take place only at identified locations, with signboards installed to inform the public. Feeding stray dogs on streets will no longer be permitted, and violators could face legal action under existing laws.

According to Noida Authority general manager SP Singh, a city-wide survey will be conducted soon to identify suitable locations. Singh added that Apartment Owners' Associations (AOAs) and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) will be consulted to determine areas with high concentrations of stray dogs.

"For now, the focus is on identifying safe, permanent locations where dogs can be fed without creating nuisance or safety risks. This will help regulate their movement, reduce group gatherings in colonies, and improve overall cleanliness," Singh said. The Authority will construct the feeding points and provide basic facilities, and their maintenance, as well as feeding responsibilities, will later be handed over to AOAs and RWAs. The feeding points are expected to be ready within two and a half months. "Our role is to create the infrastructure. Later, communities will have to manage and monitor the spaces," an official said. Meanwhile, residents welcomed the move. Naveen Dubey, a Capetown resident, said, "This is a good step, but the Authority must create awareness. Unless residents know the rules, violations will continue."

## MCM House divided: Heated debate in meet over swearing-in of deputy mayors

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Tensions flared at the MCM House meeting on Wednesday when a heated debate broke out between mayor Inderjeet Kaur Yadav and senior deputy mayor Parveen Yadav over a disagreement centered around scheduling of the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected deputy mayors and three nominated councillors. Mayor Yadav suggested holding the ceremony next Monday, pointing out it was not included in the agenda. In contrast, senior deputy mayor Parveen Yadav insisted that the ceremony should take place during the current session. As the meeting started, Parveen sought the opinion of 12 BJP councillors on the immediate conduct of the ceremony. This selective consultation sparked objections from other councillors, who questioned why only a segment of the House was addressed. MCM House consists of 20 councillors, with BJP holding 14 seats, including those of the senior deputy

mayor and deputy mayor Reema Chauhan. While the mayor is supported by Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh, the deputy mayors align with the Badshapur MLA and minister Rao Narbir Singh's faction in BJP. "First, the oath-taking ceremony will be conducted today (Wednesday) and then we will discuss any other issues. Does everyone agree?" Parveen said at the meeting's outset. Mayor Inderjeet countered, "There was no notice given for the oath-taking." Then, Parveen retorted, "You should have thought about this earlier. Madam mayor, who asked us for our agenda? This is a House meeting; our agendas are not listed here." The mayor challenged this stance, asking, "How can you not have any agendas?" After an extended debate, it was ultimately agreed that the swearing-in ceremony for the deputies and three nominated councillors would be postponed to the following week, likely on Monday.

The incident is not the first clash between



the mayor and Narbir's camp. In July, mayor Inderjeet accused Narbir of falsely implicating her husband in a case involving the alleged abduction and assault of a councillor's brother, allegations which the minister dismissed as baseless. A video of the mayor's emotional address at a panchayat meeting

## Beats & bullets: Behind shooting spree in Gurgaon, an ex-music producer

**Noida. (Agency)**

Once celebrated for producing chart-topping tracks, Deepak Nandal has now become a name synonymous with violence and fear in Gurgaon. The former music producer, who once collaborated with stars like Badshah and Rahul Fazilpuria, is now the alleged mastermind behind a series of recent shootings targeting his old friends and associates from the music industry. The latest in this string of violence came last week, when a group of masked bikers sprayed bullets at the office of MNR Buildmark in Sector 45, marking the third such attack linked to Nandal in recent months. The incident is believed to be part of Nandal's ongoing campaign against those he claims owe him money. The shooting spree began in July this year, when Nandal, along with gangster Sandeep Sardhania, allegedly targeted singer Fazilpuria. Once close collaborators, their relationship soured after a financial dispute. Nandal, who produced several of Fazilpuria's hit

songs, allegedly sent shooters after the singer, accusing him of owing Rs 5 crore. Fazilpuria survived the attack, but the incident marked a turning point in Nandal's descent from music producer to a wanted criminal. Nandal, initially fleeing to Dubai, is now suspected to be hiding in the UK. His vendetta did not stop with Fazilpuria. In Aug, Nandal allegedly orchestrated the murder of Rohit Shokeen, a school friend and Fazilpuria's financer. Shokeen (39) was shot dead near Palm Hills society in Sector 77 by two men believed to be working for Nandal. Investigators said Nandal lured Shokeen with the promise of repaying a Rs 5 lakh debt, only to have him ambushed and killed when he arrived in Gurgaon. The motive behind the attack is linked to a long-standing grudge. Nandal, according to police, had borrowed money from Shokeen in 2017-18 and failed to repay the full amount. Shokeen's public criticism of Nandal on social media allegedly deepened the rift. Despite

warnings from Fazilpuria, Shokeen went to collect the promised money and paid with his life. The violence escalated last week, when gunmen fired nearly 30 rounds at MNR Buildmark's office. Shortly after the attack, Nandal claimed responsibility in a social media post, alleging that Nitin Talwar — a relative of the company's partner, Rohit Raheja — owed him money and had fled to New Zealand in 2019. Nandal's post also included warnings to others he accused of similar debts. Police investigations have revealed that Talwar — a Punjabi film producer and celebrity manager — was personally acquainted with Nandal. The two met multiple times in Dubai and even planned projects together. According to a senior police officer, Talwar was introduced to Nandal by Fazilpuria in 2017, with the intention of collaborating on music and film ventures. When one such investment failed, Nandal demanded his money back, insisting that it was Talwar who had advised.

## UP plans 40cr riverfront to clean up 'dead' Hindon

**Ghaziabad . (Agency)**

With Delhi election earlier this year bringing focus back on Yamuna clean-up and revival, riverfront development plans have begun rolling off the desks of planners. Delhi govt announced one for Yamuna, UP proposed another, also along Yamuna, in Mathura. And now, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) has proposed to develop a 1.5km riverfront along Hindon, from the City Forest to Raj Nagar Extension. Chief minister Yogi Aditanath had years ago asked GDA to come up with a riverfront plan on the lines of Lucknow's Gomti development. "The plan is in a nascent stage, but roughly 800m of riverfront on both sides of Hindon, from City Forest towards RNE, will be developed. The riverfront will be between the embankment and the outer

ring road, which leads to the RNE township," Rudresh Shukla, GDA's media coordinator, said on Wednesday. Shukla said the Authority will start with a request-a-proposal (RFP) and hire a consultant to come up with the detailed project report (DPR). "We expect that the project will cost about Rs 40 crore," he said. Officials said they hope a riverfront will help accelerate efforts to clean up Hindon, which is normally described as a "dead"

river because of its perennial black waters that are laden with industrial effluents and sewage. Hindon, which originates in Saharanpur and bends its way through five west UP districts, is where ten major drains of Ghaziabad empty out. Though there are treatment plants, none operate at optimum capacity, effectively dumping all of the city's sewage into the river. TOI last year reported about toxic industrial effluents being discharged into the Hindon from Tronica City Apparel Park, along with civic and electronic waste. In 2022, a report by the UP Pollution Control Board said that 310 industrial units — of these 220 in Ghaziabad — were dumping pollutants into Hindon across districts. Most of these were pulp, tanneries and dyeing industries.



## Tariff effect: At UP trade show, buyer list expands, LatAm presence up 70%

**Noida. (Agency)**

The export reset thrust on India because of 50% tariffs imposed by Donald Trump is evident at UP's flagship trade show, in its more diverse buyer catalogue that govt hopes will translate into new clients who can compensate for loss of US orders. The US is one of the biggest markets for exporters in the state, particularly apparel and handicrafts. Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS), which will be inaugurated by the PM on Thursday, will see a much bigger contingent of buyers this time from Latin America as well as Africa. European presence will remain consistent — the continent accounts for the largest group of buyers who will be present at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida. The event, running till Sept 29, will host more than 2,500 exhibitors and 500 foreign buyers. Russia is joining as the partner country. An ODO (one district, one product) pavilion and a special CM Yuva innovation hall will be among highlights for visitors. Organising officials said that compared to last year, when 400 buyers from 70 countries participated, this year, 520 buyers from 80 countries are participating at the show. From Latin America and the Caribbean, the

delegation has grown in size from 30 buyers last year to 50 this time, with countries like Brazil, Cuba, Argentina, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic represented for the first time. From Africa, the number of buyers has gone up from 41 last year to 50. There will be, besides, a 50-strong presence from East Africa, which is featuring separately this year. "This growing international participation reflects the rising global interest in Uttar Pradesh's products and the credibility that UPITS has built as a platform of choice," said Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). Organisers see these regions together as "sunrise markets", which exporters can cultivate and tie up long-term strategies. "With the higher US tariffs, our focus is on building links in new geographies. Latin America and Africa offer potential for sectors where UP has strong capacity. UP's main export segments are apparel, handicrafts and leather," said Pawan Agarwal, additional commissioner, Export Promotion Bureau, UP. He added that as UP exporters cannot bank on the US anymore, efforts are under way to establish stronger trade links with

Europe, the United Arab Emirates, southeast Asian countries and Australia, with a focus on countries with which India has a free-trade agreement and where tariffs are negligible. State minister for industrial development and export promotion Nand Gopal Nandi told TOI that of UP's Rs 36,000 crore exports to the US, goods worth around Rs 31,000 crore, including garments, leather, carpets and handicrafts, are affected by tariffs. "We are encouraging exporters to look at new markets," he said. The largest delegations of 110 buyers each are from Europe and CIS, followed by West Asia (100), Southeast Asia (80), South Asia (50) and Oceania (30) have smaller representations. Despite the tariffs, North America's representation is up. Though



told TOI that of UP's Rs 36,000 crore exports to the US, goods worth around Rs 31,000 crore, including garments, leather, carpets and handicrafts, are affected by tariffs. "We are encouraging exporters to look at new markets," he said. The largest delegations of 110 buyers each are from Europe and CIS, followed by West Asia (100), Southeast Asia (80), South Asia (50) and Oceania (30) have smaller representations. Despite the tariffs, North America's representation is up. Though

in Hyatpur village, where she claimed her family was unable to return home due to police presence, circulated widely on social media. The House on Wednesday approved 58 estimates for development projects, including Rs 77-crore proposal to hire an agency for providing 582 sanitation workers for road sweeping. MCM commissioner Ayush Sinha said, "Improving sanitation work is a priority for the corporation. The engineering wing is working well in collaboration with the sanitation wing. Changes in the sanitation system are becoming visible in the wards. We plan to spend approximately Rs 77 crore over the next five years on road sweeping work." Discussions also covered establishment of a citizen facilitation centre (CFC) in each ward and the allocation of 3,452 sqm of land to NRTC in villages of Manesar and Saharanpur. Consensus was reached on all problems, with development projects amounting to Rs 171 crore receiving approval.

## 3 land officials behind 254 fraudulent registries in Gurgaon's Farrukhnagar in 4 months, govt probe finds

**Ghaziabad . (Agency)**

Two tehsildars and a naib tehsildar in Farrukhnagar allegedly facilitated fraudulent land registries, at least 254 in four months, to convert agricultural land into urban plots and authorise illegal colonies among a host of violations, a probe has found. The three officials sanctioned these illegal registries by manipulating property IDs and using forged or fabricated documents, the probe report by sub-divisional magistrate (Pataudi) said. The irregularities, revenue department officials said on Wednesday, likely cost the state exchequer a few crores. The report — a copy of which was reviewed by TOI — noted that between Apr and Aug this year, tehsildar Navjeet Kaur authorised 94 illegal registries, followed by 89 by naib tehsildar Aruna Kumari and 71 by Rita Grover. "In view of the violations observed in 254 registries across Farrukhnagar tehsil, detailed reports have been submitted to higher authorities. Necessary corrective measures and further legal action will be initiated to ensure strict compliance with govt rules and to prevent recurrence of such irregularities," a senior official said. Gurgaon deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar said the report has been forwarded to the revenue department's headquarters in Chandigarh for further action. The probe was ordered by additional chief secretary Sumitra Mishra, who also holds charge as the state's finance commissioner, on Sept 8 after complaints by activist Ramesh Yadav. Yadav alleged that several land registries in Gurgaon bypassed the online process, which is mandatory to ensure transparency, and others were executed through general powers of attorney (GPA), which is barred in Haryana. He also submitted evidence. Subsequently, an investigation team headed by Gurgaon divisional commissioner RC Bidhan, and comprising Pataudi SDM was formed. In all cases, the report said, agricultural areas were converted into urban land.

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**NAME CHANGE**  
I, FAKRUDDIN S/O ALIMUDDIN R/O H.No-27A, Begumpur, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi -17, have changed the name of my minor daughter AALIYAH SHABBIR aged 14 Years and She shall hereafter be known as ALIYA BAALOT.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Poopendar Singh S/o- Arjun Singh R/o C-75, Chander nagar Janakpuri B-1, Delhi 110058 have changed my name from Poopendar Singh to Bhupinder Singh for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BIDHYA RAI is legally mother of No. 137688551 Rank HAV Name-PAWAN RAI is presently residing VILL-UPPER DUNGRAG CHI, SOPANI, PO-KALIMPONG TEHKALIMPONG, DIST-DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL have changed my name from BIDHYA RAI to VIDYA RAI for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No.IN-EL6208765561819X dated 25/09/2025 before Notary Public, New Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, M JAGATHEESWAR Spouse of Army No. 15500574F, Rank HAV Name- MURUGAN G Unit-31DSR, presently residing of VILL- SANPOONI, PO SANPOONDI TEHKALIMPATH, DIST-TIRUVANAMALAI, STATE- TAMIL NADU, PIN-606755 have changed my name from M JAGATHEESWAR to JAGATHEESWARI M for all future purposes. And in my husband service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned is 06 July 1993 instead of 06/ June 1993. Vide Affidavit No. IN-EL62122831429237X, dated 25/09/2025 before Notary Public, New Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, VINAYAK is legally father of No. 280364K Rank- CHM Name- CHIKANE MUKUND VINAYAK, R/O VILL- A-02, GAJGAMINI APT, MANVELPADA, PO- POST-APART EAST, TEH- VASAI, DIST- PALTGHAR, STATE-MAHARASHTRA PIN-401305, have changed my name from VINAYAK to VINAYAK RAMCHANDRA CHIKANE and date of birth from 29/05/1960 to 23/09/1960 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 23.09.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Karamchand Yadav S/O Puranam Yadav R/O House No-62/149, Shiv Basti, Raja Road Near Patel Nagar, Railway Station, Mohi Nagar, Dist: West Delhi, Delhi - 11015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Karam Vir.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Mohd Shakil S/O Mohd. Yamin R/O House No. A-565, Street No-3, Near Andhra Mandir, Kartar Nagar, North East, Delhi -110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Shakil Ahmad in my minor Son's name. Mohd Rihan aged 16 years in his School record. The actual name of mine is Mohd Shakil

**Name Correction**  
I, MITHILESH KUMAR PANDEY (hereinafter referred to as my Real Name), S/O Late Trilok Nath Pandey alias T.N. Pandey, presently residing at A-502, Youngster Society, Plot No. 13C, Sector-06, Dwarka South-West, New Delhi-110075, also at Village Post-Bhaura, P.S.- DOKTI, District Ballia, Uttar Pradesh declare That my real and correct name is MITHILESH KUMAR PANDEY for all future purposes. My name has been recorded (inadvertently) and reflected in the educational certificates and mark-sheets of my children in three variations, namely "Mithilesh Kumar Pandey", "Mithilesh Kumar Panday" and "M.K. Pandey", in certain official records and documents

**NAME CHANGE**  
I Pradeep Singh Chauhan S/o Prakash Singh Chauhan R/o 35/493, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed the name of my minor son Vihaa aged 5 years and he shall hereafter be known as Vihaa Chauhan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Ritu/Wajeeh Singh R/o 1976, 153, Ganesh Pura, Tri Nagar, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Hamroo Kaur. I have changed only my name not my religion.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, DEEPA PANDEY W/O HARISH CHAND PANDEY R/O Near Parul Gas Godam, Kh No. 50/18 Virender Nagar, Burari, PO: Burari, Dist: North Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed the name of my minor son RAMESH aged 11 years and he shall hereafter be known as RAHUL PANDEY.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Saranjit Singh S/o Hansraj Singh Ghata R/o 204 Second Floor, Ambica Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Saranjit Singh Sarhota.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Jaginder J Singh alias J J Singh S/o JASWANT Singh Marwah R/o 16, Sultanpur Estate, Mandi Road, Mehrauli, New Delhi -110030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JOGINDER JASWANT SINGH

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as LATA SINGH D/O GULAB SINGH R/o A-400, Near Gurudwara, Raghbir Nagar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LATA SINGH.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as Amresh alias Babli W/O Meno Kumar, R/O H No- Rampuri, new modern school k pass, Muzaffarnagar Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh - 251002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BABLI.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as NEHA KUMARI D/o PARMANAND RAI , W/o MOHAMMAD ZAINUL ABDIN, Permanent R/o M.C. Road, P.O. Assam Rifle Demensioning, Assam Rifles, East, Khasi Hills, Meghalaya - 793011 and Present R/o 234 A, Badarpur Village, Near Sharma Medical Wing, Badarpur, South Delhi, Badarpur, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NEHA ABDIN. I have changed my name only not my religion.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, SHILDHARTH S/o SHILDHARTH residing at House No. A- 253 Part 6, Gali No. 11, C.R.P Camp, Sona Vihar Pusta Pahala, Karawal Nagar, North East, Delhi - 110094, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SHILDHARTH in my SC Certificate No. SC/04948/60123/25/ 2014/051489467265 issued by Govt. of NCT of Delhi. The actual name of mine is SHILDHARTH , which may be amended accordingly.

**REPLACEMENT OF IPS**  
E-Tender Notice No. RN-ST-24-2025-26; Date: 22-09-2025. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Name of Work:** Replacement of IPS for its upgradation to new version in Rangia Division. Tender Value: ₹4,33,92,638.82; Earnest Money: ₹3,67,000.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 22-10-2025 and Opened at 15:30 hrs on 22-10-2025 at Sr. DSTE/Rangia's office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**DRM (S&T)/Rangia**  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**Date of Birth Changed**  
I, SAUBAI is legally mother of No. 2807538X, Rank- NKSTW Name- SHAMRAO PATIL, R/O VILL. KONGNOLI, POST-KONGNOLI, TEH- KAVTHE MAHANKAL DIST-SANCOLI STATE-MAHARASTRA PIN- 416418 have changed my name from SAUBAI to SAUBAI MAHADEV PATIL and date of birth from 27-05-1965 to 01-01-1968 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 29.08.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, PRINCE S/O RAJIV KUMAR, R/O A-46, Gali- NO-6, VIDYAPATI NAGAR, UTTAR NAGAR, D K MOHAN GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, declare that name of my minor son and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as KISHAN and BABY in my minor son and daughter KISHAN MEHTA and BABY MEHTA Aged 16 years in his/her school records. The actual name of my minor son and my minor daughter are KISHAN MEHTA and BABY MEHTA, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto Known as ROHIT JYASAL S/o NAGENDER JYASAL R/o RZ 1 605 Mahirav Enclave, Old Som Bazar road, Dhari Devi Temple, Palam, Dabri, Palam Village, PO: Palam Village, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi - 110045 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ROHIT.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, LALIT KUMAR S/o KISHAN LAL R/o House No. - 67, Old No- 194 and 211, F/F, Khajoor Wall Gali, Near Ambekar Bhawan, Ambekar Basti, Ghonda, Ghanta Mewa, PO: Bhajan Pura, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as MAYRA in my minor daughter namely MAYRA SINGH aged 7 years in her SC Caste Certificate No. 90510000634604. The actual name of my minor daughter is MAYRA SINGH which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Naval Kishore S/o Ram Charan R/O A-101/ LG-1, Block -A, Dilshad Colony, Jhilmil, PO: Milkirk Kohi, Rangpur Pahar, South West Delhi-110037 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAPIL PASI.

**DRM (S&T)/Rangia**  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**NAME CHANGE**  
I hitherto known as KAPIL W/O RAM LOTAN residing at CN-666, C Block, Milkirk Kohi, Rangpur Pahar, South West Delhi-110037 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAPIL PASI.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Jannudin S/o Umarzad Khan R/o House No.C-108, Gali No.11, North Ghonda, Garhi Mewa, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Zainuddin Khan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Taheera W/o Zainuddin Khan R/o House No.C-108, Gali No.11, North Ghonda, Garhi Mewa, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Deepak Naval Kishore.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Jannudin S/o Umarzad Khan R/o House No.C-108, Gali No.11, North Ghonda, Garhi Mewa, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Zainuddin Khan.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o F-156 Moti Bagh Chankya puri New Delhi-110021 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as DEEPA DALVEER in my minor son HAREETH SINGH PANWAR aged 13 years in his school record the actual name of my wife is DEEPA PANWAR which may be amended accordingly.

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I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o F-156 Moti Bagh Chankya puri New Delhi-110021 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as DEEPA DALVEER in my minor son HAREETH SINGH PANWAR aged 13 years in his school record the actual name of my wife is DEEPA PANWAR which may be amended accordingly.

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**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Rakesh Kumar R/o F-156 Moti Bagh Chankya puri New Delhi-11

## NEWS BOX

## Indonesia's \$10 Billion Free Meals Plan In Turmoil As Over 1,000 Students Fall Ill

**World. (Agency)**

More than 1,000 children in Indonesia's West Java have suffered food poisoning this week from school lunches, authorities said, the latest in a series of outbreaks and another setback for the president's multi-billion-dollar free meals programme.

The mass poisoning was reported in four areas of West Java province, its Governor Dedi Mulyadi told Reuters on Thursday, which came as non-governmental organisations issued calls to suspend the programme due to health concerns.

The latest cases follow the poisoning of 800 students who ate school lunches last week in West Java and Central Sulawesi provinces, which were supplied under President Prabowo Subianto's signature free nutritious meals programme.

Questions have been raised about standards and oversight of the scheme, which has expanded rapidly to reach over 20 million recipients, with an ambitious goal of feeding 83 million of Indonesia's 280 million people by year-end. The programme's 171 trillion rupiah (\$10.22 billion) budget will double next year. Governor Mulyadi said more than 470 students fell sick in West Bandung on Monday after eating the free lunches and three more outbreaks took place there on Wednesday and in the Sukabumi region, affecting at least 580 children.

"We must evaluate those running the programme... And the most important thing is how to deal with the students' trauma after eating the food," Mulyadi said, adding that small hospitals in West Bandung were overwhelmed by sick students.

Prabowo's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest cases. Dadan Hindayana, head of The National Nutrition Agency that oversees the free meals programme, said kitchens with poisoning cases had been suspended.

## 2 Indians Sanctioned By US For Selling Fake Pills Filled With Fentanyl

**Washington. (Agency)**

The United States has sanctioned two Indian nations over accusations of running online pharmacies that sold fake prescription pills filled with deadly drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine to American consumers. The US Department of the Treasury said Sadiq Abbas Habib Sayyed (39) and Khizar Mohammad Iqbal Shaikh (34) collectively supplied "hundreds of thousands of counterfeit prescription pills filled with fentanyl and other illicit drugs" to victims across the United States.

Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) also designated one India-based online pharmacy-- KS International Traders (a.k.a. "KS Pharmacy")-- for its role in these criminal operations. The pharmacy is owned by Shaikh.

What US Authorities SaidAccording to a statement issued by US authorities, based in India, Sayyed and Shaikh worked with Dominican Republic and US-based narcotics traffickers to sell counterfeit pills. They used encrypted messaging platforms to market and sell these pills as discounted, legitimate pharmaceutical products, which were instead filled with illicit drugs like fentanyl, a fentanyl analogue, and methamphetamine. Sayyed and Shaikh were previously indicted in September 2024 on narcotics-related charges by a federal grand jury sitting in the Southern District of New York. Even after being exposed for his criminal activity in DOJ's 2024 indictment, Shaikh continues to operate KS International Traders, the authorities said. Under US sanctions, all property or assets the two men hold in the US have been frozen. Moreover, all American businesses or individuals have also been barred from engaging with them. Violations of the order carry the risk of civil and criminal penalties.

## Banned XL Bully Kept As Pet By UK Family Kills 10-Year-Old Daughter

**World. (Agency)**

A 10-year-old girl named Savannah Bentham tragically died after being attacked by her family's pet XL Bully dog at their home in East Heslerton, North Yorkshire, according to The Metro.

The incident took place in November last year when Savannah was left alone watching television with the six-year-old dog, named Biggie. Her mother had briefly left their static caravan to get help fixing a gas canister connection. Her father was at work at the time. When her mother returned, she found Savannah

on the floor with serious injuries and the dog covered in blood. Emergency services were called immediately, and bystanders tried to help, but sadly, Savannah died at the scene from injuries to her neck, as per the news portal.

An inquest into her death was held recently. According to Detective Chief Inspector Matthew Wilkinson, there had been no previous signs of aggression from the dog, and it was described as a calm and lazy pet.

Although XL Bully dogs are banned under UK dangerous dog laws, the family had legally kept Biggie under exemption rules. They had met all legal requirements, including registering the dog, neutering it, microchipping it, and ensuring it wore a muzzle in public. Despite these precautions, the dog fatally attacked Savannah. There were no witnesses, and the dog was later put down. A post-mortem examination of the dog showed no health issues or physical conditions that might have caused sudden aggression.

North Yorkshire's senior coroner, Jon Heath, concluded that Savannah died as a result of injuries caused by the family dog.

## Many leaders back a UN call to address challenges together but Trump says 'America First'

**UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)**

From France to South Korea, South Africa to Suriname, leaders gave strong support Tuesday to the UN chief's call to work together to address global challenges—war, poverty and climate chaos. But US President Donald Trump had other ideas and touted his "America First" agenda.

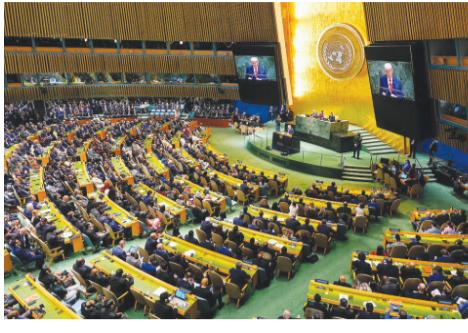
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the annual meeting of presidents, prime ministers and monarchs at the General Assembly with a plea to choose peace over war, law over lawlessness, and a future where nations come together rather than scramble for self-interests.

France's President Emmanuel Macron warned that 80 years after the UN was founded on the ashes of World War II, "we're isolating ourselves." "There's more and more divisions, and that's plagued the global order," he said. "The world is breaking down, and that's halting our collective capacity to resolve the major conflicts of our time and stopping us from addressing global challenges."

But Macron said a complex world isn't reason "to throw in the towel" on

supporting the UN's key principles of peace, justice, human rights and nations working together. Only respectful relations and cooperation among peers make it possible to fight against military proliferation, address climate change and have "a successful digital transformation," he said. A call for collaboration

Speaker after speaker made similar appeals to support multilateralism. Suriname's President Jennifer Gerlings-Simons called multilateralism "one of humanity's most important achievements, which needs our protection at this time of change." South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said "our collective membership of the United Nations is our shared humanity in action," and the UN at 80 compels members to build "an organization that is able to address our common challenges." As South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung put it, "The more difficult the times are, the more we must return to the basic spirit of the UN." He added, "We today must cooperate more, trust more, and join hands more firmly, in order to build a better future, a better world



for future generations." The General Assembly meeting continues Wednesday with the leaders of Ukraine, Iran and Syria among the speakers. Guterres in his remarks noted the world is becoming increasingly multipolar — certainly a nod to rising economic powers China and India but a slap to the US insistence on superpower status. The UN chief said a world of many powers can be more diverse and dynamic, but warned that without international cooperation and effective global institutions there can be "chaos." But Trump, making the first address to the

General Assembly since he was elected to a second term last November, ceded no ground and gave an "America First" speech. The United States has the strongest borders, military, friendships "and the strongest spirit of any nation on the face of the earth," he boasted. "This is indeed the golden age of America." He portrayed the United Nations as ineffectual and "not even coming close to living up" to its potential, blaming the organization for an escalator that stopped en route to the assembly chamber and for a broken teleprompter. The UN cited a safety function for the escalator incident and the White House for the teleprompter. While Trump told the assembly the UN delivers "empty words—and empty words don't solve war," his tone shifted at a later meeting with Guterres. "Our country is behind the United Nations 100%," the president told Guterres at the start of their first meeting since his reelection. "I may disagree with it sometimes, but I am so behind it because the potential for peace at this institution is great."

## Jimmy Kimmel is back on ABC to big ratings, but some US affiliates still refuse to air his show

**NEW YORK. (Agency)**

Jimmy Kimmel is back on his ABC late-night show, but it's still a mystery when — or if — viewers in cities such as Washington, Seattle and St. Louis will be able to see him again on their televisions. ABC stations owned by the Nexstar and Sinclair corporations took Kimmel off the air last week on the same day the network suspended him for comments that angered supporters of slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Those stations kept him off the air Tuesday, when ABC lifted the suspension. The unusual dispute attracted the attention of US senators, who said they wanted to investigate the relationship between the affiliates and US President Donald Trump's administration. Kimmel returned with no apologies, but in an emotional monologue where he appeared close to tears, the host said that he was not trying to joke about the assassination. He also paid tribute to Kirk's widow. And it got a large audience, with ABC reporting nearly 6.3 million people tuned in to the broadcast alone, despite the blackouts in many cities. As is often the case with late-night hosts' monologues, there was a larger audience online, with

more than 15 million people watching Kimmel's opening remarks on YouTube by Wednesday evening. ABC says more than 26 million people watched Kimmel's return on social media, including YouTube. Typically,



he gets about 1.8 million viewers each night on television. The numbers released by ABC do not include viewership from streaming services. A spokesman for Nexstar said Wednesday that Kimmel will continue to be preempted from its stations while the company evaluates his show. Together, the Nexstar and Sinclair groups account for about a quarter of ABC's affiliates, many in smaller cities such as Nashville, Tennessee;

Lubbock, Texas; or Topeka, Kansas. "We are engaged in productive discussions with executives at the (ABC parent) Walt Disney Co., with a focus on ensuring the program reflects and respects the diverse interests of the communities we serve," Nexstar said. Dispute highlights relationship between networks and local stations

The dispute focused attention on the business relationships between television networks and the local stations that carry their programming. In the past, local stations occasionally balked at airing a network show, but it was usually an individual market or two worried about pushing boundaries in language or sexual content, said Ted Harbert, a former top executive at ABC and CBS. What's different this time is groups that have gobbled up multiple stations acting collectively on content for largely political reasons. "This is how much the country's political divisions have seeped their way into something that has been, for the last 50 or 75 years, a relatively orderly business.

## Harris faces protesters, condemns Israel's war in Gaza on first night of book tour

**NEW YORK. (Agency)**

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, forced to confront Israel's war in Gaza on the first night of her book tour, expressed compassion for the Palestinians and condemned President Donald Trump for giving the Israeli government "a blank check."

"What's happening to the Palestinian people is outrageous and it breaks my heart," she told a packed New York City performance center on Wednesday night after being interrupted by the first of four pro-Palestinian protesters. "Donald Trump has given (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu a blank check to do whatever he wants." The comments came in the midst of a discussion about her new book, "107 Days," which was released on Tuesday and details the

hyperspeed campaign she launched against Trump after Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 presidential race. Harris was initially scheduled to make one appearance at the 1,500-person capacity Times Square performance center, but her team added a second show earlier in the evening because of high interest. Few issues have divided the nation — and the Democratic Party — more than the war in Israel. More than 65,000 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the war, Gaza's Health Ministry said earlier in the month. The conflict erupted after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas. Democratic activists in particular have condemned leaders in both parties for not pushing back harder to stop the bloodshed. Harris on Wednesday referenced her support for

New York mayoral candidate Zohran Mandani, a Democrat who has also spoken out against the war in Gaza. She said the two spoke earlier in the day. She said she told him she's "excited" about his candidacy. "You are bringing people in, and you are showing that there are voices that want to be heard, have felt left out and are now a part of what you are doing," she said, referencing the conversation. "And that is so powerful." Outside the venue on Wednesday night, dozens of activists protested on the sidewalk. Inside, the event veered off script several minutes after it began when a protester started shouting from the audience. "Your legacy is genocide. The blood of the Palestinians is on your hands," the first one, a man wearing a medical mask.

## Drone fired from Yemen hits southern Israeli city of Eilat, Medics say 22 people were wounded

**JERUSALEM. (Agency)**

A drone fired from Yemen struck the southern Israeli city of Eilat on Wednesday, Israel's military said. Medics said at least 22 people were wounded, two of them seriously. It wasn't immediately clear if they were hurt by the drone or an interceptor. In the Gaza Strip, at least 19 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, according to local hospitals. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have regularly fired drones and missiles at Israel — and attacked international shipping — in what they say is solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. The vast majority of the fire directed at Israel has been intercepted or fallen in open areas without wounding anyone.

The Houthi claimed the latest attack, saying in a statement that they had fired two drones at Israel.

Israel has carried out retaliatory airstrikes on Yemen after past attacks. Defense Minister Israel Katz, in a post on X, warned the Houthi that "anyone who harms Israel will be held responsible sevenfold."

The Israeli military said that "interception efforts were made." The Magen David Adom rescue service said that the wounded were taken to a nearby hospital, two of them with "severe shrapnel injuries to their limbs." In Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a group of Palestinians in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, killing at least 12 of them, according to the Al-Awda Hospital. Another 18 people were wounded, it said. The Israeli military didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Another four people — two children and their parents — were killed in a strike on their home in Nuseirat, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the nearby city of Deir al-Balah. Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza said that it received the bodies of three people killed by gunfire while seeking aid. Health officials in Gaza and the U.N. human rights office say hundreds of people have been killed by Israeli fire while seeking humanitarian aid in recent months. The military has said it

only fires warning shots when people approach its forces in what it considers a threatening manner. In the Israeli-occupied



West Bank, a 24-year-old was shot and killed by Israeli forces near the northern city of Jenin, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The military said they shot and killed a man after he hurled an explosive device at them. The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed

into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 hostage. Forty-eight captives are still inside Gaza, around 20 of them believed by Israel to be alive, after most of the rest were freed in ceasefires or other deals. Israel's ongoing retaliatory offensive has killed more than 65,000 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It doesn't say how many were civilians or combatants, but says women and children make up around half the fatalities. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government. U.N. agencies and many independent experts consider its figures to be the most reliable estimate of wartime casualties.

Israel launched another major ground operation earlier this month in Gaza City, which experts say is experiencing famine. More than 300,000 people have fled, but up to 700,000 are still there, many because they can't afford to relocate.

**Southern Railway clarifies single-journey local train tickets can be booked via Chennai One app**

**Chennai. (Agency)**

The Southern Railway on Wednesday clarified that commuters can use the 'Chennai One' unified ticketing application, launched by the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA), to book unreserved tickets for suburban routes including Chennai-Gummidiipundi, Chennai-Arakkonam-Tiruttani, Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu-Tirumalpur, and Chennai Beach-Velachery. According to an official statement, only paperless ordinary single journey tickets in second and first class can be booked and booking of AC local tickets is not permitted at



present. Similarly, express and superfast train tickets from Chennai to Arakkonam, Tiruttani, Chengalpattu, Gummidiipundi and Kanchipuram will not be available on the app. The validity of these tickets is restricted to three hours. In contrast, return journey tickets bought at ticket counters or via the UTS app remain valid until the last suburban train of the day on the respective section.

Passengers must display their tickets through the "Show Original Train Ticket" page of the app, which generates a ticket page similar to the UTS app, as this is the only valid proof of travel during ticket checks.

No cancellation facility is available for suburban tickets booked through the 'Chennai One' app. However, in exceptional cases, refunds may be processed only by CUMTA, in accordance with the prevailing railway refund policy, the statement added.

**Solving Crime: How railway police in Mumbai cracked a murder that wasn't**



**Mumbai. (Agency)**

A train robbery, a chase, and death by poisoning. The Government Railway Police (GRP) had their work cut out for them when a Mumbai police constable died in a hospital last year, saying that he had been poisoned by a gang while pursuing a man who stole his mobile phone while he was travelling by train on his way to work. What began as a routine investigation, however, soon turned into a wild chase that upended the case.

In May 2024, Vishal Pawar, a 30-year-old constable posted with the Local Arms Division, was admitted to a city hospital after he fell ill. In his statement, Pawar told the police that on April 27, 2024, he was on his way to report for duty and was on board a local train in civilian clothes. He said that he was standing near the train's door and speaking on his phone. When the train was between Matunga and Sion stations in central Mumbai at around 9.30 pm, it slowed down, he said.

A person standing near the tracks hit his hand with force, Pawar said, adding that due to the impact, his phone fell and was picked up by the thief, who began running.

# As DUSU polls draw closer, slogan war heats up on campus

**The Sikh Times**

New Delhi: With just three days to go for the Delhi University Students' Union elections, the campaign is resonating with catchy slogans crafted to win the attention of voters. As canvassing with posters and placards remains restricted after the Delhi

High Court's order, slogans have taken centre stage as the principal campaign method. Candidates and their teams are relying heavily on rhymes, ballot numbers and name-driven punchlines to capture the students' attention. Among the most heard chants on the campus this year are - "DU ki shaan, Aryan

Maan" (a campaign line for ABVP's presidential candidate) and "DU ka bhavar, Govind Tanwar" (V-P candidate for the ABVP). The ABVP campaign is also innovating slogans around its candidates' ballot numbers. One Hindi slogan says "3-1-3, ABVP ab ki baar" with the English catch phrase being "3-1-3, ABVP once more". On the importance of this method of canvassing, campaign leaders argue that in a short, intense election like DUSU, slogans are vital. "This is the best way to attract students. These attractive slogans also help us in the campaign, and by this, students remember our name and ballot number, which is very helpful," said Aryan Maan. NSUI campaigners, meanwhile, have turned their ballot digits into interesting slogans such as "DU maange Five Two, Two Five ki vibe" and "Ballot No kya hai? 5225". They are also relying on traditional campaign rhymes such as "Aayi Aayi NSUI" and "Chhatro mein, NSUI maidan mein" to underline student participation and respect. For candidates, slogans are about emotion,

al resonance. "In such a large and diverse university, you need something that resonates instantly," says Rahul Jhansla Yadav, vice-presidential candidate of the NSUI. "Our slogans create an emotional connection with students, but they also make the campaign more youthful and vibrant," he added. The numbers game — whether 3134 or 5225 — has transformed campaigning into a rhythm-filled contest. Students are often heard repeating these chants in canteens and lawns, revealing the power of communication and of how slogans are serving their intended purpose of visibility and recall. Students, too, acknowledge the power of catchy lines. "We may not always read the manifestos in detail, but slogans stay in our minds," says Priya Sharma, a sec-

ond-year student of Miranda House. "Sometimes, it's the rhythm of a slogan that makes you curious to know more about a candidate," she says. As the voting day approaches, the battle of ideas is being fought not only through manifestos and promises

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, SANDEEP JAIN S/O MAHENDER JAIN R/O G-1/106, 107 UG Floor, Sector-16 Rohini, Rohini Sector-15, PO: Rohini Sector-15, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as ANJALI JAIN in my minor daughter TANISHA JAIN aged 14 years in her School Records and Birth Certificate Registration No. MCDOLIR-0111-004814210. The actual name of my wife is POOJA JAIN.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, MAHADEV SINGH S/O MUL CHAND RINAWAL R/O G-214, SAVITRI PUBLIC SCHOOL, SAMGAM VIHAR, MEHRULI, DIST-SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MAHADEV in my minor son GAURAV KUSHWAHA aged 16 years in his 10th class Educational documents. The actual name of mine is MAHADEV SINGH, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAMESHRAO SINGH RAJAWAT S/O MAHIPAT SINGH, permanent R/O Kaliyar, Jalaur, Uttar Pradesh-285126, and currently residing at House No. 102, Auchand Road, Near Tehsil, Pana Dulan, Bawana, Delhi-110039, have changed the name of my minor daughter SIDHII RAJAWAT aged 14 years and she shall be hereafter known as SIDHII RAJAWAT.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, DINESH KUMAR KIRAD S/O MANGTU RAM KIRAD, PO House No. S-141, Gali No. 4, S-Block, Near Akash Hospital, Raja Puri, Uttam Nagar, PO: D.K. Mohan Garden, Dist: West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed the name of my minor son ATHARV aged 13 years and he shall be hereafter known as ATHARV KIRAD.

# Protests greet portable animal birth control unit in Nedumangad

**The arrival of the mobile animal birth control unit triggered opposition from residents and opposition parties who expressed concern over the unit being stationed in a public area.**

**Thiruvananthapuram. (Agency)**

Kerala's much-awaited mobile animal birth control (ABC) unit has finally arrived in the state, but its debut was overshadowed by protests in Nedumangad, where the pilot project is being launched. The unit, brought from Gujarat, was delivered to the Nedumangad municipality parking yard on Wednesday morning. The authorities had made elaborate arrangements — including pagoda tents, 100 dog cages, drainage, WiFi, and power and water connections — to host the facility. However, the arrival triggered opposition from residents and opposition parties who expressed concern over the unit being stationed in a public area. "The protest happened because the residents and the public were unaware of the facility coming

up here. People are in the dark about the project and its purpose. They thought the municipality was going to set up a shelter for stray dogs," said Poonkumoodu Aji, the leader of the opposition in Nedumangad municipality.

"The council is not against the ABC centre as it is a temporary facility and will be moved to other local bodies after being stationed here for a couple of weeks," he said.

In an effort to resolve the dispute and raise awareness among the public, the municipality is planning to organise a 'Janakiya Samiti' on Friday. An all-party meeting has also been convened next Monday, September 29, to reach a consensus.

"There was some resistance, and right in the



morning, we sat with the protesters and initiated a discussion. All arrangements are in place to begin the ABC unit operations, hopefully by September 29 or 30. The facility will be in operation in our municipality for 40 days and will be moved to another location," said Nedumangad

municipal secretary Kumar R. The animal husbandry department, in collaboration with the district panchayat, is spearheading the pilot project.

A crane was brought in to position the unit, with expenses borne by the district panchayat. Two veterinary surgeons have been hired and surgeries are set to begin soon, with a target of at least seven sterilisation surgeries per day. Each dog will be given five days of post-operative care, as per Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) norms. The sterilisation costs — ₹2,100 per dog — will be covered by local bodies. According to official sources, the Kadinamkulam panchayat is next in line for the portable ABC programme.

## Second edition of UST Trivandrum Marathon on October 12

**Organised by UST, a leading AI and technology transformation solutions company, in collaboration with NEB Sports, the UST Trivandrum Marathon 2025 will include four different categories.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.**

The capital city will host the second edition of UST Trivandrum Marathon on October 12 in which over 10,000 people are expected to participate. Organised by UST, a leading AI and technology transformation solutions company, in collaboration with NEB Sports, the UST Trivandrum Marathon 2025 will include four different categories, such as the full marathon, half marathon, 10K run, and 5K run.

Milind Soman, well-known actor, model and fitness enthusiast, who has been chosen as the brand ambassador for the event, will run along with the participants.

Other distinguished sports personalities who would be joining are former Indian badminton player Pullela Gopichand, athlete Reeth Abraham, and badminton player U Vimal Kumar.

The event will start from and culminate at the UST campus near Technopark. The total prize money to be won is over Rs 22 lakh. Participants will be able to register for the respective runs via the online registration link: [bit.ly/3ZnARUV](https://bit.ly/3ZnARUV) and the official website: <https://trivandrummarathon.com/>

The UST Trivandrum Marathon intends to spread awareness on the importance of a healthy society and also the physical and mental well-being of the people. I'm glad and proud that the marathon is being held as an annual event," said Alexander Varghese, president, UST. Nagaraj Adiga, CMD, NEB Sports, said the UST Trivandrum Marathon 2025 is the largest ever marathon held in Kerala's capital. "The presence of Milind Soman as brand ambassador will bring in additional charm to the event," he said.



"Authorities also directed 133 offenders to report weekly before station house officers,

while 2,961 repeat offenders were bound over to maintain good conduct and kept under close watch," the officer added.

"Invoking KAAPA and following it up with detention and deportation reflects our commitment to enforcing law and order. Strict action will continue against repeat offenders and those who pose a threat to public peace," he said, stressing that the drive should be seen as a collective policing effort rather than in comparison with previous years.

A top source with Ernakulam Rural added that offenders linked to narcotics cases were also targeted under KAAPA. "Nineteen offenders linked to narcotics cases have also been detained under preventive custody. Among them is Swathi Krishna, a young woman from Ernakulam Rural, booked under the NDPS Act," the officer said.

## Car catches fire inside Mumbai Coastal Road tunnel, traffic comes to a standstill for 1 hour

**The Mumbai police said no one was injured after a tourist taxi's engine caught fire in the southbound section of the tunnel near Tardeo.**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

The Mumbai Coastal Road was shut for almost an hour on Thursday morning after a car heading south caught fire inside the tunnel. No one was injured in the fire, said the police.

The tourist taxi's engine caught fire in the southbound section of the tunnel near Tardeo around 9.15 am, according to the police. The traffic police and the local police arrived at the scene and began directing vehicles from Haji Ali towards Pedder Road. They also stopped vehicles coming from Worli on the Coastal Road.

Vehicle movement resumed gradually around 10.30 am, said a senior officer.

After the fire, thick smoke accumulated inside

the tunnel, reducing visibility, said the police. Vehicle movement came to a standstill in both

"We will be conducting an inquiry with the driver of the car which caught fire to ask if there was any passenger inside the car at the time of the incident," said an officer.

The Mumbai Traffic Police shared an update on social media soon, and police officers from Tardeo started diverting vehicles from Haji Ali. The D B Marg police and Marine Drive police also reached their end of the tunnel and diverted the vehicle heading towards it.

"Traffic movement is stopped at Coastal Road (Tardeo) southbound and northbound due to a car fire," the police posted on X after the fire.



directions, leading to severe congestion.

The police said the vehicle was removed from

the tunnel once the fire was doused. "We will be conducting an inquiry with the driver of the car which caught fire to ask if there was any passenger inside the car at the time of the incident," said an officer.

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**Two Sunny Sai gang members arrested, gang war plot foiled**

New Delhi: Two key members of the Sunny Sai gang have been arrested, preventing a potential gang war in the city, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police said on Sunday. The arrests were made during an operation conducted on the intervening night of September 19-20 at Delhi's Raghbir Nagar. According to the police, the accused have been identified as Sukhpreet, a resident of Chander Vihar, and Shamshad Ali, son of Rahisuddin, from Khyala village, Delhi. During the operation, a pistol with two live cartridges was seized from Shamshad Ali, while a loaded single-shot pistol was seized from Sukhpreet. Both are habitual offenders with prior involvement in cases of murder, robbery, attempt to murder and Arms Act violations, the officials said. They had been released from jail some two months ago and were suspected to be planning a conflict. "As part of its intensified crackdown on organised gang syndicate in the capital, the AGS team of the Crime Branch has been given the specific mandate to target and dismantle such networks," a senior police official said. The gang maintains rivalries with the Salam Tyagi and Saddam Gauri gangs. Its leader, Sunny Sai, remains in judicial custody at Meerut jail.

## In Defence of Indian Youth

Two weeks back, youth in Nepal took down their government through massive protests that originated on social media. According to reports, they even held important discussions on the next President on Discord! Whatever you think of the movement, it does take spheres of steel to do it. In Indonesia, protestors set fire to the Parliament building to protest illegal spending by authorities.

In fact, if you look around – all the countries around us are going through a revolution of sorts. In Bangladesh, the people overthrew the government a few months back. In Sri Lanka, the Rajapaksha government was overthrown in 2022. And Pakistan? Well, they have to watch their team lose to India thrice in the span of a month – that is generational trauma, so we shall keep them out of this. But all around us, the youth are up in arms against the system. This led me to find sarcastic social media posts questioning the apparent lethargy of Indian youth. Incendiary posts that questioned where our nation was headed. Of how they are comfortable in their homes and on their smartphones. Memes about youth of other countries revolting, while Indian youth were busy sharing memes. A meta-meme, if you know what I mean! But here's my defence of Indian youth. It's common for older people to judge those younger than them. It's a misapprehension that all human beings nurture. We think we are wiser than those younger than us because we have lived for more years on earth. But that's a rather silly concept. Humans have become apex creatures on earth because every generation is smarter than those that came before them. This is true of the entire world – every generation is smarter, and (surprisingly) kinder than the previous one. If you want proof, just look at the different movements that have taken place over the years. About a hundred years ago, we overthrew kingdoms and created governments run by people. Then, human rights came in. Then came women's rights. Then came animal rights. Then came LGBTQ rights. Every generation expands our understanding of empathy.

It's the fallacy of wisdom that makes us assume we know better than those younger than us. But we just have to look at our parents to notice how obsolete we get as time passes. Which brings me to Indian youth. They are stuck between age-old civilisations and AI innovations. Every generation before them had to deal with crises. Religious riots and nuclear sanctions. Before that, the Emergency and wars. Before that, the Freedom movement.

Today's Indian youth might be the first generation that can pursue their dreams without the fear of the nation crumbling in front of them. On top of that, everything they like is snatched away from them. They liked video games, and PUBG got banned. They got over their insecurities and put themselves out in public through TikTok – but even that got banned. They overcame smoking by switching to vapes – and those got banned. Three years of their peak years were snatched away by Covid-19.

But as a man who's no longer young, I still believe in the youth of India. Maybe Indian revolutions don't happen over petro-bombs, but rather through hashtags and reels. Indian youth revolt against arranged marriage by using dating apps. Against bureaucracy by founding startups. Against strict politicians by making memes. The youth in India have always stood up when it mattered – whether it was the Great Indian Revolt, the freedom movement, or the Emergency. Maybe they're gathering evidence, collecting memes, and making reels. For now, I'd like to give Indian youth the benefit of doubt!

## Security stakes must spur jointness

**India's operational needs are distinctive, but that can't be a pretext to preserve service silos**

THE 16th Combined Commanders' Conference was held in Kolkata from September 15 to 17 on the theme of 'Year of Reforms — Transforming for the Future'. In his address at the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi instructed the Ministry of Defence to swiftly implement concrete steps to achieve greater jointness, Atmanirbharta and innovation to meet future challenges. Among the decisions taken on promoting jointness, it was announced that the three services agreed to merge their education branches into a single unified Tri-Services Education Corps. Three new joint military stations are to be formed where all facilities of the Army, Navy and Air Force will be combined under a lead service. Several joint doctrines have also been released in recent months. These include cyberspace operations, amphibious operations, special forces operations, airborne and heliborne operations and multi-domain operations. These joint doctrines collectively represent a systematic approach to military transformation, emphasising integration across different warfighting domains while maintaining service-specific expertise and capabilities. It has long been recognised that the Indian military needs to shed its siloed structure and fight as an integrated force. In December 2019, the government created the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and established the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) within the Ministry of Defence. The DMA was explicitly mandated to drive integration by promoting joint planning in procurement, training and staffing, and to "facilitate restructuring of military commands... by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands."

While a lot of effort is going into promoting jointness in the three services, the establishment of the Integrated Theatre Commands remains mired in dissonance, with the Indian Air Force (IAF) pushing back against their creation. Holding only 29 fighter squadrons against a sanctioned 42, the IAF fears that parcelling out its air assets to multiple theatre commands could dilute the effectiveness of airpower. The IAF leadership has argued that air power by its very nature is best used as a flexible, centrally controlled resource that can swing between theatres, an approach that might be compromised under rigid geographic commands. Last month, the IAF Chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, cautioned against rushing the rollout of theatre commands and "disrupting everything to build one structure." Arguing that no new structures are required at

the lower level, he suggested the creation of a joint planning and coordination centre in New Delhi, where plans can be made centrally, and execution of tasks is decentralised.

At the event where the Air Force Chief had expressed his reservations, Navy Chief Admiral DK Tripathi said, "The Navy is committed to theaterisation as the ultimate goal." The Army Chief, Gen Upendra Dwivedi, has also asserted that theaterisation of the Indian armed forces will definitely happen, even if it takes time. These dissonant views raise the larger question of whether any structural changes like the theatre commands are required to move the Indian military to a more efficient



warfighting model. Proponents of the status quo cite Operation Sindoor as an example of how coordination and planning at New Delhi, between the service chiefs and the CDS, combined with regular interactions with the political leadership, provides a successful model for future operations. To strengthen coordination, a joint planning structure could be created at New Delhi.

Operation Sindoor has provided many valuable lessons, but treating it as a blueprint for future wars would be an overstretch. This was a brief, tightly controlled operation with limited political objectives. After the initial standoff attacks against terrorist targets, the Army's role was restricted to fire assaults at the Line of Control. The Navy adopted a forward posture to serve as a deterrent but did not actively engage in kinetic operations.

Being primarily a limited air and missile campaign, many

critical capacities were not tested during Operation Sindoor. A protracted war involving significant ground or naval combat would demand robust traditional capabilities, including sustained armour and infantry operations, naval operations for sea control and logistics for sustainment over weeks or months. Such operations cannot be executed through coordination at New Delhi but will require a unified command structure in the field that can directly oversee operations in its theatre of responsibility. Even today, the service headquarters primarily serve a staff function, while the responsibility to conduct operations is with the respective command headquarters. It is often stated that India cannot just copy theatre command structures from the US and China, as we have our own unique requirements. While there is some merit in this argument, we also cannot ignore the very valid reasoning behind why these structures were created. The Goldwater-Nichols Act, 1986, which reorganised the US military, was meant to remove the service parochialism and rivalry from the battlefield and address problems of poor quality of collective advice from the Joint Chiefs, cumbersome chains of command and inadequate authority of the warfighting commanders in the field. China's scrapping of the old Military Regions and raising theatre commands marked a shift from ground forces' dominance towards a joint warfighting model integrating all domains under a unified commander. While the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is still refining its structure, the direction is clearly towards joint commands being essential for the PLA to fight modern, high-tech wars as a unified force. Some of the problems that forced reorganisation in the US and China are common to the Indian military. India's operational needs are distinctive, but that cannot be a pretext to preserve service silos and delay true integration. The debate should not be whether to integrate, but how to tailor integration to India's threat challenges.

Our uniqueness should show up in how we design the integrated architecture. Discussion on this architecture includes the organisational structure of the integrated commands, the command-and-control arrangements, the precise role of the service chiefs in campaign planning, and a clear, rules-based authority for allocating scarce joint resources — especially air and ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) assets — across theatres. In short, India's specific national security context should shape the model of integration, not justify avoiding it.

## Cement legacy with better public goods, not statutory politics

**Parties in power prefer the certainty of marble over the challenge of building lasting welfare such as schools that educate generations, hospitals that save lives, or clean water systems that ease daily burdens**

The Supreme Court's refusal to allow the Tamil Nadu government to install a statue of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi in Tirumelveli is not just a local setback. It exposes a persistent national malaise: ruling parties often treat leaders' monuments as their legacy, and as symbols of development and public welfare. From the sprawling elephant parks commissioned by Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat's colossal Statue of Unity, and countless arches, domes, and memorials erected for Nehru, Ambedkar, Shivaji, or regional icons, the pattern is familiar. Every ruling party, irrespective of ideology, succumbs to the politics of perceived permanence. The criticism here is not about cultural monuments or works of art, but specifically about statues and memorials to political leaders—whether crowd-funded or, more troublingly, built with public money. The justification is couched in noble words—honouring leaders, preserving history—but the reality is that statues are instruments of political branding, designed to etch a ruling dispensation's imprint on public space. The real tragedy is in the opportunity cost. Parties in power prefer the certainty of marble over the challenge of building lasting welfare such



as schools that educate generations, hospitals that save lives, or clean water systems that ease daily burdens. The tendency is not confined to statues alone. The naming of roads, airports, universities, and welfare schemes after

political leaders—an entrenched practice since independence—reflects the same impulse. Like statues, these names perpetuate personality cults, distracting from the institutions' real purpose and the citizens they serve.

Courts and institutions have tried, with mixed success, to temper this tendency. National parties criticise regional ones for "statue mania", but engage in the same practices themselves. To blunt criticism, some even hide behind the images of gods or widely respected national figures. The Madras High Court has suggested 'leaders' parks' to contain statues without obstructing civic life. The Election Commission once directed that statues of Mayawati and the party symbol, the elephant, be covered during campaigns to avoid influencing voters. Mayawati herself once dismissed the notion that statues should only be built posthumously, underscoring how deeply political calculations influence such projects. A country still grappling with poverty, unemployment, and poor infrastructure cannot afford the luxury of the politics of monuments. Remembering leaders is important, but the truest memorial is improving everyday lives.

## For a judiciary that stands firm

**The SC has been revisiting too many of its own orders, affecting the principle of finality. The rising number of revision, review, and curative petitions is evidence of a malady that affects certainty and adds to pendency. Structural reforms from within the judiciary are called for**

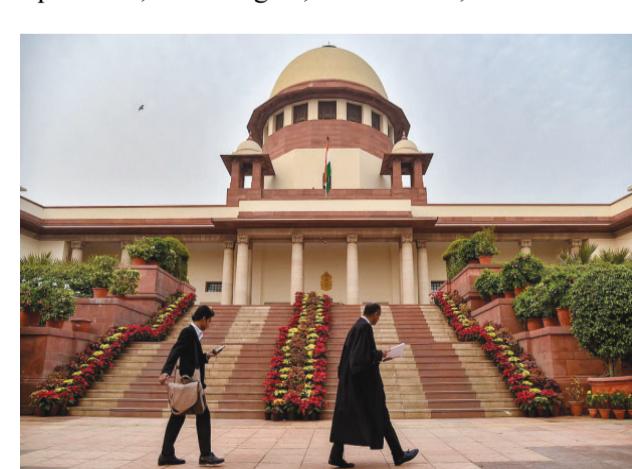
The Supreme Court is the custodian of India's 'living' Constitution and the final arbiter of the laws of the land. Though one of the three equal pillars of the State, it holds an exalted position not only by constitutional design, but also in the public conscience, earned through its untiring efforts in upholding the Constitution and steadfast protection of citizens' rights. All citizens, including these authors, revere high expectations on the SC as it discharges its dharma of justice. It is the final authority in ensuring closure to disputes. Though it may not necessarily always be right (due to human frailties), it is always final—and the institution has lived up to this expectation umpteen times. However, certain recent developments suggest that this finality is no longer assured. Judgements are being revisited, stayed, recalled, or altered—creating a perception that a matter is not truly settled even after the SC has pronounced its verdict. This blurring of finality raises important questions on the certainty of law, the authority of judicial outcomes, and the stability of legal systems. Consider a few recent examples that happened in quick succession. The resolution plan of Bhushan Power and Steel was rejected in May while disposing of an appeal filed five years ago. At end July, a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India recalled the judgement for review, as it had not correctly considered the legal position laid down by a catena of judgements.

Another order in early August, while castigating a high court judge for lack of knowledge in criminal laws, de-rostered him from hearing criminal cases.

On a request from the Chief Justice of India, the same bench deleted some of the directions from the judgement. A third instance is the mid-August stay of the order given few days earlier on the stray dog problem in the national capital. The review order issued by a different three-judge bench modified and mollified some of the directions in the order impugned. All these reversals, stays or reviews followed massive public and expert outcries on the original orders. Even arbitral awards, which by design are final and not generally appealable, are not immune to uncertainty. In DMRC vs Delhi Airport Metro Express, the award traversed the SC through a special leave petition, a review petition, and a curative petition, with the court eventually overturning its own earlier decision.

The need for revisiting orders by the Supreme Court, especially within a short span of time, is a very serious matter irrespective of whether public sentiment or its own conscience is the reason. It undermines the very foundation of finality and precedents provided under Articles 141 and 137 of the Constitution. To stand by things decided—stare decisis—is an age-old principle followed by all established judicial systems. A weakening of this principle, that too in the face of several other constraints, accentuates the limitations of the judiciary in dealing with the mounting pendency and the trauma of the affected parties waiting for justice. Let's make it abundantly clear that we are not on the merit of any of these judicial pronouncements, only on about the processes that make certainty a casualty. Even in major

commercial matters where uncertainty can have larger economy-wide or international ramifications, incurring huge opportunity costs. The SC handles an astounding number and variety of cases, ranging from fundamental constitutional questions, human rights, diverse PILs, to matters of



daily life—health, pregnancy, property, agency inaction/hyper-action, municipal failures like on street animals, socio-cultural disputes, and even individual instances of cheating, pre-arrest bail, etc. After all, India is a litigants' paradise. Managing such a vast and complex docket inevitably takes an enormous toll on the learned judges and the system. The high pendency of cases at every stage of the judicial hierarchy is well known. Delays are often attributed to lingering vacancies,

inadequate number of judges, support staff, infrastructural constraints, and even the executive-judiciary tussle on overreach. These issues have existed for long, aggravating the cold reality of justice being denied through delays. But 'delayed-then-hurried' orders are also hurting finality, aggravating the problem of pendency.

The rising number of revision, review, and curative petitions is clear evidence of the malady affecting certainty like a double-edged weapon. Given these issues, the SC should suo motu take up the mandate of structural reforms from within. It should address issues like limiting the number of appeals, revision, and review, and reimagining the role of high courts as constitutional courts. It can also ensure a high degree of professionalism in minimising adjournments, weeding out frivolous petitions, writing matter-of-fact orders, and revisiting the selection and confirmation criteria for judges. The higher judiciary can implement many of the internal reforms under Articles 145 and 225. Reforms needing support from the other two pillars of the State should be in response to an agenda set by the judiciary. Proactive judicial reforms by the executive or legislature may be seen as interference. Therefore, in parallel to demanding executive action on funding, appointments, and other administrative steps, the SC must lead a structural and procedural transformation from within. That should guarantee fast finality to disputes and in ensuring 'complete justice' to the people.

# A Reflection on KIIT's 21st Annual Convocation

**Achyuta Samanta**

The 21st Annual Convocation of KIIT-DU, held from September 26-28, 2025 marks a proud moment in our institutional journey. This Convocation is particularly special as it has been planned over three days to smoothly accommodate the large number of graduating students along with their parents. It is being graced by Nobel Laureates from Tunisia and Sri Lanka, distinguished jurists Justice Abdulgawali Ahmed Yusuf and Justice Dalveer Bhandari from the International Court of Justice, and eminent dignitaries from around the world. These two Nobel Laureates join an illustrious legacy of twenty-two Nobel Laureates who have previously graced our campus with their presence, sharing their wisdom and insights with our academic community. As I draft this piece, I am reminded of how a modest dream has grown into a global centre of learning in such a short span of time - 28 years as an institute and 21 years as a University. Today, KIIT, with 23 schools, serves as an educational home to over 40,000 Indian students and 2000 international students from 70 countries. KIIT Engineering ranks among the best globally in



(KSBT) has been recognized as a Centre of Excellence. The Technology Business Incubator (TBI) ranks as India's top private bio-incubator and fosters innovation and start-

ups. Placements have been a hallmark of KIIT since inception, with leading national and international companies recruiting from our campus. Many of our students also pursue higher studies in world-class universities. I understand intimately the struggles that families face when investing in their children's education. Having once been a student with limited financial resources but unlimited dreams, I recognize the importance of creating an environment where economic circumstances never become barriers to educational achievement. The university is home to excellent classrooms, labs, facilities, the 2,600-bedded KIMS super-specialty hospital, a seven-storey central library and a 22-storey research and innovation tower. State-of-the-art auditoriums, including one with a seating capacity of 5,000, provide vibrant spaces for learning and exchange. Sports are integral to our philosophy of holistic education. With 24 Olympians pursuing their studies at KIIT, we are proud to be India's leading hub for sports excellence. Our global reach extends to more than 100 countries with over 350 MoUs with leading universities, innovative twinning programmes, and partnerships with UN Volunteers and American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL).

**Founder, KIIT, KISS and KIMS**

## 'Suka Suka ke Paani': From excessive flooded fields to smart irrigation: A new hope for Punjab's Farmers:

**Jalandhar . (Agency)**

Farmer Darbara Singh, from the village of Leehan in Ludhiana district, owns 15 acres of farmland. Like many others in Punjab, Darbara had long followed the conventional method of paddy irrigation—flooding his fields almost every other day. This method consumed massive amounts of water and often led to unnecessary wastage. However, this season, he tried something different on part of his land.

"I partitioned my fields and installed special pipes—about 2 feet tall, with small holes around the bottom one foot of the pipe. Half of the pipe, including the perforated section, is inserted into the soil. The method is simple but effective. These perforated pipes help monitor the underground water level. We regularly observe the pipe to check whether water is visible inside it. If water is still present in the pipe—seeping in from the surrounding soil—it means the field does not need irrigation. But once the water inside the pipe dries up, it signals that the field now needs to be irrigated," he explained.

This method, known as Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), changed the way he looked at water management. The method is simple

but effective, said he.

"Earlier, we used water every second day. With AWD, now we need water after a week or sometimes after 4 to 5 irrigations. I saved 20%—sometimes even 35 to 40%—of our water. As there were incessant rains for days in Punjab in July end and August months but paddy is such crop which needs water every other day in the first three months and despite rains we need to irrigate crop if there is no rain for 5-6 days and with this method we saved huge amount of ground water. And the best part? It was all done free of cost as an organisation has provided us these pipes."

Darbara isn't alone in this shift. Harpreet Singh, another progressive farmer from Moga district's village

Puranaewal

experimented with AWD on 2 acres last year. Encouraged by the results, he extended it to 5 acres this year on his 30-acre farm. "We gave water after 4 days, and sometimes only once a week depending on the temperatures," Harpreet shared. "We had 4-5 less irrigations than usual in the 5-acre fields where we have installed these and saved a lot on power and groundwater. Next year, I plan to increase the area under AWD as it costs us nothing."

## Nagamohan commission winds up abruptly as Karnataka govt withdraws staff, vehicles



**Bengaluru . (Agency)**

Justice HN Nagamohan Das Inquiry Commission that probed the alleged 40% commission and irregularities in BBMP civil works wound up abruptly as the government withdrew facilities, including staff and vehicles.

The Commission had submitted its report on August 30 and sought an extension up to September 30. But the member secretary following the direction of the commission's chairman has written to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department on September 22 that the inquiry commission will be winding up on September 23.

The Commission of Inquiry has been providing the details required by the Chairman and members of the committee formed to hand over the confidential files of the investigation and submit a compliance report on the investigation report.

A proposal was submitted to the government to provide staff and facilities and extend the period up to September 30 in order to complete the work of the Inquiry Commission, the letter said. Since there was no action to provide alternative arrangements but the staff and the vehicles were withdrawn the commission will be wound up, it clarified.

## Bengaluru woman files complaint against live-in partner for not marrying her

**Bengaluru . (Agency)**

A 33-year-old divorced woman has filed a complaint against her live-in partner, accusing him of having a physical relationship with her by employing deceitful means.

The accused, who is working as a physical education teacher in a private school, is also a cricket coach. The woman in her complaint said that she met the accused when she had gone to the school regarding documentation work for her 10-year-old daughter. The accused has been identified as Abey V Mathew, a resident of Pavamana Nagar in Gottigere. The victim, who also stays in the same house, filed the complaint on Tuesday evening.

Immediately after the complaint was registered, the accused released a video stating that he has gone to his native in Kerala over a property work and will never cheat her as he wants to marry her, and he does not know why she has made the accusations against him.

The woman in her complaint said that she has known the accused for the last year. Mathew is alleged to have gained her trust by helping her financially. After her divorce in September last year, the accused is alleged to have promised to marry her at a church.

They both started living together in October last year. He then maintained a physical relationship with her. In January this year, the complainant is said to have conceived a child and claimed to have had an abortion. The mother of the accused is also alleged to have told her to stop staying with her son and to stay in some paying guest accommodation.

## HMDA to restructure as citizen-focused, decentralised body amid expanded jurisdiction

**Consultative framework, PMU will be set up to strengthen inter-departmental coordination**

**Hyderabad . (Agency)**

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) will be restructured to function as a modern, decentralised and citizen-responsive body.

Zonal divisions headed by zonal commissioners will be created to speed up decisions and file clearances, while the metropolitan commissioner will focus on strategic planning and long-term urban development.

A consultative framework and a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up to strengthen inter-departmental coordination. With HMDA's jurisdiction expanding from 7,257 sq. km to 10,526 sq. km across 11 districts, 104 mandals and over 1,350 villages, officials said the authority faces increasing complexity in meeting its mandate. The restructuring will address

internal organisation, operations and human resources. HMDA, responsible for planning and development across the Hyderabad Metropolitan Region, coordinates with municipal bodies, HMWSSB, TGIIC, TGRTC and other agencies.

Apart from planning, HMDA is handling key projects such as elevated corridors, radial

roads, transport hubs, land pooling schemes, a Unified Building and Development Code for Telangana, Master Plan-2050 and adoption of digital twin technology for real-time management. These, officials said, underline the need for an agile and transparent structure.

To this end, HMDA has invited consultants to prepare a restructuring and process optimisation plan. The exercise will review governance, staffing, process efficiency, automation, decentralisation and capacity building. At zonal and field levels, the consultant is to develop an operating model with defined boundaries, Zonal commissioner roles, functional units (planning, enforcement, public interface), staffing, infrastructure and IT requirements.

The consultant will also review HMDA's current structure, rules and regulations,

identify redundancies, check compliance with the HMDA Act, and suggest amendments. The goal is a functional, future-ready structure that improves service delivery, optimises resources, ensures accountability and adapts to emerging urban challenges. Tasks include aligning the organisation with its expanded jurisdiction, defining roles through job descriptions, key responsibility areas and performance indicators, streamlining approvals, identifying automation opportunities, and improving workflows.

Coordination will be strengthened through a central PMU for project execution. The consultant will provide support in change management, communication and capacity building, and recommend governance models, e-governance solutions, decentralisation frameworks, and digital transformation measures.

## UP wants to take over ASI forts in Bundelkhand, convert them into luxury hotels

**Ludhiana . (Agency)**

THE UTTAR Pradesh government, as part of its plan to revive heritage monuments and boost tourism, is undertaking transformation of historic forts and buildings into heritage luxury hotels, cultural centres and museums under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. In the first phase, 11 such properties have been identified across the state. Jaiveer Singh, State Minister for Tourism and Culture, told The Indian Express that the chargesheet was filed in the case on August 9 and the court framed the charges on



August 22. A request was made to the district court for a fast-track trial of the case. The Special Court (POCSO) completed the trial within 20 working days and the accused was sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 1.60 lakh imposed on him, she added.

Singh added, "There are 31 properties that have been identified by us across the state, out of which we have allotted four on PPP model and more are showing interest. So the idea is to accelerate revenue growth with the help of these properties and we are hopeful that they would help contribute to the economy of the Bundelkhand region of the state in particular as visitors to these properties would also boost the local vendors and business." Earlier this month, citing a suggestion made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway in 2022 to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to explore the potential of forts in Bundelkhand as well. Uttar Pradesh has a lot of potential because we have some good heritage properties for which people have already started showing interest."

to the Uttar Pradesh government for development and conservation. These five monuments are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture.

In his letter, Adityanath described Bundelkhand, which is known as the "land of ten rivers" and a region of sages, as the "heartland of India". He stressed the need for revival of Bundelkhand's ancient monuments and archaeological sites to bring the region into global focus.

In his letter, dated September 16, to PM Modi, the CM pointed out that during the inauguration of the Bundelkhand Expressway, the PM "encouraged the preservation, promotion and development of the palaces, forts, and monuments in Bundelkhand, establishing them on the world map for tourism, and developing them."

## 'We are left to rebuild life from nothing': As floodwaters recede, Punjab farmers return to damaged houses, lost farmland

**Ludhiana . (Agency)**

As the floodwaters of the Sutlej recede across Punjab, displaced families are returning to their homes only to confront a new crisis—cracked walls, unsafe floors, vanished farmland, and an uncertain future. In district after district, from Ferozepur to Fazilka, the story is the same: people struggling to restart life from scratch.

In Ferozepur district's Kaluwalla village, Joginder Singh, 55, returned home on Wednesday from the Dulchikke flood relief camp, nearly 8 km away. His family had shifted there with their cattle, but a local fair forced them out. "We could not stay longer at the camp as villagers had to organise a mela at the ground where we had tied our animals. We moved back, but our houses are badly damaged. Our animals are being kept in someone's house in Nihalewala, while we are left to rebuild life from nothing," he said.

The foundation of Joginder's house is weak after being inundated. "The water has receded, but the ground floor is uninhabitable. We shifted some belongings to the rooftop. It seems we have no option but to live under tents or on terraces. Immediate help for house repairs is the need of the hour. Or else, if the government can allot us land away from the river, we are ready to leave the village forever. We are tired of vacating homes during floods or in war-like situations," Joginder said.

The district shares the international border with Pakistan. When farmland turns into a riverbed, Kaluwalla is a small village of just 35-40 houses, with a population of about 350, including 140 voters. Situated right on the banks of the Sutlej, it has seen repeated displacements—not just during the 2023 floods, but also in May this year during Operation Sindoora.

"Why can't the government shift us to safer ground? We are only 40 houses, yet every time there is a flood or tension on the border, we are the first to vacate. This is no way to live," said Jagdish Singh, 35, whose house has also been damaged. He is temporarily living in Nihalewala.

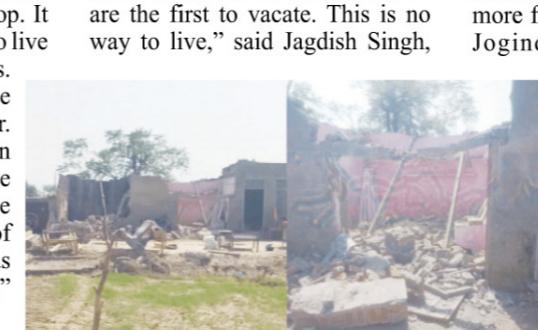
The Sutlej has also devoured much of the agricultural land here. Of nearly 1,000 acres of the riverbed area in Kaluwalla, approximately 150 acres remain visible; the rest has been swallowed up as the river

shifted its course. "Large chunks of land on which we used to do farming now lie within the riverbed. For us farmers, this is more frightening than the floods," Joginder said, appealing to philanthropists for help. "Repair of houses must come first—the rest can wait," he added. This land was not in the name of the farmers, and hence, they will not get compensation.

Fear on the border In neighbouring Tendiwalla village, which lies along the Sutlej and across from Pakistan, the story is no different. Parkash Singh recalled how no household was fully evacuated during the floods. "At least two people in every house stayed behind—on rooftops or in neighbours' homes—to guard belongings. I stayed in my neighbour's house with my brother, shifting some cattle there. Others had moved to Barke relief camp set up by the government."

His own house was submerged under 3 ft of water. "We saved what we could by shifting things to relatives' houses and to the first floor. Now we are busy washing the floors, scrubbing walls, and trying to hide cracks that have developed. But 37 acres of my farmland lie in the riverbed—it seems like it has gone forever."

Jeet Singh, former sarpanch, pointed to another long-standing grievance of border farmers. "Since 2019, we have stopped getting compensation for riverbed land because it is not in our names. The policy of jisda khet, odi ret (sand for those whose fields got silted) does not apply here because the ones who used to do farming in the river bed area have been swallowed altogether. Where will we get sand from? Only land outside the riverbed can be cleared, and that too when the soil finally dries up."



# Delhi High Court questions Priya Kapur's plea to disclose Sunjay Kapur assets in sealed cover

**The application was filed in the ongoing inheritance dispute involving Karisma Kapoor's children, who are claiming a share in their late father's personal assets.**

The Delhi High Court, on Thursday, adjourned until tomorrow a petition filed by late businessman Sanjay Kapur's wife, Priya Kapur, who has sought permission to file a list of his personal assets and liabilities in a sealed cover. The request was filed as part of the ongoing inheritance dispute involving actor Karisma Kapoor's children, who have claimed a share in their father's personal assets.

Senior advocate Shyel Trehan, representing Priya Kapur, argued that the details of the assets include sensitive financial information, the disclosure of which in the public domain could cause irreparable harm. The plea requested that the documents be filed under confidentiality obligations or, alternatively, that a "Confidentiality Club" be constituted to limit access. "I am willing to show it to all parties, but request it be held as confidential," Trehan said.

The court, however, raised questions on Kapur's request, noting that opposing parties required



access to details to respond adequately. "The whole suit cannot be in a sealed cover," the bench observed, while inviting suggestions to balance confidentiality with the rights of all parties. "It may be problematic for the simple reason that as the alleged beneficiary of the estate, they (Karisma Kapoor's children) have a right to question the assets disclosed. So, tomorrow, if they have to verify and go about asking what has happened, if they are bound with this confidentiality club, how will they ever defend their case?" the court asked.

The court also asked Trehan if there was any judgment to support her request. In response, Trehan said she would present some suggestions by tomorrow. The counsel representing Karisma Kapoor's children argued that details regarding the property should largely remain public. They also alleged that, per their information, "banks have been wiped off", leaving nothing in the account.

Senior advocate Amit Sibal, representing Sunjay Kapur's mother and a class 1 heir, stressed that he must have full access to the asset details to independently verify the will. He described restrictions, including a potential non-disclosure agreement, as "somewhat unusual" and sought assurance that the order would not impede his rights. Another application listed on Wednesday was filed by Rani Kapur, seeking directions to be provided a copy of the Will dated March 21, 2025. After hearing arguments, the court adjourned both matters to the following day to allow counsels to propose a method to maintain confidentiality without infringing on the rights of any party.

## In a first, India test-fires Agni-P missile from rail-based mobile launcher

**Agency New Delhi.**

India has successfully test-fired its new generation nuclear-capable ballistic missile, Agni-P, off the coast of Odisha. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the test from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island, showcasing the missile's advanced capabilities. Congratulating Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pointed out that the intermediate ballistic missile could be launched within a short reaction time from a Rail based Mobile launcher system.

"The first-of-its-kind launch carried out from specially designed Rail based Mobile Launcher, has the capability to move on Rail network without any pre-conditions that allows User to have a cross country mobility and launch within a short reaction time with reduced visibility," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

The Agni-P missile boasts several key features that make it a significant addition to India's defence arsenal. The missile uses a ring laser gyro-based inertial navigation system (INS) and a micro inertial navigation system (MINS), with optional GPS and NaVIC satellite navigation.

The missile's canisterised design allows for easy transportation and storage, reducing the time required for launch preparations. The Agni-P missile has demonstrated high accuracy in its previous tests, making it a reliable deterrent against potential threats.

The successful test-firing of the Agni-P missile has significant implications for India's defence capabilities. It demonstrates India's ability to develop and deploy advanced missile systems, enhancing its deterrence capabilities against potential threats. In the last few weeks, India has successfully tested three advanced missile systems as part of its broader strategic development program. Prior to the Agni P missile test, India had successfully test-fired the Agni-5 intermediate-range ballistic missile on August 20, with a range of up to 5,000 km. The Defence Ministry said the launch from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur validated all operational and technical parameters.

## When Hindu woman marries, her 'gotra' changes: Supreme Court in succession case

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Supreme Court remarked that the property of a Hindu woman dying without a will and leaving behind no husband and children goes to her husband's heirs and not to her family as her "gotra" changes when she marries under the Hindu law.

These remarks came on Wednesday while the top court was hearing a plea challenging Section 15(1)(b) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which provides that when a Hindu woman dies intestate, her property passes to her husband's heirs if she leaves no husband or children. During the proceedings, the bench led by Justice BV Nagarathna reminded petitioners to consider the cultural framework underlying the law.

"Before you argue, please remember. This is Hindu Succession Act. What's the meaning of Hindu, how is Hindu society regulated, what's the meaning? Though you may not like to use all those words...but 'kanyadan', when a woman is married, her gotra is changed, her name is changed. She can seek maintenance from her husband..." the bench noted.

Justice Nagarathna pointed out ritual practices in southern India, stating, "In southern marriages, there is even a ritualistic announcement that she is moving from one gotra to another. You cannot wish away all of this."

The bench said that once a woman is married, her responsibility under the law rests with her husband and his family. "She will not seek maintenance from her parents or siblings. If a woman is married, who is responsible under the act? Husband, in-laws, children, husband's family. She will not file a maintenance petition against her brother! It's against husband, his estate... If a woman does not have children, she can always make a will," Justice Nagarathna added.

## Poll body mandates postal ballot to be counted before final EVM round

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced changes to the vote count process, mandating the completion of postal ballots before the final round of counting of votes cast via Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) begin at centres. Normally, counting of postal ballots begins at 8 am and EVM counting half an hour later. According to the previous rules, EVM counting could, in theory, proceed independently of postal

ballot counting, and there remains a possibility that it may conclude before the postal ballots are fully tallied. Counting of postal ballots generally gets completed before the counting of EVM votes. In a bid to

ensure uniformity and absolute clarity in the counting process, the ECI has decided that the final or second-last round of EVM counting will be taken

As the high-stakes polls are fast approaching, the Congress has ramped up its attack on the ECI and the Centre over the "vote theft" issue

and special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar. Last week, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi doubled down on his claim that the poll body was "protecting vote chors", or thieves.

"Wake up at 4 am, delete 2 voters in 36 seconds, then go back to sleep — that's how vote theft happened! The watchdog of elections stayed awake, kept watching the theft, and kept

protecting the thieves," he tweeted on September 19. In response, the Election Commission has rubbished the Congress MP's claims, asserting that no voters could be deleted online by the public.



up only after the counting of postal ballots is fully completed at the respective counting centres. The vote-counting changes come with just a few months left for the Bihar Assembly elections.

## L&T, BEL forge strategic alliance to power India's 5th-gen fighter jet programme

**Agency New Delhi.**

TLarsen & Toubro (L&T) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have announced a strategic partnership to jointly support the Indian Air Force's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. The two defence technology leaders will form a consortium to respond to the Expression of Interest (EoI) issued by the Government of India's Aeronautical Development Agency in the coming weeks. The collaboration aims to contribute significantly to India's fifth-generation fighter aircraft initiative by combining L&T's expertise in developing strategic defence and aerospace platforms with BEL's proficiency in defence electronics and

essential avionics and electronic systems. Building on this legacy, the consortium seeks to deliver high-quality, next-generation technologies tailored to the requirements of the Indian Air Force. Commenting on the development, S N Subrahmanyam, Chairman & Managing Director, L&T, stated, "The collaboration with BEL marks a significant leap in our commitment to the modernisation of India's defence capabilities. We are honoured to be working with BEL to deliver next-generation technologies for the Indian Air Force. Both the organisations are leaders in our respective domains and our combined efforts will play a crucial role in bolstering national security and advancing self-reliance."

systems. The partnership aligns with the Government of India's vision for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and represents a major milestone in enhancing the country's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. L&T and BEL have previously played instrumental roles in India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, supplying critical aero-structure modules and developing mission-

systems. The partnership aligns with the Government of India's vision for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and represents a major milestone in enhancing the country's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. L&T and BEL have previously played instrumental roles in India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme, supplying critical aero-structure modules and developing mission-

are 'foreign powers' involved," he said, "...gradually many things will become clear. Who is making this happen? Why was this day chosen?" The Lt Governor pointed out that the Ladakhi people had welcomed the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2019, after the federal government scrapped special status for Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two UTs. "Ok... everyone has the right to say what they want (referring to the protesters). But Ladakh will not be allowed to become a place of violence."

"Ladakh is a peaceful, religious, and devout environment. Some people (again, referring to the 'conspirators') will come here and do this. No matter how big a person is, there will be action." The comments come after Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk was blamed for the violence. "In spite of many leaders urging to call off the hunger strike, he

continued... and misled the people through provocative mentions of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal," the Home Ministry said in a statement. On Wednesday the Lt Governor issued a

curfew and blamed the protesters for the violence, which included a Bharatiya Janata Party office being vandalised and a CRPF, or Central Reserve Police Force, vehicle set on fire. "Those who instigated

Can even a scratch by a dog or cat cause rabies? Here's what doctors say

**Agency New Delhi.**

When police inspector Vanraj Manjaria—an animal lover who even preserved the ashes of his pets—died recently, it was a dog that was behind his death from rabies. For Manjaria, death came from the scratch of not a street dog, but a pet dog of a family friend he met at a farmhouse he visited earlier this month. His death has sparked several questions about dogs and rabies. But the key question—can just scratch, not bite, cause rabies? And if yes, how does the virus reach the canine's paw?

Manjaria suddenly fell sick on September 15, but by the time he was admitted to hospital in Ahmedabad, it was too late. Doctors told his family he had contracted rabies—a virus with no cure and certain death. None of Manjaria's relatives knew of any bite, and he himself had never mentioned one. Only in the hospital were two scratch marks from a dog's paw discovered on his feet. It has raised the question—can a dog's, or even a cat's scratch, really cause rabies? Here is what doctors have to say.

**YES, EVEN A SCRATCH FROM A DOG OR CAT CAN CAUSE RABIES**

"It is possible. If the animal is infected with the virus and licks its paws before scratching a person, transmission can occur, though the probability is low," explained Mumbai-based veterinarian Dr Brijesh Raj.

In Manjaria's case, a family relative told India Today Digital that it remained unclear whether the dog that scratched him was alive or not. Generally, after an incident of an animal's bite or scratch, doctors and veterinarians suggest that a close eye on the animal be kept. If an animal is infected by the rabies virus, they usually die within two weeks.

**UP man dies by suicide after neighbours' false molestation case, leaves 6-page note**

**Agency New Delhi.**

A bakery owner in Lucknow died by suicide after being falsely implicated in a molestation case filed by his neighbours following a long-standing dispute over the construction of a ramp. Virendra Yadav left a six-page suicide note and his family believe that he took the extreme step over fear of social stigma emanating from the false case, as well as concerns over his daughter's marriage. Yadav, who ran the bakery in the city's Manak Nagar area, had a dispute with his neighbours, Surjeet Yadav and his wife, Anita, over constructing the ramp outside their house. As the dispute escalated, the matter reached court. The neighbours, however, continued the construction despite a court order to halt it.

When Virendra protested, the couple filed a false molestation case against him and his entire family. According to Virendra's wife, Neelam, he was deeply distressed after receiving the summons for the false case. He feared that he and his family would lose their respect in society and would also lead to implications for his daughter's marriage. He felt that if he went to jail, no one would marry his daughter. Burdened by this humiliation and fear, he took his own life by consuming poison. In his suicide note, he extensively described the ordeal and torment he faced from his neighbours.

The victim's son, Abhay, claimed that the police filed the false case without any evidence, despite the presence of cameras installed all around their house. Abhay stated that a relative of the accused couple is in the Special Task Force (STF), and under pressure from him, the police acted unilaterally.

He also alleged that when he sought help, the police instead supported the accused. Even after Virendra's death, the police spent the entire day preparing the inquest report, forcing the family to perform the last rites at night. Virendra Yadav and his family weren't the only ones who were being harassed by Surjeet and Anita Yadav.



## "Protesting A Right But...": Ladakh Lt Governor's Warning Over Deaths

**Agency New Delhi.**

The violent statehood movement protests in Ladakh 24 hours ago - in which four people were killed - were the result of a "conspiracy", Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta told Thursday afternoon, as he also expressed sorrow over the incident and the deaths.

The Lt Governor did not name the alleged conspirators but referred darkly to 'comparisons' with the violence in Bangladesh last year (where a student-led protest overthrew the Sheikh Hasina government) and in Nepal this month (a 'Gen Z' agitation forced a change in government). "In a democratic system, protesting is a right. But it must be done in a peaceful manner. For the past two days, attempts have been made to incite the people of Ladakh... and the protest held here was compared to those held in Bangladesh and Nepal. This smells of a conspiracy."

"Then it becomes clear... somewhere there

are 'foreign powers' involved," he said, "...gradually many things will become clear. Who is making this happen? Why was this day chosen?" The Lt Governor pointed out that the Ladakhi people had welcomed the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2019, after the federal government scrapped special status for Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two UTs. "Ok... everyone has the right to say what they want (referring to the protesters). But Ladakh will not be allowed to become a place of violence."

"Ladakh is a peaceful, religious, and devout environment. Some people (again, referring to the 'conspirators') will come here and do this. No matter how big a person is, there will be action."

The comments come after Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk was blamed for the violence, which included a Bharatiya Janata Party office being vandalised and a CRPF, or Central Reserve Police Force, vehicle set on fire. "Those who instigated

continued... and misled the people through provocative mentions of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal," the Home Ministry said in a statement.

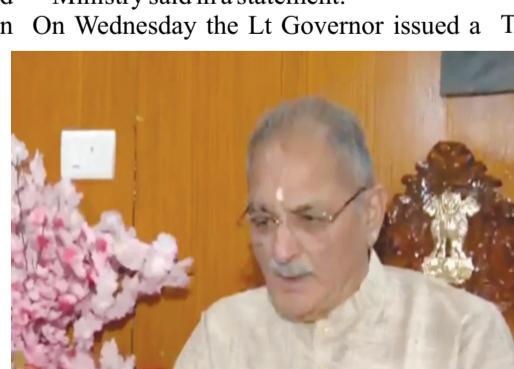
On Wednesday the Lt Governor issued a

protests are responsible for the deaths." He also said a mob 'tried to burn CRPF men inside the vehicle'. The government said 30 police and CRPF personnel were injured in the violence.

The local leaders, however, have alleged use of disproportionate force by security forces.

The violence has also sparked a political row, with the BJP accusing a Congress Councillor, Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag, who has been charged in connection with the clashes. However, Mr Wangchuk pointed out the Congress cannot muster 5,000 young Ladakhi men and women to a protest.

Meanwhile, the police have launched a major crackdown and arrested 50 people for the violence. It is unclear, though, if the Congress Councillor was one of those arrested. Over the past three years, Ladakh has seen growing unrest against direct federal rule.



curfew and blamed the protesters for the violence, which included a Bharatiya Janata Party office being vandalised and a CRPF, or Central Reserve Police Force, vehicle set on fire. "Those who instigated

## NEWS BOX

## Litton Das to miss Pakistan clash Jaker Ali shares update on Bangladesh captain

ABU DHABI. (Agency)

Jaker Ali Anik provided an update on Bangladesh skipper Litton Das ahead of the crucial Asia Cup Super 4 clash against Pakistan on Thursday, September 25, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Jaker stepped in for the Tigers against India on Wednesday after Litton failed to recover from a rib injury sustained during a training session earlier on Tuesday. He added that Litton is still undergoing recovery, and Bangladesh will make a final decision on his availability before the Pakistan match. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table.

"He is in recovery. So of course, we will wait



for him until tomorrow's match. As you said, since there is a slight injury, he will definitely try until the very end," Jaker said in the post-match press conference.

'Main focus is batting'

The clash between Bangladesh and Pakistan is effectively a virtual semi-final, with India already assured of a place in the final and Sri Lanka out of contention. After back-to-back wins over Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, Bangladesh faltered with a 41-run defeat to India. Jaker noted that while the Tigers have delivered with the ball, their batting must improve if they are to secure a place in the final. "The plan for tomorrow's game will remain the same. Our bowling has been very good, and our batting was also good. We've done well in this tournament," Jaker said.

"So, our main focus has to be on the batting. To win the match, we must bat well. There's no reason to be hopeless about tomorrow's game. What applies to them applies to us too, and we will try to put in that kind of performance and go out there to win," Jaker added.

## Game is too fast now to rely on one style, so we had to evolve: Satwik-Chirag

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's top men's doubles shuttlers, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, have attributed their resurgence to evolving their game and developing service variations over the past 16 months. The former world number one pair has delivered some breathtaking performances recently, following a period sidelined by injuries and illness over the last year and a half. The duo recently won the bronze medal at the World Championships in Paris and followed up with strong performances, reaching the finals of the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750 tournaments. Currently ranked number seven in the world, the nine-time BWF World Tour winners are hoping to add a tenth title to their collection soon. They credit their



consistent performances to a "side-by-side" strategy they have adopted in recent times. "We have tried playing side-by-side more often, especially after service to control the pushes," Chirag, who previously relied more on the front-and-back strategy, told PTI Videos. "(Malaysian) coach Tan Kim Her told us that many pairs are doing it, and we too felt it worked well. Once a guy serves, the other splits up at the front court to catch the pushes. It has really worked for us in the last two to three tournaments," he added. The duo has also worked on service variations, with Chirag developing a flat serve that has become his key weapon.

"In the last couple of tournaments, we've served a lot better than in the past year. The game is too fast to rely on one style. You need multiple ways to score points, and that's what we are trying to develop," he said.

The past 16 months have been a test of resilience for the pair, with Satwik battling a shoulder injury and Chirag facing fitness issues. Their ranking dropped to 27 at one stage, raising concerns in the badminton circles.

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# India's fielding lapses can cost them later: Irfan Pathan warns ahead of Asia Cup Final

India's fielding lapses have raised alarms ahead of the Asia Cup final. Former cricketer Irfan Pathan warns that dropped catches could prove costly, putting pressure on T. Dilip and the team to sharpen their skills.

New Delhi. (Agency)

As India prepares for the Asia Cup final, former cricketer Irfan Pathan has raised concerns over the team's ongoing fielding lapses. While India's squad, led by Suryakumar Yadav, is lauded for having one of the strongest fielding units in the world, their performances in this tournament have shown worrying cracks, particularly in the Super 4 stage against Pakistan and Bangladesh. India secured a spot in the final with a 41-run win over Bangladesh on September 24, but fielding errors were once again a talking point. The team dropped five catches, including four chances off opener



Saif Hassan, allowing him to score a threatening 69. On his YouTube channel, Irfan Pathan highlighted how such mistakes could be punished against stronger opponents: "Another concern for Team India, I know the boys work hard in training, and so does the fielding coach, but the team are making a lot of mistakes. You cannot drop this many catches. Even in the last match four chances were dropped. In this game, two catches were dropped in an over, if it was any

other team, it would have punished you. You dropped Saif twice, who was set after scoring a 50, any other day, this would come back to bite you," Pathan said. Fielding issues have sparked debate amongst fans, especially regarding the return of T.

Dilip to the squad. He rejoined the setup ahead of the England tour after being released following the Champions Trophy, and some observers have questioned whether bringing

him back was the right call. The scrutiny intensified after India's match against Pakistan, where despite a strong opening stand, sloppy fielding dominated post-match discussions. Former India coach Ravi Shastri suggested that the conditions at the Dubai International Stadium could be partly responsible for the fielding struggles. On the other hand, spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who bowled 2/29 against Bangladesh, insisted there was no excuse for the team's mistakes and emphasised the need for sharper fielding ahead of the final: "But, if you ask me, definitely the ring of fire comes in the eyesight. It's a little bit of a disturbance, we have to get acclimated to it," he said. "We can't give excuses at this level. As a team, we have to definitely start taking those catches. We have qualified for the final, and we should be taking all these catches," Varun added. Despite India's batting and bowling firing on all cylinders, fielding remains a weak spot in the T20 setup. The team has so far escaped major consequences in the Asia Cup, but with the final approaching, the pressure is on T. Dilip and the coaching staff to tighten the side's fielding, ensuring the mistakes of the Super 4 stage don't come back to haunt them.

## Knockout fight! Pakistan, Bangladesh battle for another India clash in Asia Cup final

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan and Bangladesh are locked in for a knockout clash in the Super 4s of the Asia Cup 2025, with a spot in the final against India up for grabs. Suryakumar Yadav and his men sealed the spot with a 41-run win over Bangladesh, meaning that the match on Thursday, September 25, just became all the more interesting. Pakistan have had a rollercoaster ride during the Asia Cup 2025, both on and off the field. While the chatter outside the ground has grabbed headlines, the performances in the ground have caught the eye of the public, but for all the wrong reasons. Salman Ali Agha and his men have failed to impress during the tournament, with their performances considered to be far from convincing. Keeping the win against Oman aside, all the other games have seen Pakistan being criticised. The losses to India were



automatic choices for the Australia tour. If I was the chairman of selectors, I would make Rohit Sharma as the captain for the Australia ODI series. Now you're saying rumours about their futures. They should be playing." Ajit Agarkar would have had a word with them. The board would have asked them, how are you going to plan for the series," said Srikkanth on his YouTube

channel. Tell them to play domestic ODIs. Srikkanth said that the board would have told the duo to play domestic cricket and he feels both men will come and do it.

"The chairman and the board will have a word with them and say that 'you guys will have to come and start playing domestic cricket. Because it is good for you and the team. They need match practice and they will come and do it.'" Kohli may be practising in England and Rohit might be doing the same at the NCA. They will be preparing for it. The fact that they said they're available and want to play the 2027 World Cup, hoping that they can win it for the team at that time. That's why they're playing. So I will surely give them the chance to play," said Srikkanth. The former selector stated the importance of domestic cricket for both men as they need to get their rhythm back. "You should tell them to play domestic cricket in the ODI format. Tell them to play Vijay Hazare Trophy, to get back in the rhythm. They themselves know it. They were two big captains of the current era." "For a person like Kohli, who have done so much for India, I will give extra leverage surely," said Srikkanth. India will play three ODIs from October 19 to 25, with the team expected to be revealed soon.



slammed for the lack of effort and meek surrender, while the UAE almost left Pakistan with egg on their faces. But they bounced back against Sri Lanka, despite making it hard on themselves. While the bowling was on point, the batting, especially from the top-order, was lacklustre and they needed Mohammad Nawaz and Hussain Talat to bail them out in the end. For Bangladesh, it has been a fine tournament, despite their struggles in T20Is over the past few years. They are a team in transition, but have played with a lot of conviction. While they will want to forget the India loss quickly, the fielding and bowling in the death were positives. Saif Hassan has emerged as a star in the last two games. They beat Afghanistan to reach the Super 4s and beat Sri Lanka as well. Against Pakistan, they would take a lot of heart from their 2-1 series win at home in July. Pakistan will need to ensure they're at the top of their game to make it to the final and Bangladesh won't make things easy for them.

## BCI confirms Shreyas Iyer's break from red-ball cricket, names him India A captain

New Delhi. (Agency)

After loads of speculation, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has officially confirmed that Shreyas Iyer has requested a six-month break from red-ball cricket. The announcement comes just ahead of India's Test squad reveal for the upcoming home series against West Indies. Iyer has also been named captain of the India A side, set to play a two-match unofficial one-day series against Australia A starting September 30. The decision follows Iyer's recurring back issues stemming from a surgery he underwent in the UK in 2023. He had previously managed these challenges during the last Ranji Trophy season by taking short breaks, but sustained involvement in longer-format games was no longer feasible. As a result, Iyer withdrew from India A's second unofficial Test against Australia A in Kanpur, with vice-captain Dhruv Jurel stepping in to lead the side. "Mr Shreyas Iyer has informed the



BCCI of his decision to take a six-month break from red-ball cricket. Having undergone back surgery in the UK and managed his recovery well, he has recently experienced recurring back spasms and stiffness while playing the longer format. He wishes to utilise this period to build

endurance, body resilience and work on his fitness. In view of his decision, he was not considered for selection for the Irani Cup," the BCCI statement said. Shreyas Iyer had been tipped to return for India's upcoming Test series against the West Indies, especially after Karun Nair, who featured in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England in July, failed to leave a strong mark. With Iyer stepping away, the selectors now have to rethink and adjust the middle-order combination. For the India A one-day series against Australia A, Shreyas Iyer will captain a side including Prabhhsimran Singh (WK), Riyan Parag, Ayush Badoni, Suryansh Shedge, and Vipraj Nigam. Joining the squad for the second and third matches will be Tilak Verma, Abhishek Sharma, Harshit Rana, and Arshdeep Singh, who are available after completing their commitments with the senior team in the Asia Cup.

## Attack, attack: Varun Chakravarthy explains his role in India's bowling lineup

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

India spinner Varun Chakravarthy has explained his role in the bowling lineup, saying that he is aiming to attack, even if it means he may concede a few runs at the beginning. Varun has made a sensational comeback to T20Is for the Indian team and finds himself at the top of the ICC rankings. During India's win over Bangladesh, the spinner went for 13 in his first over before bouncing back and picking up two wickets and ending with figures of 29 for two in his four overs. This could have been way better had the Indian fielders been on their mark during the innings. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table.

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Bihar train journey video recorded by woman shows ticketless passengers crowding AC-2. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Varun said that his aim in the powerplay is to look for wickets and not change his mantra even if he goes for runs. "In the powerplay, the only aim is to look for wickets and it's just looking for that one ball. If it pitches on that right spot and it turns a little bit and the batter can edge it. So I'm just looking for that and,

that's my role in the team. Even if I go for little runs, my aim is to keep on attacking and try to look for more wickets," said Varun. Continuing to be a work in progress, Varun is continuing to work on various aspects of his game, shown by his packed schedule this year. After the IPL, the spinner spent time in the Tamil Nadu Premier League. Varun said that after the tournament he got a break, where he practiced a lot and focused on his batting and fielding more. "Right after IPL, we had the State Premier League, Tamil Nadu Premier League. So we played that and, after that, I got one week break, which I definitely went and practiced a lot, and yes, I've been working on my batting also. So that has been batting and fielding. So that has been my focus, as of now," said Varun. Varun has four wickets in as many matches and is expected to be in action on September 26 against Sri Lanka in India's final Super 4s game.

## Sensex, Nifty trade flat after opening lower amid F&O expiry, US visa curbs

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**

Benchmark stock market indices opened on a cautious note on Thursday, weighed down by persistent foreign outflows, US visa curbs and the expiry of monthly derivatives contracts. After slipping in early trade, both indices clawed back gains.

At 9:28 am, the S&P BSE Sensex was up 95.55 points at 81,811.18, while the NSE Nifty50 rose 25.65 points to 25,082.55. Broader market indices also traded in the green, though overall sentiment on Dalal Street remained mixed. Some of the top gainers on the Nifty50 were BEL, Hindalco, ONGC, Apollo Hospitals and Adani Enterprises. On the other hand, the top losers were Tata Motors, Titan, Asian Paints, Maruti and SBI Life. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted that the lack of fresh triggers has kept the market in a drifting phase. "Auto stocks have been bullish, partly discounting the potential earnings growth of the industry. The significant drag on the market throughout this year has been the sustained selling by FIIs. The FII strategy of selling in India and buying in other markets has paid rich dividends as evidenced by the huge underperformance of the Indian market vis-à-vis others," he said.

He highlighted the stark contrast: while the Nifty is down 3.6 percent year-on-year, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index is up 38.6% and South Korea's Kospo has surged 33.73%. "This huge underperformance and the high valuations in India has emboldened FIIs to continue selling. The reforms being implemented in India along with the low interest rate regime have the potential to push economic and corporate earnings growth higher, which should bring FIIs back. But we don't know when this will happen on a sustained basis. This is the right time for investors to continue accumulating high-quality stocks. Patience is the key," he added.

## Housing sales drop 9% year-on-year in top 7 cities in July–September quarter: Anarock

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**

Housing sales in India is likely to have fallen 9% year-on-year in the July–September quarter of calendar year 2025 (Q3 2025). According to Anarock data, approximately 97,080 units were sold across the top 7 cities in Q3 2025, against 1.07+ lakh units in Q3 2024. Despite lower overall sales volume, total sales value in the period went up by 14% - from Rs 1.33 lakh crore in Q3 2024 to Rs 1.52 lakh crore in Q3 2025.

Anarock stated that despite the monsoons and the perceived inauspicious 'shraad' period, housing sales in Q3 rose 1% quarter-on-quarter in Q3. Overall, the housing market is so far reasonably steady in 2025, with expectations for a festive boost ahead for which developers have several projects lined up, it added. Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, said that the impact, if any, of the new H1-B visa norms announced by the US on Indian residential market bears close monitoring.

"While housing affordability remains a challenge across cities for many buyers, price growth has tapered down moderately compared to the previous few years, when we saw double-digit yearly growth in the top 7 cities," added Puri. After staggering year-on-year average price growth in the last three years, the top 7 cities saw average price growth of 9% annually - from Rs 8,390/sq. ft. in Q3 2024 to Rs 9,105/sq. ft. in Q3 2025. Among the top 7 cities, NCR saw the highest 24% annual jump in average prices. On a quarterly basis, average prices in the top 7 cities rose by 1%, as per Anarock data.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) recorded the highest sales among the top 7 cities in Q3 2025, with approx. 30,260 units sold - a quarterly decrease of 3 percent and a 16 percent yearly drop. Pune saw approx. 16,620 units sold in Q3 2025, a decrease of 13 percent y-o-y.

## Airbus Board's meeting in India: \$2bn sourcing target, key partnerships on agenda

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Aircraft maker Airbus will hold the meeting of its board of directors in the national capital early next week, according to an official. This will be the first time that the Airbus board will be meeting in India, a key market for the aerospace major which already sources more than USD 1.4 billion worth of services and components from the country. An Airbus spokesperson on Thursday said the company sees great potential in India's talent pool, its thriving industrial ecosystem and its clear 'Make in India' vision. Airbus, which has a significant presence in India's civil aviation and defence segments, is also setting up two Final Assembly Lines for the H125 helicopters as well as the C295 military aircraft. Both FALs are being set up with Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. The board of directors of Airbus will be meeting in the national capital early next week, and it will be the first time that the board meeting will be taking place in India since the aircraft maker started operations here six decades ago, the official said.

There are 12 members on the board, chaired by René Obermann, as per the Airbus website. The Airbus spokesperson said the board of directors' visit to India is a significant moment and that the country is a critical hub for its global operations. "We have already crossed the milestone of sourcing over USD 1.4 billion in components and services annually. We are on track to significantly increase that figure, as we continue to further integrate India into our global value chain," the spokesperson said in a statement.

## India to establish nuclear liability fund to attract global suppliers

**A dedicated nuclear fund is a major shift in the current risk-sharing rules.**

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

The Indian government is preparing to set up a dedicated nuclear liability fund that will cover compensation claims exceeding ₹1,500 crore (\$169 million) in the event of a nuclear accident. The initiative is designed to address long-standing concerns over risk-sharing, which have discouraged global suppliers and private firms from investing in India's nuclear energy programme, Reuters reported on Thursday quoting two senior government officials familiar with the development. A dedicated nuclear fund is a major shift in the current risk-sharing rules. At present, India's nuclear liability law makes plant operators responsible for damages up to ₹1,500 crore, with the



government assuming responsibility for any claims beyond that threshold. However, the absence of a clear financial framework for liabilities above this limit has created uncertainty, particularly for foreign equipment makers wary of open-ended risks. The new fund would create a structured pool of money—backed by government allocations and potentially supported by industry contributions—to meet compensation requirements in excess of the operator's liability cap. Officials said the plan aims to provide

"predictability and confidence" for suppliers, while ensuring victims of a nuclear accident have a guaranteed source of relief. Industry analysts note that liability concerns have been a major stumbling block in India's nuclear sector. Despite ambitious goals to expand nuclear capacity as part of its clean energy transition, India has seen limited foreign participation, especially from US, French and Japanese suppliers, who have sought stronger safeguards against financial exposure. By introducing a dedicated

fund, the government hopes to reassure these players and accelerate stalled projects. "This mechanism could open the door for advanced reactor technologies and greater private involvement in construction and supply chains," says an industry expert quoted in the report.

Why is it important

Nuclear power accounts for less than 3 percent of India's total electricity generation, but the government wants to significantly scale up capacity to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. A more secure liability framework is seen as critical to achieving these targets, particularly as India works toward its 2070 net-zero emissions goal. The proposed fund is expected to be finalised in consultation with regulators, state-owned operators such as NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.), and global suppliers. Formal details, including the size of the corpus and its funding model, are likely to be announced in the coming months, according to the officials quoted in the Reuters report.

## Gold slips from record high. 3 factors explained

**Gold retreated from its record peak this week, leaving investors curious about what triggered the fall. Here are three key factors behind the dip.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Gold retreated from record peaks on Thursday, with 22-carat and 24-carat gold showing declines. A firmer US dollar and cautious trading ahead of upcoming economic data contributed to the drop.

### STRONGER DOLLAR PUTS PRESSURE

One big reason for the dip was a firmer US dollar, which gained about 0.6%. Since gold is priced in dollars, a stronger greenback makes it more expensive for buyers holding other currencies. US Treasury yields also inched higher, adding further weight.

### FED SIGNALS AND MARKET



market. Markets still expect two small rate cuts later this year — one likely in October and another in December, according to the CME FedWatch tool. Lower interest rates usually favour gold, as it does not offer interest but gains appeal when yields fall.

### ALLEYESONKEYUSDATA

Traders were also cautious after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell spoke on Tuesday. He avoided giving clear signals on the timing of future interest rate cuts, stressing the need to balance inflation risks with a slowing job

Attention now turns to US economic numbers due later this week. Investors are waiting for jobless claims data on Thursday and the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index on Friday, which is the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. These updates could give fresh clues on where interest rates are headed. Additionally, geopolitics also remains in focus. Ukraine said it had struck two oil pumping stations in Russia's Volgograd region overnight, keeping tensions high. Such developments often increase the appeal of safe-haven assets like gold. Simply put, gold's retreat shows how sensitive the metal is to moves in the dollar, interest rate expectations, and geopolitical risks. While prices eased from record highs, many traders remain watchful of upcoming US data and global tensions that could quickly swing momentum again.

## Missed the ITR deadline You will now have to file under new tax regime

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Filing your income tax return (ITR) on time is more than just ticking a box—it can affect how much tax you pay and which regime you can choose. Yet, many taxpayers wait until the last minute, risking not only late fees but also losing the flexibility to stick with their preferred tax regime. The Income Tax Department says, "It is emphasised that the choice of old tax regime can be made only before the due date of filing the return u/s 139(1) of I T Act." CA (Dr) Suresh Surana echoes this point, "Taxpayers who miss the due date for filing their ITR cannot later opt for the old tax regime. The choice is available only when the return is filed on time."

### OLD VS NEW REGIME: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The new tax regime is now the default. It offers lower tax rates but comes with fewer exemptions and deductions. Taxpayers can still opt for the old

regime, but only if they file their returns by the due date. This year, for instance, those who missed the September 16 deadline for AY 2024-25 and had opted for the old regime to claim exemptions will now have to file belated returns under the new regime.

Suresh Surana adds, "In simple terms, if you fail to file your ITR by the deadline and had chosen the old tax regime, you will have no option but to file under the new regime." For taxpayers with business or professional income, the rules are stricter. Filing Form 10-IEA on or before the deadline is mandatory to continue under the old regime. Missing this step automatically shifts you to the new regime for that year.

### WHY LATE FILERS ARE RESTRICTED TO THE NEW REGIME

The Income Tax Department aims to simplify administration and reduce misuse of extended timelines. The new regime, with fewer deductions and

simpler compliance, makes processing easier and encourages timely filing.

Suresh Surana explains, "By mandating that the old regime can be chosen only when the return is filed within the original due date, the Department ensures certainty, timely compliance, and reduces last-minute adjustments."

### THE COST OF FILING LATE

Filing your income tax return late can be costly, no matter which regime you are under. A late fee of up to Rs 5,000 may be levied, though it is capped at Rs 1,000 for incomes below Rs 5 lakh. In addition, interest accrues at 1% per month on any unpaid tax. Taxpayers may also lose certain deductions and the ability to carry forward losses. In cases of concealment or misreporting, penalties can reach 50% of the tax avoided. In serious instances, prosecution is possible, with imprisonment ranging from three months to seven years, along with a fine, says Surana.

## Insurance complaints surge 45% in Q2 as health policies drive cases: Report

**Rising disputes reveal persistent mis-selling and transparency gaps in India's insurance sector, with policyholders increasingly turning to platforms like Insurance Samadhan to assert rights and seek timely redressal.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India's insurance sector is grappling with a surge in consumer grievances, with Insurance Samadhan — one of the largest private insurance grievance redressal platforms in the country — reporting a 45% jump in complaints in the April–June quarter of 2025. The spike indicates both rising policyholder assertiveness and the persistence of structural flaws in how insurance is sold and serviced in India. The company's Q2 2025 Trends Report analysed 4,004 disputes involving claims worth Rs 75.4 crore. Complaints on the platform jumped from 684 in Q1 to

974 in Q2, while the value of contested claims climbed from Rs 83.5 crore to over Rs 119.5 crore, reflecting a growth of 43.10%. The data suggests more customers are bypassing insurer grievance cells and turning to independent platforms to seek redressal.

### HEALTH INSURANCE DISPUTES IN FOCUS

Health insurance dominated the complaints landscape, accounting for 67.5% of all disputes. Life insurance followed at 25.5%, while general insurance made up 6.9%. Endowment policies emerged as the most mis-sold category, exposing customers to penalties, reduced returns, and even capital erosion. On a year-on-year basis, complaints linked to mis-selling rose 11.2% compared to Q2 2024, and the value of disputed claims increased by nearly 10%. The demographic profile of complainants points to changing consumer behaviour. The 31–40 age group was the most active in challenging insurers, highlighting how younger policyholders are more willing to push back against unfair practices.

Geographically, Uttar Pradesh accounted

for the largest share of grievances at 16 per cent, reflecting growing awareness even outside the metros. "It shows that policyholders, especially the younger generations, are willing to stand up for



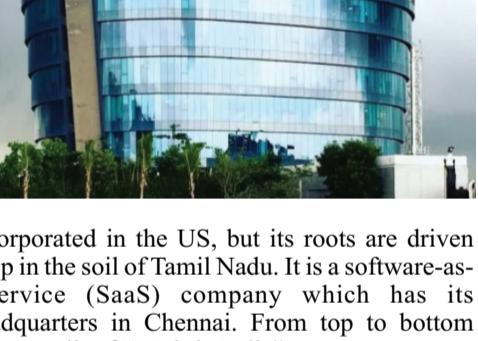
their rights, knowing there is a platform like Polifyx to rely on. This motivates us to work harder to protect consumer interest and restore faith in the USD 145.80 billion insurance industry," said Shilpa Arora, Co-founder and COO of Insurance Samadhan. The data also underscores how technology is lowering barriers to redressal. Insurance Samadhan's Polifyx app, which allows users to check their policies through a

'Know Your Policy' feature, has simplified grievance filing and made it easier to flag mis-selling.

The company said the growing confidence of policyholders in such tools is driving more complaints to the platform.

The trend comes against the backdrop of rising concern over unfair sales tactics. According to data published by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), mis-selling accounted for 20% of all complaints received against life insurers in 2022–23. Of these, half of the complaints against private insurers involved unfair practices, including deceptive sales pitches designed to push products to meet sales targets.

Since its inception in 2019, Insurance Samadhan has resolved more than 20,000 consumer grievances and recovered claims worth over Rs 220 crore. Its Q2 findings underline both the vulnerabilities faced by policyholders and the potential of grievance redressal platforms to restore balance in an industry critical to financial security.



# Disha Parmar

Has The Sweetest Wish For Husband  
Rahul Vaidya: 'Glad You Were...'



Love is in the air for Disha Parmar and Rahul Vaidya! One of the most adorable duos of the TV industry, the couple never shies away from expressing their affection for each other on social media. On September 23, Rahul celebrated his birthday and Disha made sure the day was extra special with a heartfelt post for her husband and it is every bit sweet. Taking to Instagram, Disha dropped an adorable series of pictures from the intimate birthday celebrations. In the first slide, she is seen posing alongside the birthday boy, dressed in a stylish white t-shirt and blue jeans. Disha, on the other hand, looked stunning in a red flared maxi dress. An image of the cake also made it to the birthday carousel. The cake had "Limited edition since 1987," written on it.

Alongside the photos, Disha penned a short but super sweet note for Rahul Vaidya. It read, "Happy Birthday baby! Am sooo glad you were born! I Loveeee Youuu."

#### Rahul Vaidya and Disha Parmar's Unbreakable Bond

For those who have followed their journey, this sweet birthday wish was just another reminder of their deep bond. From Rahul's proposal on national television during Bigg Boss 14 to their dreamy wedding in 2021, the two have always dished out major couple goals, giving fans a glimpse of their fairytale-like romance.

#### Rahul Vaidya's First Home In Mumbai

Rahul Vaidya has many reasons to celebrate these days. Just weeks before ringing in his birthday with wife Disha Parmar, the singer bought his first home in Mumbai's Bandra locality. Talking about the milestone, he, in a chat with Hindustan Times, shared, "Disha (Parmar, actor and wife) and I have been looking for our own house for quite some time now. When you plan to buy a house, you wish to tick the maximum boxes. With this house, we both strongly feel ki apna ghar mil gaya."

He added, "For us to have our own house, jisse hum khul ke apna keh sake, is a dream come true. I feel we all work hard, slog to build our own home, and I'm no different. Iss shahar mein apna ghar banaana sabse mushkil baat hain." Rahul Vaidya was last seen in Laughter Chefs 2, where he was paired with Rubina Dilaik. The show aired on Colors TV.



# Shehnaaz Gill

## Drops New Track Khand Lagdi From Her Upcoming Film Ikk Kudi



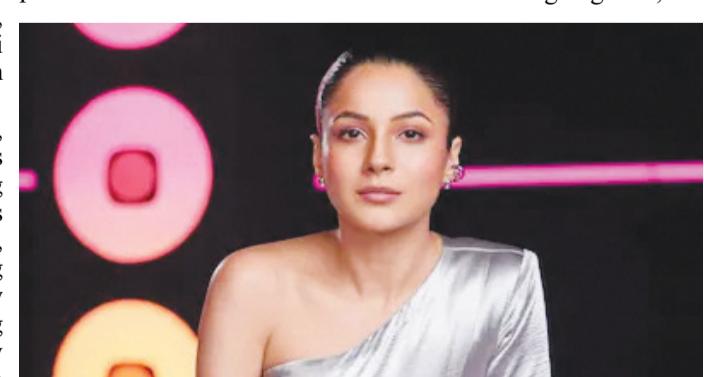
**S**hehnaaz Gill has set social media ablaze with the release of her latest Punjabi song, Khand Lagdi, from her upcoming film Ikk Kudi. Released via her official Instagram handle, the track has already struck a chord with fans, who are loving her vibrant desi look and high-energy expressions. The song, which features vocals by Jasmine Sandlas, blends traditional Punjabi beats with a modern edge. Dressed in a printed suit paired with a bright pink dupatta, Shehnaaz channels full-on Punjabi festive flair, adding a visual charm to the already catchy track.

Sharing the song on Instagram, Shehnaaz wrote, "Khand Lagdi is out from the film Ikk Kudi, releasing on 31st October." The reel has quickly become a fan-favourite, with comments like "rocking anthem for weddings" and "Pretty ikk kudi" highlighting her enduring appeal. Many users have already begun using the track in their own reels, and it's expected to become a popular dance number this festive season.

#### About Khand Lagdi

The musical track by Jasmine Sandlas delivers a refreshing sound, with Sandlas's bold voice complementing Shehnaaz's screen presence perfectly. The song serves as the official promotional release from the upcoming film Ikk Kudi, setting a lively tone for what's to come.

#### Shehnaaz Gill's Career



release of Ikk Kudi was postponed to 31 October 2025. The decision was taken in light of the severe flood situation in Punjab, as the makers chose to stand in solidarity with the affected communities. The team is also reportedly contributing to relief efforts, as confirmed by sources close to the production. With Khand Lagdi setting the stage, Ikk Kudi promises to be a festive entertainer with heart.

Dhanush, Kriti Sanon's Tere Ishk Mein Teaser To Be Finally Released? Big Scoop Out



After a heart-wrenching love story, Raanjhanaa, Aanand L Rai and Dhanush are all set for yet another film, Tere Ishk Mein, which also stars Kriti Sanon. The movie, which is set to hit the big screen on November 28, 2025, now has a report stating that Bhushan Kumar and Aanand L Rai have already decided the teaser release date of the film. As per Pinkvilla, a source close to the development has shared, "A musical teaser of Tere Ishk Mein with montages of the film will be launched in the coming week, and screened on the big screen with Kantara: Chapter 1 and Sunny Sanskar Ki Tulsikumari. The idea of this teaser is to take the audience through the chemistry of two leads – Dhanush and Kriti Sanon. The team is confident to grab eyeballs with the hard-hitting yet heartwarming teaser."

"Tere Ishk Mein follows a long theatrical campaign starting with a teaser, leading to songs, and finally the trailer. The makers will also look to make optimum use of the festive period – Dussehra and Diwali – to push their marketing assets," the source further revealed while sharing that the music of ace composer A.R. Rahman will be the highlight of the film.

The source has further shared that the team of Tere Ishk Mein is aiming to target the youth, and while the digital launch of the teaser will happen next week, it will also screen all across from October 2.

#### About Tere Ishk Mein

Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow present Tere Ishk Mein, produced by Aanand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma, and produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar. The film, directed by Aanand L Rai and written by Himanshu Sharma, is an A.R. Rahman musical with lyrics by Irshad Kamil. Starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, the film is scheduled to release worldwide in Hindi and Tamil on November 28, 2025. Earlier in July, Kriti announced the wrap of her upcoming film Tere Ishk Mein directed by Aanand L Rai.

## Rani Mukerji Calls Winning National Award For Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway 'Deeply Personal' For This Reason



Rani Mukerji received her first National Film Award in the Best Actress category for Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway (2023), and for her, this win was grand and special because she got a call about winning the award on the day she inaugurated her new office at a place her dad used to live. While talking about her grand win for Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, Rani Mukerji shared with HT, "It was truly surreal to hear about receiving the award, as I was performing a Griha Pravesh puja for my new office, which is located at the place where my dad used to live. I had my father on my mind the whole day."

I had just finished the puja, and as soon as I sat down, I received the call about the National Award. I truly felt it was my dad's blessing that it happened in such a way that his presence felt really strong. I was missing him deeply that day, especially because I was doing the puja in the very room where he had passed away."

The actress further continued and shared, "Of course, winning it for Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway makes it even more special because, as I've mentioned in earlier interviews, the character of Devika was someone I had modelled on my own mother. I had my mom in mind throughout the shoot. So, in a way, the character I played, Devika, was very much like her. It feels like both my parents have blessed me with this National Award. It's deeply personal and quite surreal in that sense."

#### Rani Mukerji's National Award Attire

Rani Mukerji, who won the Best Actress in a Leading Role award for her performance in Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway (2023), styled an earthy-tone saree featuring an intricately crafted gold border with a minimalist blouse. Making a classic style statement in the contemporary Indian drape, Rani accessorised her Indian attire with a statement double-layered choker necklace and exquisite dangling earrings.

The highlight of Rani Mukerji's traditional yet timeless, alluring style was the minimal charm gold chain, which carried the alphabet initials of her daughter Adira's name. The personal touch in Rani's style resonates with the character of her movie, which won her the prestigious award.

# Top 5 ideas to De-stress this weekend



Caught up with work, life and traffic this week? It's time to let go and unwind over the weekend. Stress is a silent killer that claims many lives each year. Whether through cardiac issues, mental instabilities, or projections of unhappiness into one's relationships, stress is not a weak enemy to conquer. And conquer we must. Today we've lined up our top five tips for combating stress. So, take off those work shoes, release the tension in your shoulders and neck, and settle down to read some de-stressing news.

#### Take a mental vacation

Who wouldn't mind a relaxing vacation on a beach, away from life's daily stresses from work, socialising and technology. The constant battle for 'me' time leaves most of us frustrated and exhausted week after working and socialising week. Whether it's constant connectivity to social media, your BlackBerry, or endless computing work at a work station, we think it's time you took a mental vacation for a day - right where you are - in your city, even in

your own home.

#### Meditation through visualization

Life Coach Malti Bhojwani takes us through the technique of visualization and how it can help us meditate effectively, and in a way that we can affect positive change in our lives.

Meditation has many connotations and some of them may trigger different reactions from all of us. When I was younger, I thought it was the most boring thing anyone could indulge in and I conjured up an image of bearded yogis up in the Himalayas who starved and smelled. Today however, thanks to the holistic awareness, movements towards personal development and the amalgamation of Eastern and Western thoughts becoming more and more popular, meditation has taken on a more marketable name. I meditate and in my personal experience, I call it 'plugging-in'. In fact as I am working on my book, there is an entire chapter dedicated solely to "plugging into the Universe". Visualization to me is constant, I think with

**Oranges:** Studies suggest that when a child is under too much pressure his/her vitamin C levels tend to dip, thus making him/her more vulnerable to illnesses. So, incorporate oranges in their diet.

**Spinach:** Spinach is a rich source of iron and calcium along with vitamin A. Iron in spinach helps in developing a strong immunity and helps in developing social and cognitive development during childhood as it aids in the formation of haemoglobin and essential enzymes. Calcium, on the other hand, helps in the formation of strong bones and vitamin A is beneficial in reducing eye strain to a great extent.

**Water:** Water aids digestion and helps avoid conditions related to stressed kidneys and constipation. It helps regulate and maintain body temperature. Water also aids several other functions within the human body that relate to energy, wakefulness and performance.

**Milk:** Ideally, around 600 milligrams of calcium

images in my mind. If I asked you now, whatever you do, do not think of a blue ball, what happens? Exactly, you conjure up an image of a blue ball and I might even guess that it showed in the top right hand corner of your "internal screen". The premise is that you can't visualize nothing, and what you visualize, you are giving power to, so if you "see" pictures of what you don't want, guess what? You will end up attracting what you don't want. We cannot bring into our world what we have not been able to at least imagine first.

#### Stressed due to exams? Try these foods

daily is a must for school going children. Calcium is important for physical development in children, and helps build immunity as well.

**Protein:** Whether through eggs, dairy or meat, adequate quantities of protein is a must for a child's growth. An appropriate supply of protein leads to muscle boosts and helps your child remain physically alert, active and fit.

How to reduce stress in daily life

**Tips to control stress:** In order to lead a healthy and stress-free life, it is vital to follow certain guidelines or steps. They will help you get a better control over life and alter the way you view stress or its trigger factors.

**Regular exercise:** Not surprisingly, exercise is one of the best

conflicts or any other stressful situation. Try to keep yourself calm in every way and avoid indulging in unnecessary situations.

**Sleep:** Finally, a regular 7-8 hours of uninterrupted Sleep is also important to relax your mind and body. If you face any difficulty in sleep, you can also make use of relaxation techniques like listening to music or reading a book.

#### Beat stress with these yoga poses

**Corpse Pose or Shavasan:** Lie flat on the back with legs together and (palms facing up) arms close to the body. Relax your body and mind with this pose.

**Half-moon Pose or Ardha Chandra-asana:** This pose benefits the lower back, abdomen and chest by stretching and balancing the body. Start with your feet together and arms by the side. Bring both the hands at the chest with

ways to deal with stress. A regular 20-30 minutes of physical activity every day is vital to decrease stress hormones like cortisol and increase your body's feel good chemicals called endorphins. Besides this, certain forms of exercise like martial arts or boxing can act as an outlet for releasing all your vent-up emotions and frustrations.

**Relaxation techniques:** This not only involves taking time to relax everyday but also employing certain basic relaxation techniques. This involves deep breathing techniques, meditation and practicing different yoga postures to relax your body muscles.

**Balanced diet:** What you put inside your body also determines your ability to cope with stress or anxiety. A balanced diet comprising fresh fruits and vegetables is a must to reverse the negative impacts of stress and lead a healthy life.

**Avoid stressful situations:** As far as possible, ensure that you avoid unnecessary arguments,

palms lightly pressed against each other. Breathe-in while raising the arms straight up keeping palms pressed lightly together. Arch your body backwards while keeping the arms alongside your neck and head.

**Downward-Facing Dog Pose or Adho Mukha Svanasana:** The Adho Mukha Svanasana helps to cure backaches, relieve stress and mild depression and revitalizes energy.

**Forward Bend Pose or Padahastasana:** Stand straight with arms by your side, exhale and bend touching the floor with your hand. This pose helps in stretching the hamstring of the legs and helps spine and internal organs.

**Straight Angle Pose or Samakonasana:** Start the asana with sitting on the ground and stretch the legs forward. Keep your legs straight and be rested on the ground. Now, slowly stretch your legs sideways so that it should form a straight line and keep the body straight. Stay in this posture for a few seconds and then slowly bring back the legs to the normal position.

A class of drugs called thiopurines have often been prescribed to patients after surgery to try to prevent relapse but until now, it was not clear whether the therapy offers any benefit.

The researchers conducted a trial of the therapy involving 240 people with Crohn's disease.

Patients were monitored for three years after they had undergone surgery. Some 128 patients were treated with a drug from the thiopurine family called mercaptopurine and 122 were given a dummy medicine.

Only three of 29 smokers treated with the therapy experienced a relapse compared with 12 of 26 who received the dummy drug. The rate of relapse in the non-smoking group was much lower and was unaffected by treatment with the medicine, showed the findings published in The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

"There is an unmet need to identify therapies or life-style changes that prevent Crohn's disease recurrence after surgery to avoid patients having to undergo multiple operations," Satsangi said.

## How I start my day

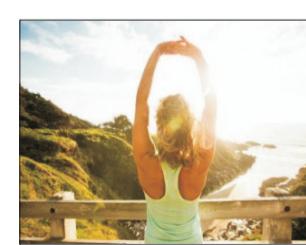
Starting your day is like building a foundation for a house. It doesn't matter how well your house is designed - without a stable foundation, it'll crumble. My morning routine actually begins the night before. I am very disciplined about having all gadgets off in my house by 10 pm. I wrap up my day with a shower, brushing my teeth, stretching, reading, and finally, my gratitude blessing. By doing this, I have

prepared my mind and body for a deep rest in tune with the circadian rhythms.

Ideally, I wake up before the sun rises. The first thing I do is scrape my tongue with my tongue scraper to remove the ama (white toxins). Then I brush my teeth, and drink a large glass

of warm water with a dash of apple cider vinegar or lemon juice.

Then I move. Depending on the weather, I surf, go to the gym, do yoga, stretching or swimming. Then it's time for stillness - meditation. It works on every level - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Once that is done, it's time for breakfast and to get cracking with my day.



## Smoking prompts Crohn's relapse after surgery

People with Crohn's disease -- a serious bowel condition -- are more likely to experience a recurrence after surgery if they continue to smoke, new research has found.

Crohn's disease occurs when the immune system attacks the lining of the gut and bowel to cause severe inflammation. It results in abdominal pain, urgent diarrhoea, sickness and profound lethargy.

Doctors recommend people with the condition stop smoking to avoid their illness worsening.

"Our study confirms that the most important thing somebody with



Crohn's disease can do for their health is not to smoke," said Jack Satsangi, Professor at University of Edinburgh in Britain.

Most patients with Crohn's disease require surgery to remove the affected section of their bowel. Surgery is not curative, however, and the condition often relapses.

The researchers also assessed whether a drug treatment that is commonly used in treating the disease is effective at preventing it from coming back after surgery.

They found that the therapy had limited beneficial effects for non-smokers in preventing relapse after surgery. It did, however, offer protection for smokers.