

## Asaduddin Owaisi's "Sister From Bangladesh" Reply To PM's Infiltrators Jibe

**Sheikh Hasina has been living in Delhi since she was ousted as the prime minister of Bangladesh.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

The political decibel in Bihar has soared to a new high as the elections approach, with allegations and counter-allegations amplifying the noise surrounding the mega spectacle. Among the key allegations is the presence of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Bihar - a BJP accusation that came in the wake of a revision of voter rolls. This has now received a response from AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

had led the charge of targeting the Opposition over the issue, accusing the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal of patronising 'infiltrators' in the state, at an election rally in Purnea last week. Responding to him, Mr Owaisi assured yesterday that there are no Bangladeshis in Bihar, especially in the Seemanchal region, where his party had won big in the last polls.

"Modi ji says that there are Bangladeshis in Bihar. Modi ji, there are no Bangladeshis in Bihar and Seemanchal region. But you have a sister from Bangladesh sitting in Delhi. Send her to Bangladesh. Bring her to Seemanchal, and we will drop her in Bangladesh," said the AIMIM chief.

His remark is a veiled jibe at Sheikh Hasina, who has been living in Delhi since she was ousted as the prime minister of Bangladesh. She had fled Dhaka on August 5, 2019, after

resigning as PM, moments before an angry crowd breached her house.

**Politics Over 'Infiltrators'**

Illegal immigration, especially from Bangladesh, has been among the most



important political causes and national security concerns in the country. Over the last few months, India has seen crackdown at regional levels to identify Bangladeshis living illegally.

The issue assumes significance in Bihar due to the politics over a special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls by the Election Commission - an exercise

that has courted controversy with the opposition calling it an excuse to disenfranchise voters, especially from poorer sections and religious minorities. The EC, which argues that the revision ensures transparency in elections, has claimed to have found instances of Nepali, Bangladeshi, and Myanmar people registered as voters in Bihar.

PM Modi raised the 'infiltrator' both in his Independence Day speech, as well as during an election campaign in Bihar. Speaking at a rally in Purnea on September 15, he declared 'infiltration' had led to a "demographic crisis" in the country. Stating that it had left people worried for the honour of their sisters and daughters, the Prime Minister vowed that the BJP-led alliance would drive the illegal immigrants out. He also accused the Congress and RJD of being more concerned about 'vote bank politics' and putting the country's security at stake.

**Pretending to be Sabarimala devotees: Kerala Governor slams CPM over Ayappa event**

Kerala.(Agency)

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Thursday took a swipe at the state's Left government for organising Ayyappa Summit, saying those who oppose 'Guru Pooja' and criticize Bharat Mata are merely "pretending to be Sabarimala devotees." Speaking at the Navaratri Sargotsavam organised by Kesari Weekly in Kozhikode, the Governor said, "If these people truly have sanctity, principles, and bhava in their minds, they should come out openly and say so." He questioned the motive behind the ruling party, suggesting it is done "only for political convenience."

Arlekar added, "Bharat Mata, Guru Pooja, and all these things were not politically convenient for anybody. It is in our blood, thoughts, and everything. We are not politically motivated."

He emphasized that such traditions are an essential part of Indian culture and cannot be ignored.

The Governor highlighted that some teachers and principals had approached him when Guru Pooja, the ritual of students washing teachers' feet, was opposed in schools.

"I wondered how this is happening, that too in a state which is culturally at the highest level? Kerala is culturally rich, but all these things are happening in this state," he said.

Arlekar also mentioned that his thoughts are influenced by the RSS and defended the organisation's focus on building the nation and organising society. He added that these initiatives are in the country's interest and must be communicated to every household.

## What Is Haryana's Rs 5,000-Crore 'Lado Lakshmi Yojana' Launched For 20 Lakh Women

Under the first phase, around 20 lakh women aged 23 to 60 years from families with an annual income of up to Rs 1 lakh will receive Rs 2,100 per month.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Haryana government on Thursday celebrated the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay by launching a set of welfare measures focused on women's empowerment and inclusive development. Chief Minister Nayan Singh Saini launched the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, a scheme to strengthen the economic independence of women, alongside a new mobile application to simplify registrations.

Mr Saini described the initiative as a reflection of the 'Antyodaya' philosophy, which aims to reach the last person in society.



"A nation can be truly great only when its women are safe, educated and respected. Haryana is determined to ensure that women and daughters are empowered, self-reliant and active participants in the mainstream of society. The Lado Lakshmi Yojana is a step in this direction," he said.

Under the first phase, around 20 lakh women aged 23 to 60 years from families with an annual income of up to Rs 1 lakh will receive Rs 2,100 per month, directly credited to their bank accounts. Every eligible

budget of Rs 5,000 crore for 2025-26. To make the scheme accessible, the government has introduced a mobile app for applications, verification and grievance redressal,

ensuring the process is fully digital. Women can register without visiting government offices or common service centres. A toll-free helpline (18001802231) and a dedicated support line (01724880500) have also been set up. Within hours of the app's launch, about 50,000 downloads and 8,000 applications were recorded.

The chief minister urged young women to plan ahead for future eligibility. "Daughters below 23 years of age should celebrate their 23rd birthday by applying for the scheme," he said.

## "Bihar's Women Have 2 Brothers, Nitish And Modi": PM At Women's Scheme Launch

PM Modi was virtually addressing Bihar's women after launching through video conference from Delhi the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana.

Patna.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a scathing attack on the RJD, stating that under its rule, women of Bihar suffered immensely, while calling upon them to ensure that the Lalu Prasad-led party and its allies never returned to power in the eastern state.

PM Modi was virtually addressing Bihar's women after launching through video conference from Delhi the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, under which 75 lakh women of the state received Rs 10,000 each for livelihood activities.

"Women of Bihar suffered a lot under the RJD rule... There were no roads, law and order was pathetic... but now women feel safe and secure under the Nitish Kumar government as the rule of law prevails. Hence, they must ensure that RJD and its allies never return to power," PM Modi said.

Stressing that the NDA government in Bihar was working for women's empowerment, he said that the state would

soon have the maximum number of 'Lakhpatti Didis' in the country. He said that the 75 lakh beneficiaries of the scheme would receive an additional Rs 2 lakh and training for improvement in entrepreneurial skills. "Bihar's women now have two brothers, Nitish and Modi, who are working tirelessly for their betterment," he said. PM Modi said that initiatives such as Ujjwala Yojana, free ration to 8.5 crore people of Bihar and Ayushman Bharat have improved the lives of residents of the state. The launch of the new scheme ahead of the assembly polls in Bihar gains significance as women form a sizeable chunk of the electorate. Assembly elections in the state are due later this year.

## Asaduddin Owaisi On "I Love Muhammad" Row, Garba Boycott

New Delhi.(Agency)

The AIMIM wants to tie up with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) for the upcoming Bihar elections. AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi has confirmed that his party's Bihar leadership has reached out to the RJD, and that the ball now lies in their court over whether to fight the BJP and JDU together. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Mr Owaisi not only addressed the party's potential alliances in the Bihar elections, but also concurrent issues ranging from the boycott of Muslims at garba events and the row over "I Love Muhammad" posters to illegal immigration and the recent unrest in Ladakh.

On the alliance question, the Hyderabad lawmaker said it was too premature to discuss at this stage but confirmed that AIMIM had written to RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav, though no communication has taken place with the Congress yet. "Our doors are not closed, but we cannot be waiting forever," said the MP whose party had won five seats in the state's Seemanchal region in the last election.

The lawmaker also welcomed the RJD to contest elections in his fortress, Hyderabad. The confirmation follows RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav's claim last week that neither he nor his father, RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav, had received any

communication from Mr Owaisi. When apprised about this claim, Mr Owaisi said his party's Bihar chief, Akhtarul Iman, had written to both of them. Our Bihar chief, Akhtarul Iman, had written to Lalu ji stressing that the BJP doesn't return to power again in

Bihar. We offered an alliance in the larger interest, to strengthen secularism, even though your party (RJD) has stolen four of our MLAs," he added. Mr Owaisi said the AIMIM has sought six seats from the RJD. If they win, the AIMIM has sought the formation of a Seemanchal Development Board, and not any ministerial post, he added.

**Owaisi On #ILoveMuhammad**

Mr Owaisi also weighed in on the recent controversy over the posters proclaiming "I Love Muhammad", and the counter-campaign that saw placards reading "I Love Mahadev" being held up at a gathering.

## BJP's "Begging Bowl" Jibe At Siddaramaiah After Wipro Declines Road Request

**Azim Premji had recently written to Siddaramaiah, refusing to open Wipro's Sarjapur campus to outside traffic for use as a thoroughfare.**

The BJP has hit out at the Congress government in Karnataka for seeking help from Wipro founder and chairman Azim Premji to fix Bengaluru's nightmarish traffic. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar are out with a begging bowl, seeking alms to cover the potholes on roads, the BJP has said, after Mr Premji refused to open his company's campus to outside traffic for use as a thoroughfare. "Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar have both set out with a begging bowl. They need alms to cover the potholes. The situation has come to this. Instead of cooperating with the people, they are troubling them," said Chaluvadi



Narayanaswamy, Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council. Mr Premji had recently written to Siddaramaiah after the latter sought his cooperation in decongesting the city's roads. In his letter, he reaffirmed Wipro's commitment to partnering with the

government on mobility challenges, but refused to allow outside vehicles within the company's Sarjapur campus.

The BJP said such a request to access a company's "private" property reflects an empty treasury, and that the party must thank Mr Premji for declining this request.

"This means that your treasury is empty and all the things you are saying are lies. He (Premji) has graciously declined their request. We should thank Wipro. They have provided thousands of crores to supply nutritious food to school children across the state. If the government did that, how much money would they have stolen?" asked Mr Narayanaswamy.

## News box

## Gurgaon: 2 Gogi gang members held after police encounter; suffer bullet injuries

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Two members of Jitender Mann Gogi gang were nabbed after a joint operation by Gurgaon CIA and Delhi police following a brief encounter near Dhankot in Gurgaon on Friday morning. The suspects identified as Mohit Jhakhar and Jatin suffered bullet injuries during the encounter. Multiple shots were fired at the spot. After the gangsters opened fire at the police teams, cops did retaliatory firing injuring the two suspects. According to the sources, the two were involved in the killing of an eyewitness in a criminal case in Delhi.

The victims were taken to local civil hospital where they are undergoing treatment. Police are likely to register an attempt to murder case and also book the suspects under Arms act. A total of 13 bullets were fired at the spot,



including six by the two gangsters. Police recovered two pistols, four live cartridges, and a bike. The operation was a joint effort by the Sector-40 CIA team of Gurgaon Police and the Delhi Special Cell. According to police sources, the two gang members were involved in the killing of an eyewitness in a double murder case in Najafgarh, Delhi, in July. They had fired 25 shots at the eyewitness then.

## Craters to dust clouds: Commute on key Dwarka way link a nightmare

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

A 2km stretch between Garhi Harsaru and Basai Road, a crucial link connecting Sector 99A and several colonies with Dwarka Expressway, has been lying in a shambles for many months. Deep potholes, broken sewer chambers and thick dust clouds greet commuters who dare to take the stretch. MCM took over the road from PWD in 2023. Soon after, sewer line work was carried out, but the subsequent repair was done in a shoddy manner, residents allege. With the continuous movement of heavy trucks and RMC dumpers, the surface has now sunk at several points, making even walking on the uneven stretch dangerous. "The dream of living in Millennium City turns into a nightmare the moment you step on this road. A simple 15-minute journey now takes 45 minutes," said Angad Kumar, vice president of Garhi Greens RWA. Residents said the road was in a deplorable state for the past eight months. Complaints have been repeatedly raised with MCM officials and even the mayor, but no action has followed. At several points, broken sewer chambers pose a serious risk of accidents, especially at night when streetlights remain dysfunctional. "The condition has gone bad to worse after the monsoon season. Thousands of families across several societies and nearby colonies depend on this road daily. Instead of relief, we face dust pollution, traffic jams, and constant fear of accidents," said Santosh Singh, a resident of Pareena Laxmi Apartment in Sector 99A. Residents also pointed out that with no alternate route available, they are forced to take the broken stretch every day. "We pay taxes but don't even get a basic motorable road. This is a serious safety hazard," added Singh. When contacted, a senior official of MCM acknowledged the problem and said, "An estimate was prepared for the repair of the road, and it will be submitted before the House meeting for administrative approval.

## Locals warn of road blockade over Bandhwari leachate leak in Gurgaon

**Noida. (Agency)**

An 11-member delegation of Bandhwari residents met MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya on Thursday and urged him to look into the problem of leachate from the landfill "contaminating the soil and waste leaving the area covered in filth". The delegation asked him to ensure dumping of Faridabad's waste at the site is stopped, threatening that if their demands are not addressed, they will go ahead with protests, including blockade on Gurgaon-Faridabad road.

The villagers earlier decided to block Gurgaon-Faridabad road on Friday but agreed to defer the protest after the commissioner sought time until Diwali to resolve the matter. Manoj Bandhwari, a villager and contractor who led the meeting on Thursday, said "Due to the solid waste plant dumping yard, a lot of filth is being dumped in the village and leachate water is flowing towards the village and filling the ponds. It is intoxicating the water. There is no mechanism to treat leachate at the landfill. There were two disk tube reverse osmosis units at the landfill, which are lying defunct. We have asked the officials to get them operational." The villagers also urged Dahiya to shift the landfill to another location. The MCG commissioner couldn't be reached despite repeated calls and messages. A joint inspection carried out by CPCB and the Union environment ministry on Aug 27 revealed that leachate from the landfill was being discharged through concrete pipes into the Kuchta drain and diverted into a plantation and forest area, where it collected in a large pond. NGT also recently directed the Haryana govt and MCG to verify claims that toxic leachate from Bandhwari landfill is seeping into nearby agricultural fields, degrading soil fertility and harming farmers' livelihoods. The tribunal has asked state authorities to ascertain the facts and initiate immediate remedial action if the allegations are found true.

## 287 hotspot villages key to Haryana's control over farm fires this year

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Every year, as the paddy harvest season arrives, the air across NCR thickens with smoke from burning crop residue. This season, Haryana — home to over 41 lakh acres of paddy fields — faces the daunting challenge of managing 85.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of stubble. At the centre of this struggle are 287 hotspot villages — identified as the most vulnerable to farm fires — whose actions could determine whether NCR breathes easy or chokes once again. A mapping exercise by the state govt has flagged Karnal as the district with the most number of hotspots (65 villages), followed by Kaithal (58), Jind (47), Kurukshetra (41), Sirsa (33), and Fatehabad (22). Another 21 villages are spread across Ambala, Yamunanagar, Panipat, and Sonipat. Of these, 14 are in the red zone — having recorded six or more fires last year — while the remaining 273 are classified as yellow-zone villages with two to five incidents each. Officials said these clusters would

be under surveillance round the clock. The challenge is compounded by the tight window between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing — just two to three weeks — leaving many farmers with little time to clear their fields. For many, burning remains the fastest solution, despite its environmental cost. To tackle the crisis, the govt has deployed over one lakh crop residue management machines — super seeders, happy seeders, mulchers, rotavators, MB ploughs, and zero till drills — across the state, available both to individual farmers and through custom hiring centres (CHCs). Each red-zone village now has two 'kisan mitras' (farmer friends) and each yellow-zone village has one. They are supported by block-level demonstrators and environment assistants to guide and assist farmers in adopting alternative methods. Incentives are a crucial part of this strategy. Farmers are being offered Rs 1,000 an acre for in-situ or ex-situ residue management, Rs 7,000 an acre for



shifting away from paddy under the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme, Rs 4,000 for direct seeding of rice, and a transport subsidy of Rs 500 (up to Rs 15,000) for gaushalas lifting baled straw. The state is also promoting short-duration paddy varieties and discouraging long-duration ones like PUSA-44 to reduce the pressure on farmers. Rajnarayan Kaushik, director at the agriculture department, is optimistic about dwindling number of farm fires this year. "We are targeting to reduce stubble burning this season compared to last year. The state will effectively manage all crop

residues," he said. The action plan aims to handle 44.4 lakh MT of residue in-situ, 19.1 lakh MT ex-situ, and 22 lakh MT as fodder. Partnerships with biomass power plants, compressed biogas (CBG) units, ethanol projects, cardboard makers, and gaushalas are expected to absorb much of the surplus straw, with thermal power plants alone projected to lift 9 lakh MT this year.

Technology will play a key role. Officials said Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) would send real-time fire alerts to district teams via WhatsApp and SMS. Control rooms have been set up at both the state and district levels, and SHOs of police stations have been tasked — under a Supreme Court orders — with preventing stubble burning. Farmers caught burning residue will face "red entries" in their land records, which could block crop sales on the e-Kharid portal for two seasons. They will also have to pay environment compensation based on Isro fire counts.

## 2 weeks after illegal roads razed, fresh attempts to carve routes to Aravalis

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The forest department on Wednesday thwarted a fresh attempt to carve pathways into the Aravalis of Faridabad, around two weeks after they dug up illegal roads to block the entry of vehicles there. Officials said they got a tip-off about some locals trying to refill the pits near Surajkund road. "Teams were dispatched to the site and work was stopped immediately. If any such activity is found, an FIR will be registered against the offenders," said Surender Dangi, divisional forest officer, Faridabad. The incident underscores the difficulties faced by the department in ensuring that norms are followed. The department earlier this month dug up around a dozen unauthorised roads in Anangpur and Mewla Maharaipur villages of Faridabad as part of govt's crackdown on mining and encroachments in the Aravalis. These areas fall under sections 4 and 5 of Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), which prohibit non-forest activities. Land notified under these provisions of the law is legally equivalent to 'deemed forests'.

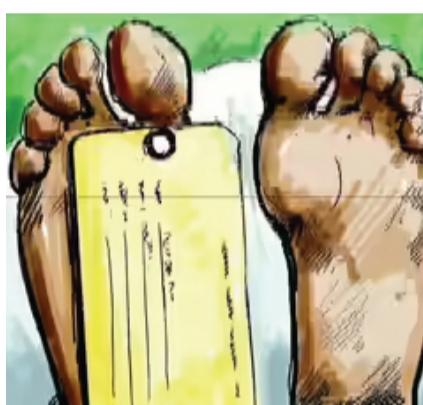
Despite this legal cover and a ban on quarrying of stones imposed by the Supreme Court, the Aravalis in Faridabad and Gurgaon have been exploited for years. Illegally built roads often serve as conduits for stone mining, waste dumping and encroachments.

Forest corridors in Anangpur, Mangar, Kot and Mewla Maharaipur — all in Faridabad — are particularly vulnerable because of their proximity to urban settlements and arterial roads, making them easy targets for trespassing.

"Every few weeks, someone tries to clear a path again. They come late at night or early morning, with machines or just tractors, and by the next day, the forest road is open again. We inform officials, but it keeps happening," said Rajesh Bhadana, a resident of Anangpur.

Bhadana said the department has started taking action routinely. "We hope such activities will decline over time," he added. Officials said repeated attempts to get access to illegal roads reflect the

between the two families. The victim's father further told police that his son was staying with his village friends (Yaduveer, Om Bir, Anmol,



Mahendra, and Bobby) in his rented room, and he suspects that they were also involved in the murder. Based on his complaint, a case was registered for murder at the DLF Phase 3 police station.

During interrogation, Sachin revealed that his grandfather had transferred their share of land to his uncle Manveer (the complainant), which led to resentment. He added that he contacted Bobby, who lived and worked with Rahul, to plan the murder. An officer privy to the investigation said, "Bobby met Sachin four days prior in Ghaziabad. On Thursday, Bobby told Rahul that he would sleep outside and had left his phone for charging inside the room, telling him not to lock the door. Bobby then went to the metro station to pick up Sachin, and both returned to the room around 2 am. At approximately 3 am, Sachin stabbed the sleeping Rahul in the neck, killing him."

After the incident was reported, a forensic team from DLF Phase 3 inspected the crime scene. "Forensics team, dog squad, and crime scene teams inspected the site, during which a blood-stained knife was recovered," an officer said.

## High Court to reopen Rs 295 crore land payout case after Supreme Court order

**Noida. (Agency)**

The Allahabad high court will resume hearings in the Rs 295-crore Reddy Veeranna land compensation case on Oct 6. In July, the Supreme Court had struck down the payout as fraudulent, citing that the Hyderabad-based businessman misled the courts to secure enhanced compensation for a land on Noida's Sector 18. The case will be heard by a bench of high court chief justice Arun Bhansali and justice Kshitij Shailendra. The case revolves around over five bighas in Chhalera Banger village, jointly purchased in 1997 by Veeranna, Vishnu Vardhan and T Sudhakar for Rs 1 crore. In 2005, Noida Authority partially acquired the land and later leased it to DLF for Rs 173 crore. The

Mall of India now stands on the plot. Initially, all three co-owners contested the acquisition together. But in 2006, Veeranna obtained a compromise decree from a trial court — using a revoked power of attorney — that allowed his name to be recorded as the sole owner in revenue records. In 2019, Veeranna approached the high court, seeking enhanced compensation without making his co-owners party to the case. The high court awarded him compensation at Rs 1.1 lakh per sqm in Oct 2021. The Supreme Court not just upheld the HC order, but also removed a 50% development charge that had been deducted, raising Veeranna's total entitlement to around 360 crore. The payout eventually settled at 295 crore

following discussions with the Authority. The apex court had, however, clarified that it was not deciding on ownership. In 2023, Vardhan approached the SC to challenge Veeranna's claim. He asserted that Veeranna had repeatedly misled the HC and SC, relying on an invalid decree procured through manipulation and concealment. In its judgment, the apex court noted that Veeranna had "tailored a situation to suit his convenience" and deliberately excluded his co-owners. On July 23, a three-judge SC bench of justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta, and Ujjal Bhuyan set aside earlier rulings. "The impugned order of the High Court dated October 28, 2021, passed in WP (Civil).

## Challans, patrols and more — What schoolgirls did as SHOs for 3 hours

**Ghaziabad.. (Agency)**

Escorted by cops in the middle of a school day, they issued traffic challans, went on patrol rounds and sat through public hearings. For three hours on Thursday, schoolgirls became SHOs across police stations in Ghaziabad as part of Mission Shakti 5.0. Vidhushi, a Class 11 student of Jaipuria School in Indirapuram, gave a patient hearing to complaints from women who wanted to file cases for harassment and property disputes. "In many cases, I asked the person to write a complaint, so police can register an FIR and take action against the culprits," the 15-year-old sitting behind a desk said.

The teenager, as SHO of the Indirapuram PS, took up daily responsibilities of the post too. She signed off on leave applications of two constables before forwarding it to her seniors for approvals, and wrote to a DCP on resolving issues raised by some officers on the lack of govt housing for police



staff. But the most thrilling experience, she said, was issuing challans to commuters found driving without helmets and licences. "I also went patrolling with the anti-Romeo squad. We visited areas near schools, colleges and issued warnings to people who looked suspicious and were roaming on bikes for no reason," the student said.

Her experience, she added, has inspired her to aim for IPS. DCP (Trans Hindon) Nimish Patel said the initiative aims to empower women and children

through real-world exposure to different professions, including the police force. "Officers in khaki generally evoke fear. So, the department aims to remove misconceptions about the profession by letting children sit on an SHO's chair and be a part of teams at police stations," the DCP said. Vidhushi was among 25 schoolgirls who got the chance to play the role of SHOs in the city on Thursday. Police said all the volunteers were brought to police stations from their schools by a team of four cops — two men and two women.

At the station, the SHO welcomed them by handing over a police beret and a badge. Pihu Aggarwal, a Class 10 student at Bal Bharti School, said that the experience was an eye-opener. "I had only heard or read about women being harassed online. But, today, as SHO, a woman came to the police station to file a complaint that someone on Instagram was sending her objectionable messages," Aggarwal said.

The student promptly asked cops at the Link Road PS to register an FIR and trace the accused. For the remaining hours, Aggarwal visited a nearby school to raise awareness about police helpline and other services, and learnt about the ranking system in the force along with the basics of enforcement. Ishu Pal, a Class 12 student of Fatima Convent Senior Secondary School in the city, channelled her position as SHO of Nandgram PS to suggest improvements. The teenager, in a cheque-school uniform and

hair neatly tied-up in a braid, recognised that the force was under-staffed and some cops were working 24-hour shifts. "Instead of such long hours, shifts can be divided into two of 12 hours each.

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# India's cancer registry covers only 16-18% of population: Experts

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: India's cancer registry system records only 16-18 per cent of the population,

## Refused Rs 60 for alcohol, man stabs rickshaw driver

New Delhi: A petty dispute over Rs 60 escalated into a brutal assault near Tank Road parking in the central district's Prasad Nagar on Friday night, leaving a rickshaw driver seriously injured. Around 9:30 pm, Nitesh, a rickshaw driver, stopped by a tea stall near Jheel Park run by Lal Kumar Pradhan (55). According to the police, Pradhan demanded Rs 60 from Nitesh to buy alcohol. When the rickshaw driver refused, Pradhan allegedly stabbed him multiple times with a knife on his neck, abdomen and underarm. Passersby informed the police about the incident. After getting information, a PCR van reached the spot and rushed the victim to RML Hospital, where his condition was stated to be stable. The accused fled the spot after committing the crime. During investigation, the police identified the accused as Pradhan, who was residing in a rented accommodation in Shadi Khampur. Originally from Baleshwar, Odisha, Pradhan had been running a tea stall near Jheel Park for years and had no criminal record. The police conducted a raid at his house, but failed to find him. They got information that the accused returned to his tea stall to collect some belongings. Acting on the information, the police rushed to Jheel Park and arrested him. During interrogation, Pradhan confessed to committing the crime, claiming he lost his temper after Nitesh refused to give money to buy liquor. On his disclosure, the police recovered the blood-stained clothes and the knife used in the crime. A case under Section 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered against the accused.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MARYAMMA DAISY SAM D/o THEKKIDAYIL VARGHESE THOMAS, and W/o, SAM KUTTY MATHEW R/o 35/1157, DDA Flats, Madangir, Amedkar Nagar, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, P.O. Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Dist. South Delhi, Delhi-110062, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as TUSAR VARAT THOMAS in my PAN Card No. EORPS0733D. The actual name of my father is THEKKIDAYIL VARGHESE THOMAS.

### NAME CHANGE

Know all men by these present that Late Mrs. Priyanka Anand W/o Mr. Nishant Neeraj R/o 79, R.P.S. Flats, Sheikh Sarai -1, New Delhi-110017, expired on 24-04-2024, she left behind a will dated 26-07-2018, the will is being now registered after her death. She left all her moveable & immovable properties in favour of her daughters Ms. Rhea Anand Agrawal (UNG Nishant Neeraj), Ms. Aarya Anand Agrawal (UNG Nishant Neeraj) & husband Mr. Nishant Neeraj all permanent P.O. 79, R.P.S. Flats, Sheikh Sarai -1, New Delhi-110017. If any one has any objection of any type he/she/they may contact within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice at above beneficiary address or Advocate( M. No. 8959374041) S/o- Kiran Agrawal, Chamber No. 234, Block S, Delhi High Court Premises, New Delhi 110003

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MOHD. JAVED, S/O MOHD. HABIBULLAH, R/O 90, AUBROINDO APARTMENT, ADCINI VILLAGE, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017 declare that name of my mine son has been wrongly written as MD JAHID in my minor son name MOHD ZAHID aged 13 years in his school record. The actual name of mine son is ANWYARA JAVED respectively which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ANWYARA JAVED W/O MOHD JAVED, R/O 90, AUBROINDO APARTMENT, ADCINI VILLAGE, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017 declare that name of my mine son has been wrongly written as ANNUWARA in my minor son namely MOHD ZAHID aged 13 years in his school record. The actual name of mine son is ANWYARA JAVED respectively which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arshad Nadeem, S/o Iqbal Akther Siddiqui, R/o 48-G Sector-7, Jasola, New Delhi-110025, declare that my son Abubakar Siddiqui's correct Date of Birth is 10/02/2008. Inadvertently, it was recorded as 05/06/2008 in school/board records. The correct DOB is 10/02/2008.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sunita Nayak W/O Vijay Kumar, R/O A-128, Gali NO-2/4, Block, West Nathu Colony, Noida Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093, have changed the name of my minor daughter Tanvi aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJASWINI.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that my client Sahab Singh S/o. Sh. Indejeet Singh R/o. E-7/708, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080 Aadhar No. 365974025132 hereby sever all their relation and has debarred and disinherited his son Hardayal Singh @ Vicky, S/o Sh. Sahab Singh and daughter-in-law Kumari Geeta @ Pooja W/o. Sh. Hardayal Singh from all his properties both immovable and movable. My client has no control over his son and daughter-in-law who have no respect and regard for my client, anybody dealing with them in any manner will do so at their own risk and consequences.

### Arabinda Nayak Advocate

Ch. No. 245-A, Lawyer's Chamber Block, District Court Complex, Saket, New Delhi-110017 Mobile No. 8527665316

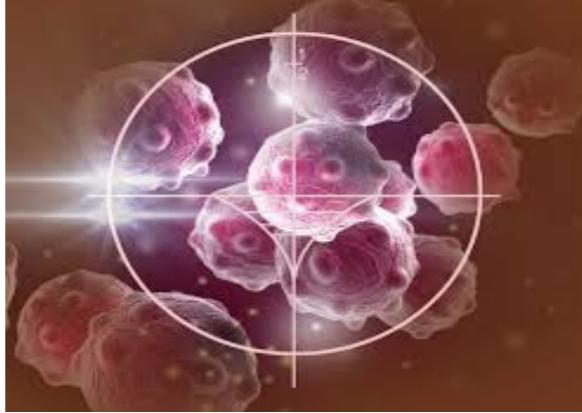
### NAME CHANGE

I, Sunita Nayak W/O Vijay Kumar, R/O A-128, Gali NO-2/4, Block, West Nathu Colony, Noida Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093, have changed the name of my minor daughter Tanvi aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as TEJASWINI.

leaving large gaps in data that are critical for planning and research, said experts at a symposium marking the 25th

anniversary of the Centre for Chronic Disease

complete picture." The National Cancer Registry



Control (CCDC) in New Delhi. Researchers and clinicians said cancer should be made a notifiable disease to strengthen surveillance and policy. Prof Sharmila Pimple, MD, Professor and Head of Preventive Oncology at Centre for Cancer Epidemiology, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, said, "Unless cancer becomes notifiable, we will never get a

Programme (NCRP), run by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has expanded in recent years but remains voluntary. She said making cancer a notifiable disease will create a legal mandate for reporting cases, strengthening data collection to track trends and risk factors. It enables stronger public health policies, efficient resource allocation, tar-

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, SANTOSH KUMAR S/o RAJABADUR VERMA R/o A-35, Block-A, Shastri Nagar, Ashok Vihar H.O. North East Delhi, Delhi-110052, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANTOSH KUMAR VERMA in my minor son name is RUDRA VERMA aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is SANTOSH KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, I.HIMMAT SINGH, S/o Kitab Singh, R/o B-25, NISHAT PARK, KAKROLA MUR, KAKROLA VILLAGE, N.S.I.T. Dwarka, South West Delhi Education Board. The actual name of mine my father and my mother are DISHANT KANSOTIA and BALKISHAN KANSOTIA and DARSHANA KANSOTIA respectively.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, DEV KUMAR PANDIT S/o SUDHIR PANDIT R/o D-738 GALI NO 2 JAIPUR EXTN. PART-2 BADARPUR, DELHI-110044, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SUDESH PANDIT in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is SUDHIR PANDIT respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that I, DEV KUMAR PANDIT S/o SUDHIR PANDIT R/o D-738 GALI NO 2 JAIPUR EXTN. PART-2 BADARPUR, DELHI-110044, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SUDESH PANDIT in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is SUDHIR PANDIT respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, DEEPAK S/o PREM CHAND R/o 8/102, WEST MEHRAM NAGAR, DELHI CANTT-110010, have changed my name from DEEPAK to DEEPAK KUMAR for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NEETU W/o DEEPAK KUMAR R/o 8/102, WEST MEHRAM NAGAR, DELHI CANTT-110010, have changed my name from NEETU to NEETU SINGH for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, WAIZIR SINGH son of GYAN SINGH residing at H NO-S-66/133, T-HUTS, PRATAP CAMP, NEHRU NAGAR, DELHI-110065 have changed my name to WAIZIR SINGH for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sanjeev S/o Khati Lal Girdhar R/o H NO C-193 Millennium Apartment Sector 18 Rohini Delhi 110089 have changed my name to Sanjeev Girdhar for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sanjeev S/o Khati Lal Girdhar R/o H NO C-193 Millennium Apartment Sector 18 Rohini Delhi 110089 have changed my name to Sanjeev Girdhar for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sadiya Ahsan W/o Hamad Ahmad R/o Flat no 601, 6th floor Tower-I, Arshant Abode, Plot no GH-4B Sector 10 Noida UP 201306 have changed my name to Sadiya Ahtasham for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sadia Ahsan W/o Hamad Ahmad R/o Flat no 601, 6th floor Tower-I, Arshant Abode, Plot no GH-4B Sector 10 Noida UP 201306 have changed my name to Sadiya Ahtasham for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sadiya Ahsan W/o Hamad Ahmad R/o Flat no 601, 6th floor Tower-I, Arshant Abode, Plot no GH-4B Sector 10 Noida UP 201306 have changed my name to Sadiya Ahtasham for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sadiya Ahsan W/o Hamad Ahmad R/o Flat no 601, 6th floor Tower-I, Arshant Abode, Plot no GH-4B Sector 10 Noida UP 201306 have changed my name to Sadiya Ahtasham for all future purposes.

**STORES E-PROCUREMENT**

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 16/2025; Dated: 22-09-2025. E-tenders are invited for the following work.

**Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item:** At Tinsukia Division- Provision of 05 nos R/TB at RM 267, RM 275/RM 283, RM 288 and RM 305 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ Silapath. Tender Value: ₹24,27,85,16/-; Earnest Money: ₹13,63,900/- E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 15-10-2025 and opened at 16:00 hrs. on 15-10-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 15-10-2025 in website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

**DRM (Works) Tinsukia**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

"Serving Customers with a smile"

**RELAXATION OF PSR BY SAMUKTALA YARD REMODELING**

**E-Tender Notice No.: 85/W-2/ APD; Dated: 23-09-2025.** E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work.

**Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item:** At Tinsukia Division- Provision of 05 nos R/TB at RM 267, RM 275/RM 283, RM 288 and RM 305 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/ Silapath. Tender Value: ₹24,27,85,16/-; Earnest Money: ₹13,63,900/- E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 15-10-2025 and opened at 16:00 hrs. on 15-10-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

**DRM (Works) Alipurduar Jr.**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

"Serving Customers with a smile"

**CONSTRUCTION OF GOODS OFFICE & MERCHANT ROOM**

**E-Tender Notice No.: SCL-Engg-73-2025; Dated: 19-09-2025.** E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

**Item No. 1: Brief Description of Item:** Construction of Goods Office & Merchant Room with toilet facilities & labour shed with drinking water facilities (Water vat, pipeline, IRP & Steel Staging) at Bihara Goods Circulating area under ADEN/BRG.

**Tender Value:** ₹2,07,55,022.00/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,53,800.00/- E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 16-10-2025 and opened at 16:00 hrs. on 17-10-2025. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 16-10-2025 in website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

**Principal Chief Materials Manager/Con/Maligaon**

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

"Serving Customers with a smile"

**NOTE:-** For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website ([www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)) prospective bidder who intend to participate in tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tender.

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**NOTE:-** For full details of Tender

## 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 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.

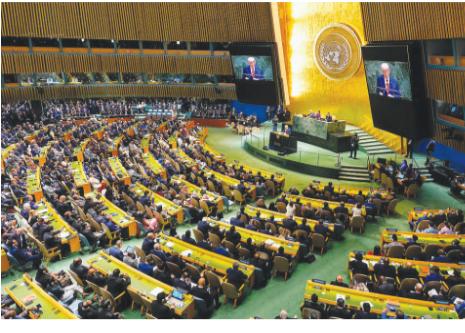
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the annual meeting of presidents, prime ministers and monarchs at the General Assembly with a plea to choose peace over war, law over lawlessness, and a future where nations come together rather than scramble for self-interests.

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.

## Bengaluru PoE raids unlicensed immigration consultancy over illegal overseas recruitment

### Bengaluru. (Agency)

The Office of the Protector of Emigrants (PoE), Bengaluru, which holds jurisdiction over Karnataka and Goa, in coordination with the Bengaluru City Police, conducted a joint enforcement operation against an unlicensed immigration consultancy operating from HSR Layout.

The raid targeted Morganvij Immigration Services Pvt Ltd, which was found to be engaged in illegal overseas recruitment activities in violation of the Emigration Act, 1983. During the raid, key documents, registers, and other material were seized. The HSR Layout police have registered under the Emigration Act of 1983.

"The PoE Office had received multiple complaints from individuals alleging that the agency had collected substantial sums amounting to several lakhs of rupees on the pretext of arranging overseas employment in countries in Europe, the Gulf, and New Zealand.

Despite being served a notice on May 19, the agency is alleged to have continued its operations illegally after relocating its office. Past instances of fraud had already been reported by emigrants against the agency. Moreover, the firm had been actively promoting unlicensed recruitment services via social media platforms," read a press note from PoE.

"No arrests have been made. A notice has been served to the concerned. The raid was following a complaint from one of the victims. The complainant has claimed that he had paid Rs 4.11 lakh to the unlicensed immigration consultancy for a job in Germany," said the officer.

## Six men in auto damage vehicles, rob motorists in Bengaluru

### Bengaluru. (Agency)

Over 25 four-wheelers parked along the road were damaged by a gang of six armed miscreants under Byadarahalli and Annapoorneshwaranagar police station limits between 12.30 am and 1 am on Thursday.

The accused have damaged 20 vehicles at Valmikinagar in Byadarahalli and the remaining vehicles at Muddinapalya in Annapoorneshwaranagar. "The accused covered their faces with towels. Since they were brandishing lethal weapons, nobody went near them. The police were immediately informed. The accused fled the scene before the police arrived. The entire incident has been captured on the mobile phones of a few vehicle owners," said a resident whose two vehicles were damaged. The Byadarahalli and Annapoorneshwaranagar police have registered cases. The same gang is suspected to have attacked and robbed three others on the Avalahalli-Doddaballapur Road after damaging 25 vehicles. The accused, who were in an autorickshaw, stopped robbing the victims. They also damaged the vehicles of the victims.

Muniraju, 33, from Kolar who had come to the market near Dasanapura to unload vegetables, is one of the victims. Due to some mechanical problem in the vehicle, Muniraju had parked it on the side of the road and was checking. The accused, who saw the vehicle, started damaging the vehicle.

The victim, who was under the vehicle, came out to check during when he was attacked and robbed of cash and other valuables worth around Rs 75,000. The gang has reportedly attacked and robbed two others in another vehicle in the same vicinity. An attempt was also made on another motorist on Chikka Madhure Road in Bengaluru Rural. The victims are undergoing treatment. The Doddaballapur Rural police have registered cases.

## Mumbai's CSMT Platform 18 to remain shut for 2 months for redevelopment work

**Platform 18 plays a crucial role in handling premium long-distance trains, including the Rajdhani, Shatabdi, and Vande Bharat services. Long-distance Mail and Express trains usually managed at Platform 18 will be temporarily shifted to other platforms.**

### Mumbai. (Agency)

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai, one of India's busiest railway stations, will see the closure of Platform 18 for nearly two months starting October 1. The temporary shutdown is part of the ongoing ₹2,450-crore CSMT Redevelopment Project being implemented by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).

Though Platform 18 is just one among the station's 18 platforms, it plays a crucial role in handling premium long-distance trains, including the Rajdhani, Shatabdi, and Vande Bharat services. It also provides passengers with the most convenient access to P D'Mello Road and the Eastern Freeway, particularly for those carrying heavy luggage. Railway authorities explained that the closure is necessary to carry out piling and foundation work for a new elevated

## Ahmedabad: 4 held on charge of gangraping 15-year-old girl

**One of the four accused persons was the minor's friend and he allegedly invited her to his apartment on May 25, said police.**

### Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Ahmedabad City Police on Thursday arrested four persons for allegedly gangraping a 15-year-old Dalit girl in May this year. The incident, allegedly took place on May 25, came to light only on Thursday when the girl informed her parents, leading to them lodging a complaint with police. Citing the FIR, which is marked as sensitive, a police inspector said that one of the four accused persons was the friend of the minor and he allegedly invited her to his apartment in the afternoon of May 25. The other three accused were present at the apartment, in the same society in which the minor also lives, when she reached there, the FIR said. The complaint stated that the accused allegedly gave her an intoxicating substance to drink.



Her friend and others then allegedly raped her, the complaint said. They allegedly

warned her of consequences if she informs anyone about the incident. The four accused persons were booked under BNS Sections 64 (rape), 65(1) (punishment for rape), 70(I) (gangrape) and under POCSO sections 3(a), 4, 5(g), 6, 7, 8, 9(g), 10 and 17 and various sections of the Atrocity Act. The case was transferred to the SC/ST Cell of the Ahmedabad City Police, which on Thursday arrested all four accused. At least three of the four accused in the case live in the same society as the minor complainant. has learnt that at least three of the four accused persons belong to the Scheduled Castes. The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, DySP Deep Patel, told The Indian Express, "We arrested all four accused persons and a detailed investigation is underway."

## Elderly lawyer loses Rs 1.8 crore in 'digital arrest' scam, fraudsters pose as CBI officers

**An FIR was registered on Wednesday by the lawyer at the Cyber Crime police station of Pimpri Chinchwad police. Between September 4 and 19, the complainant was coerced into making over a dozen transfers to four mule accounts totalling Rs 1.8 crore.**



## Association alleges police excess against nurses at RGGGH

**The government should immediately take action against the anti-democratic behaviour of those at the RGGGH police outpost, he urged.**

### Chennai. (Agency)

The Tamil Nadu Nurses Empowerment Association alleged of police excess towards those from the association who were campaigning at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital on their long-pending demands to the government, which included regularising their services and filling of vacancies in government hospitals.

N Subin, general secretary of the association, while condemning the police action, in a statement said, the nurses have been conducting such campaigns across the state since Wednesday in a peaceful manner.

According to Subin, on Thursday, when some nurses were

distributing pamphlets highlighting their demands to the people at RGGGH, a cop from the police outpost at the hospital and another cop in plainclothes took their pictures. He alleged that they snatched the pamphlets, identity cards, and threatened them to come to the police station to give an undertaking that they would not carry out such campaigns.

The government should immediately take action against the anti-democratic behaviour of those at the RGGGH police outpost, he urged. When TNIE contacted the outpost on Thursday, the cop on duty said he was not aware of such an incident.

## 'A caring mentor': Remembering Prof Raymond Aubert, the former French teacher at SPPU who made Pune his home

**Professor Raymond Aubert passed away in Périers, France, at the age of 86, on September 13.**

### Pune. (Agency)

The Department of French at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) on Thursday held a commemorative meeting of Professor Raymond Aubert, who passed away in Périers, France, at the age of 86 on September 13. Professor Aubert joined the Department of French at the then University of Pune in 1974 and taught BA final year and MA students until 1980. A respected academic and a beloved teacher, he considered Pune his second home and left an enduring mark on both colleagues and students.

At the gathering, his former students recalled him with immense joy and nostalgia.

"He gave me a lot, the one who made me who I am as a teacher," said Sudnya Athale, professor at the Department of French, SPPU, and the Alliance Française de Pune. "He gave the department much more than just academics — he gave his students the wealth of culture," added Surekha Kher,

former Head of the Department of French at SPPU, and former president of the Alliance

textbooks. With a keen interest in drama, he directed and acted in plays, making French learning lively and memorable.

Students fondly recounted his unique bond with them—taking groups to movies, sharing meals, and embracing Indian culture. Known as a lover of good food, the iconic thali at Rupali was his favourite. Known for his warmth, he forged lifelong ties with his students that went far beyond the classroom.

Even after returning to France, Professor Aubert stayed closely connected with his Indian students and colleagues, often visiting Pune and Bengaluru, where he stayed with his adopted son James and his family.

For Pune's academic community, his death is the loss of not just a distinguished professor but also a cherished friend whose generosity, affection, and passion for teaching will be remembered for years to come.



Francaise de Pune. They remembered him as a caring mentor who not only taught language and literature but also introduced them to French culture, often bringing magazines and encouraging them to explore beyond

**Pune. AN ELDERLY lawyer from Pimpri, who is in his early 70s, became the latest victim of a 'digital arrest' scam, in which he lost Rs 1.8 crore to cyber criminals who posed as CBI officers and threatened to arrest him and his wife in a money laundering case.**

An FIR was registered on Wednesday by the lawyer at the Cyber Crime police station of Pimpri Chinchwad police. Between September 4 and 19, the complainant was coerced into making over a dozen transfers to four mule accounts totalling Rs 1.8 crore.

Initially, he was contacted on phone by a cyber criminal who posed as a senior CBI officer. The fraudster told the complainant that a forged Aadhar card had been used in a case of money laundering. He said the name of the complainant and his wife had been flagged in the case. The complainant was told he and his wife had been put under 'digital arrest' and that revealing anything about "the case" to anyone would also lead to their arrest. The lawyer was asked to make multiple online transfers to mule accounts, which the fraudsters claimed were government scrutiny accounts. He was told after the scrutiny of his funds his and his wife's name will be cleared. He kept sending money as asked by the fraudsters. A while later as he started demanding his money back, he stopped getting responses. He subsequently realised he had been cheated and approached the cyber crime police station.

Cyber investigators have expressed concern that despite extensive awareness campaigns and sensitisation efforts by the government and law enforcement agencies, incidents of digital arrest, online extortion and blackmail continue to be reported.



Platforms 11–18 collectively manage around 40 to 45 pairs of long-distance trains each day, with platform 18 alone handling six to

eight trains daily. This platform serves a significant portion of the over 1 lakh passengers who use CSMT for long-distance

travel each day. Earlier this year, a similar redevelopment work was carried out on platforms 12 to 13, including yard remodelling and extensions to accommodate 24-coach trains, which caused temporary disruptions to both long-distance and suburban services.

The CSMT redevelopment project seeks to modernise the 19th-century Unesco World Heritage station while preserving its historic architecture.

Plans include separate arrival and departure zones, improved accessibility, upgraded passenger amenities, and a spacious concourse resembling a city centre. Sources indicate that roughly 15 per cent of the project has been completed, though progress has lagged behind schedule. Of the 18 platforms, seven are devoted to suburban trains, with the remainder serving long-distance services.

## What a student union poll indicates about Bangladesh's future

While the similarities between the causes of the recent upheavals in Dhaka and Kathmandu have been highlighted, the differences in administrative reactions are also telling. The interim government in Nepal has promised to hold elections within 6 months, whereas Bangladesh's interim government has procrastinated by insisting on reforms before elections. Facing domestic and international pressure, the Muhammad Yunus regime has finally proclaimed elections will be held in February 2026—more than 17 months after Sheikh Hasina was overthrown.

The Yunus regime is in a vice-like grip of Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's foremost Islamist organisation, and of the Islamist-oriented student leaders who led the revolt against Hasina. Promising sweeping reforms and establishing several commissions to recommend them are the hallmarks of the Yunus regime. The regime has facilitated the rise of Islamist parties and other radical groups. Lawlessness has continued despite the presence of a combined army-police force. Human rights organisations have logged thousands of incidents of communal violence against minorities—mainly Hindus, but also Buddhists, Christians, Ahmadis, and Sufi groups. Many such attacks were pre-planned and the Yunus regime has remained a spectator at best. A February 2025 UN report accused the interim government of failing to act against the perpetrators of communal violence. The international concern on persecution of minorities led Yunus to visit the revered Dhakeshwari temple and publicly say the right things: "Whatever faith or ideology one follows, whether rich or poor, every person is first and foremost a citizen. All rights of citizens are guaranteed in the Constitution." Yunus visited the temple along with A F M Khalid Hossain, the religious affairs advisor to the interim government who is also vice-president of the radical organisation Hefazat-e-Islam. Hefazat has demanded Islamisation of Bangladesh by introducing Sharia law, removing all statues from public places, changing the national anthem written by Rabindranath Tagore, and expunging all text from school books written by Hindu writers. It spearheaded the campaign against Chimoy Das, who had called on Hindus to demand their rights as citizens. The hypocrisy has not gone unnoticed—Das languishes in prison, accused of treason and denied bail, while Durga idols are being broken at more than 10 places. Violence between Muslim sects has also skyrocketed over doctrinal interpretations, control of religious sites, and political influence, erupting in clashes between Wahabi, Salafi, and Deobandi groups. A notable feature is the space given to radical organisations like the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, which marched on the streets of Dhaka demanding an Islamic caliphate. Islamists have also demanded that music and dance teachers in schools be replaced by religious teachers. A new alliance of Islamist parties has taken over the streets led by Jamaat, and supported by Islami Andolan, Khelafat Majlis, Nizam-e-Islam Party, Khelafat Andolan, and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party. While the mainstream parties want the elections expedited, the Islamist alliance wants them postponed and proportional representation introduced. Islamists have never bagged more than 20 of the 350 parliamentary seats and the National Citizen Party (NCP), the new party formed by students, will be a first-timer. The procrastination on holding national elections is feared to be related to creating an uneven political field, cleansed of rivals to the Jamaat, its Islamist allies and the NCP.

**The psychological setbacks caused by extreme climate events like floods linger long after the waters recede. Disaster management plans must include modules on psychosocial support. Examples of community-based interventions after floods in Kerala and Assam can be emulated widely**

This year hasn't given people much of a breather. A punishing summer rolled straight into a relentless monsoon, and many families have lurched from coping with extreme heat to mopping up after floods. We count lives lost and homes damaged, as we should. But we rarely make space for the quieter toll—anxiety, sleeplessness, trauma, and the long shadow these events cast on people's ability to study, work, and rebuild their lives. The summer of 2025 was one of the harshest on record for India. The Lancet Countdown warns that Indians are exposed to hundreds of hours of heat stress annually, and doctors across India reported spikes in psychiatric emergencies, sleep disorders and confusion during the peak heatwave. Even the ministry of earth sciences has acknowledged symptoms such as anxiety, palpitations, and behavioural changes linked to extreme temperatures, showing that the mental health toll of heat is no longer invisible. Then came the rains. By early September, all-India monsoon rainfall was nearly 8 percent above normal, which is good for reservoirs but was marked by an erratic intensity. In many places, the rains arrived with cloudbursts, floods, and landslides that uprooted families, especially the poorest in low-lying settlements or on unstable slopes. While the national numbers for 2025 are being compiled, last year offers a perspective: 5.4 million disaster displacements through 2024, including 2.4 million due to monsoon floods. Displacement is not just physical movement; it is psychological dislocation that can linger for years. Research after floods in Uttarakhand, Kerala and Assam found consistently high prevalence of posttraumatic stress, depression, and anxiety among survivors, often persisting long after the waters recede. Yet, when we look at policy, heat and mental health continue to move in silos rather than converging. Heat action plans, now numbering more than a hundred across states, districts and cities, have saved lives through early warnings, work-hour advisories and hydration support. But reviews highlight weak localisation, unclear funding, and the absence of mental health considerations. At the same time, India has expanded access to mental healthcare. Tele-MANAS, launched in 2022, has fielded over 2 million calls across 36 states and Union territories. The district mental health programme operates in more than 700 districts, offering a platform on which climate-linked stress could be integrated without creating a new structure. The national guidelines on psychosocial support in disasters were updated in 2023, urging integration of such care into disaster systems. Civil society has contributed to NGOs in Kerala and Assam, which have piloted community-based interventions after



floods, working with schools, women's groups, and youth clubs. These examples show that India has assets to build on. The challenge is that they remain scattered and disconnected from climate resilience frameworks.

That disconnection is precisely what needs to be addressed. Heat action plans and disaster management plans should be expanded to include modules on psychosocial support. These can set out simple protocols for frontline workers—ASHAs, anganwadi workers, teachers, panchayat members, and relief volunteers to recognise distress, offer psychological first aid, and refer cases onwards to formal care. Training people in these skills before each summer or monsoon season is inexpensive, yet it can make a measurable difference to recovery.

Equally important is the creation of data systems that capture climate-linked stress. Currently, Tele-MANAS does not enable counsellors to tag calls related to heat or flood trauma. Adding such categories would, over time, build a map of where distress spikes after extreme events, helping authorities deploy resources where they are most needed. Without such information, planning remains blind to one of the most pervasive effects of climate extremes. Preparedness must also extend to adolescents.

Evidence shows that young Indians carry a heavy psychological burden after disasters if support is delayed. Schools, therefore, should be part of recovery strategies, offering group sessions that help normalise reactions, rebuild routines, and identify students who need specialised care. This is not about labelling every emotional response as a disorder, but about ensuring that distress does not harden into long-term damage. Another critical gap is resources. Psychosocial care often slips off the priority list during budget allocations. Creating a dedicated budget line for mental health within climate and disaster resilience plans would signal seriousness and ensure continuity. Linking relief and livelihood support with mental health outreach can also help, since financial stress is often the most powerful trigger of psychological distress after a disaster. India does not need to reinvent the wheel. The foundation is already established. What is required is a deliberate effort to link these pieces together under one climate-resilience agenda. If that happens, the country will be able to move beyond merely counting lives saved from heatstroke or houses rebuilt after floods, to also ensuring that survivors can sleep, work, study and hope without carrying the silent weight of unaddressed trauma.

## Focus on safe disposal, reuse of EV batteries

**Improper disposal leads to hazardous electronic waste, contributing to water pollution and posing a threat to humans, wildlife and the ecosystem**



While there is a major push for popularising electric vehicles across India and their numbers are galloping ahead, serious attention needs to be paid to the disposal and reuse of EV batteries—an area that remains largely ignored. In a report published last month, Niti Aayog called the industry a \$200-billion opportunity and urged the Centre to formulate a national EV policy with clear-cut targets, timelines and a regulatory framework to fast-track India's transition to zero-emission vehicles. Although the think tank mentioned the need for a circular economy for end-of-life EV batteries, it did not explicitly focus on disposal. The report urged the Union government to develop an infrastructure to speed up India's transition to clean mobility by overcoming the challenges of inadequate charging stations and support infrastructure for long-distance EV performance.

India is aiming at a 30 percent share for EVs among all vehicles sold by 2030. The total number sold by 2024 was estimated to be 5.45 million, with about 2.08 million sold last year alone (as against global sales of 18.78 million), compared to 1.6 million units in 2023, and

just 50,000 in 2016. This indicates the speed with which EVs are cornering the Indian market—a share that clocked at 7.6 percent in 2024. So the segment needs to cover about

22 percent more in the next five years to achieve the target. EV sales are expected to pick further up with the Union government recently notifying norms to promote electric passenger car manufacturing. This is expected to bring fresh investments from global manufacturers in the segment and promote India as a manufacturing destination. The need of the hour is to have a clear-cut policy on disposing and reusing end-of-life EV batteries that are manufactured with lithium and cobalt, as the problem of toxic leakage and insufficient recycling is growing bigger alongside the segment. Improper disposal leads to hazardous electronic waste, contributing to water pollution and posing a threat to humans, wildlife and the ecosystem. Stringent laws need to be brought in to ensure proper second-life applications of used EV batteries (like stationary energy storage), their safe disposal, and direct material recycling. If not implemented strictly, the environmental and economic costs would be immense.

## Assam seeks justice for its Zubeen

In the heart of this magical night, I can see your face at a distance. You have quietly crept into a hidden corner of my heart Like a fresh droplet of dew on my withered mind Like the bright sunshine But otherwise, I have danced with the storm for years I had befriended darkness a long time ago.

A 21-rifle salute crackled over the murmuring and weeping of the sea of mourners as singer Zubeen Garg's body was consigned to the flames in a small village near Guwahati, the Assam capital which had also been the cultural icon's home. The last time such an honour was given was to the late Bhupen Hazarika in 2011. For Zubeen, the state had declared a three-day official period of mourning. As the flames soared, lakhs of fans burst into collective song of his Mayabini. For that song, as did many of his others, in their very essence, captured not just the superstar's magic with words but also the chemistry of his unique connect to generations of Assamese and non-Assamese. You have quietly crept into a hidden corner of my heart Like a fresh droplet of dew on my withered mind Like the bright sunshine

But otherwise, I have danced with the storm for years I had befriended darkness a long time ago.

As a teenager, Zubeen burst onto the Assamese music scene with his first album. Here was a fresh voice to audiences accustomed to hearing greats like Hazarika with their rich mix of original compositions, interspersed with folk and classical. Here was an exception to the rule, a phenomenon, a storm. He didn't follow any rules, he ran and performed to his own music, his own story, created his own legend. Think of it: 35,000 songs in about 40 languages — one of them was Ya Ali from Gangster which catapulted him to fame in Bollywood, a place he shunned to return home. And he was just 52. With his iconic thrust heavenward of the mike, he captured a dedicated

following, especially among the young who were entranced by his contempt for staid conservatism and prejudice, his flamboyance and use of popular cuss words, his dismissiveness of politics and politicians, his dance moves on stage where he sang with children, his generosity to whoever sought help, his love for animals and trees and incredible accessibility for a star of his stature. Shining through it all was an all-embracing love for Assam, its culture and people which he defended fiercely and proclaimed fully. Many media commentators and cultural experts outside the region who witnessed the sea of humanity that swept through the streets not just of Guwahati but all towns and villages of Assam, singing and humming his songs, weeping or holding back tears, were shaken and puzzled by the response: what explained his incredible appeal? How did he so embed himself in the hearts and consciousness of his people? There is not one answer but many and perhaps even after many years we may not be able to put our finger on it. His appeal transcended religion, ethnicity, language and region, which are used by unscrupulous politicians to divide people and fan the flames of hatred and communalism.

By their response to Zubeen, his lyrics, his music and his messages, the people of Assam overwhelmingly affirmed through their mammoth turnout to honour his life, that despite efforts to divide and fracture, his music bound and healed Assam at a time of discord.

His words struck a chord with the young and people of middling age — as well as older — who were

struggling to come to grips with an uncertain time, unsafe years, concerned about their future, troubled by the violence and harm, the armed movements and State power which were wrecking their land and societies. He pulled no punches. When the armed group ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) declared a ban on Hindi songs at the Bihu



festival celebrations so dear to Assam, he immediately denounced it and said he would not be deterred by such cultural policing. Once on stage, when chided for not wearing the Brahmin sacred thread, he proclaimed in Assamese, "I have no religion, no caste, I am a human being", to thunderous roars of support and applause from the audience. He mocked politicians, denounced ministers and once asked Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma who, like him, had been photographed leaping on stage, "Why are you imitating me?" His followers loved his whimsical

and wicked sense of humour and no-holds-barred approach. With 1.28 million followers on Instagram and a hold on people's hearts and minds that far outstripped any political leader's, he had to be taken very seriously. Though not a politician, Zubeen took significant political positions and spoke of his own belief in socialism. He opposed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), spoke of how he had once supported the BJP because people hungered for poriborton or change in Assam and sung the election song that powered it to office in the state for the first time in 2016. When the CAB (Citizenship Amendment Bill which preceded the CAA) was introduced, he snapped at then CM Sarbananda Sonowal, asking him to oppose the law or "return the votes" which the BJP gained as a result of his poll song. In his inimitable style, he declared from a stage that "I don't care for anyone!" and offered to return the remuneration he had received. It was not as if he was without shortcomings, issues that he candidly acknowledged. With great popularity and influence comes great vulnerability. Alcohol was a challenge and occasionally he was susceptible to epileptic fits. My cousin, D'Com Bhuyan, who worked with Zubeen and knew him well, writes of his untamed spirit: "He was relentless. His body bore bruises, his schedule was inhuman, yet he moved with an urgency that was almost divine. Most would have given up, citing fatigue or practicality. But Zubeen would not. He lived in the storm because he was the storm. After one such sleepless shoot, he turned to me, eyes blazing, and said.

# With tutorials from YouTube, Ludhiana youth makes IED to blast uncle's shop, held

The device failed to explode as timer was not connected with battery, say cops.

## Ludhiana .(Agency)

The Ludhiana Police Thursday arrested a 19-year-old along with his accomplice for allegedly planting an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at his uncle's shop. The device, however, failed to explode, said Ludhiana police commissioner Swapan Sharma.

The accused made the device using "potash and petrol" after watching videos on YouTube and other online platforms, said police.

The arrested accused were identified as Sonu Kumar, 19, native of Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh and currently residing at Basti Jodhewal area in Ludhiana, and his accomplice Mohammad Aamir, 30, native of Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh and currently residing at Jagirpur road, Ludhiana.

Police said that complainant Ajay Kumar, who runs a suitcase and bags shop at Harbansh Tower, Basti Jodhewal road, had informed police that an unidentified man who was wearing surgical mask came to his shop on September 20 around 6.30 am and selected a suitcase to buy.

Ajay said that the customer gave him Rs 500 and told him to keep a cardboard box packed in polythene bag at his shop for few hours



"When the box was opened, the police found that explosive. The wires, however, were not connected and the timer device was non-functional," said CP Sharma.

He said that Sonu is the nephew of Ajay Kumar and used to work with him at his shop. "However, around six months ago, Sonu

opened a separate shop due to monetary dispute with his uncle. He wanted to destroy his uncle's shop due to personal grudges," said Sharma.

Sonu along with Aamir learned how to make petrol bomb from YouTube and then bought battery, petrol, potash, clock etc from market and made the IED at latter's residence," said the senior officer, adding that the case was cracked within 10 hours.

The recovery includes cardboard box, two battery cells, a clock, a motor, wires, petrol in 7 packets (approximately 5 litres) and 15-20 grams of light yellowish powder (yet to be verified).

An FIR in the case was registered at Daresi police station under sections 125 (rash or negligent acts endangering human lives), 62 (punishment for attempting to commit offence punishable for life imprisonment), 326 (mischief by fire or explosive substance) and 324 (2) (act committing mischief) of BNS. The investigation is ongoing, with forensic analysis of the recovered materials underway to determine the full extent of the plot, said police.

## GBA prioritises pothole fixing, road repairs to start after November in Bengaluru

## Bengaluru .(Agency)

Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) zonal commissioners on Friday said that the civic body's immediate agenda is fixing potholes. They said that repairing or relaying of roads will be taken up only after November.

The zonal commissioners have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with batch-mix plants worth Rs 5 crore to ensure continuous supply of bitumen to the zones. White topping tenders which were called earlier are also being utilised to fill potholes.

Pommala Sunil Kumar, commissioner, north zone, said he signed an MoU of Rs 2.5 crore with a batch-mix plant contractor in north Bengaluru. He said: "I have also entered into an MoU on behalf of other commissioners for an additional Rs 2.5 crore for the same. As and when the money is exhausted more will be added. Contractors under defect liability period have also been told to fix potholes. Other government departments have been told to repair the roads."

Rajendra Cholan, central zone, commissioner, said the agencies that are maintaining the white topped roads have been told to address the roads. Also the Rs 685 crore that was allocated to GBA for black topped roads has been divided among the five corporations.

"We have entered into agreements with batch mix plants for filling potholes. Contractors have been told that if the potholes are not filled, then money will be deducted when payments are being cleared. In addition, Rs 25 crore has been allocated to each corporation," he added.

## Few streetlights turn roads into a nightmare ride in Bengaluru

## Bengaluru (Agency)

If potholes were not enough of an inconvenience, lack of streetlights on major roads in Bengaluru adds to the public indignation. The poles stand without lights, making navigation after sunset on stretches of Intermediate Ring Road, Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road, Main Guard Cross Road and more, a nightmare, indeed.

Without streetlights, missing potholes becomes all too easy. The problem deepens in the case of older vehicles with limited power for their headlights. While the stretch of Intermediate Ring Road from Ejipura Signal to Maruthi Infotech Centre is relatively smooth, the steep turns are made sinister with only reflective road signs to guide vehicles.

The stretch of Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road that hugs the boundary of Agara Lake is undoubtedly worse. Deep craters inundate the stretch, and without streetlights for guidance, vehicles often fall prey to the innumerable gashes on the road.

Keeping aside a small stretch of Main Guard Cross Road – which lacks even lamp posts – the two aforementioned major roads do have light poles, and only a paltry number of them are in working order, especially towards the start and end points of the stretches. The majority of the stretches remain in dark.

While a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) engineer in-charge of Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road claimed that he would send technicians to address the issue, darkness remains. Another GBA engineer, who oversees Intermediate Ring Road, alleged that light poles were removed due to a road-widening project, but the lampless light poles are there for you. Vehicular traffic, of course, is not the only concern. Until roads make even pedestrian movement a hazard, especially for women. Sonia Singh, local resident, says, "As a woman it is distressing to be using streets that run up to 2 km and not have any street lights across those lengths."

## NFR Places First Ever Cement Rake at Molvom Marking New Chapter in Nagaland's Connectivity

### The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 25th September: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) achieved a significant milestone with the unloading of the first-ever rake of cement at Molvom Railway Station in Nagaland. The rake, consisting of 41 wagons loaded with cement from M/s My Home Industries Pvt. Ltd., Telangana, was successfully unloaded at 1845 hrs on 24th September, 2025 for M/s North East Infra Network. This marks the first rake movement to Molvom Railway Station, strengthening rail connectivity and infrastructure in the region. NFR continues its commitment to enhancing freight facilities in the Northeast supporting economic growth and sustainable logistics. The rake carried 2,624 tonnes of cement over 2,500 km from Mellacheruvu, Telangana to Molvom railway station in Nagaland providing industries with cost effective, eco-friendly transport and contributing to the state's socio-economic development. The 82.50 km

Dimapur-Kohima railway line, spanning 2.75 km in Assam and 79.75 km in Nagaland, runs from Dhansiri in Assam to Zubza in

20 tunnels covering 31 km. The 16.5 km Dhansiri-Shokhuvi section was commissioned in October 2021 with passenger serv-

March 2025. Indian Railways, as the Lifeline of the Nation, is dedicated to expanding its network in the Northeast. The successful



## 40 minor girls found locked in toilet of unrecognised Bahrach madrasa during inspection

Lucknow. Forty minor girls, aged between seven and 14, were found locked inside a toilet of an unrecognised madrasa in the Payagpur tehsil of Uttar Pradesh's Bahrach district during an inspection by a team of the district administration on Wednesday evening, officials said.

The action was taken following inputs about the owner of the three-storey building running the institution at Pahalpurwa village without permission. The madrasa has been shut down, the officials said. Payagpur Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ashwini Pandey, who led the administration team, said he has sent a report to the Bahrach District Magistrate (DM) with details of the search operation at the unrecognised institution.

The District Minority Officer too was asked to conduct an inquiry, he said, adding that police sent the girl students to their homes after noting down their details.

District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi told The Indian Express: "So far, no other illegal activity has been found at the unrecognised madrasa. Reports from the SDM and the DMO have been received. I am sending a report to the Principal Secretary (Minority Department) requesting for direction to act in the matter."

The building owner, Khalil Ahmed, also the madrasa manager, had not provided the documents and details about the madrasa to the District Minority Officer (DMO) Mohammad Khalid by Thursday evening.

DMO Khalid said: "I reached the madrasa and asked the manager, Khalil Ahmed, to produce the documents of the institution's management. Though he produced the admission forms of the 40 girls, he failed to provide details of the teaching staff except one Taqseem Fatima, who happens to be his daughter."

## Firing outside Mohali gym and Chandigarh hotel: Victim injured; two brothers claim responsibility, detained

### Chandigarh .(Agency)

Panic gripped Mohali and Chandigarh on Thursday morning after two armed youths opened fire at a man outside a gym and later at his hotel.

The victim, identified as Vicky, a resident of Sector 49, Chandigarh, suffered three bullet injuries to his legs and was rushed to a nearby hospital before being referred to PGI, Chandigarh.

According to the police, the incident took place around 5 am when Vicky went to KV Musclemania Gym in Phase 2, Mohali. As he reached the premises, two assailants on a motorcycle fired five-six rounds at him. Three bullets hit his legs, leaving him critically injured.

The attackers fled soon thereafter. A little later, the same shooters targeted Vicky's hotel, Diljot Residency, located in Sector 52, Chandigarh. They

fired five rounds at the building, shattering its glass facade. Hotel manager Dinesh, who was on night duty, and another staff member escaped narrowly without injuries.

Police teams from Sector 36, Chandigarh, and Mohali immediately reached the crime scenes.

Vicky's family alleged that two men, Vikas and Suraj, currently lodged in Burail Jail, had plotted the attack due to an old enmity with him. The police also seized CCTV footage and launched a manhunt for the shooters.

Gym owner Vicky's brother Bunti stated to the police that he had received a phone call early in the morning informing him that Vicky had been shot. He then immediately rushed to the spot. As per Bunti, Vicky had suffered four bullet injuries and was taken to the hospital. However, the case took a dramatic

twist in the evening when two brothers, Ritwik and Aman Chauhan of Burail, released a video on social media claiming responsibility for both shootings.

They, however, denied acting at anyone's behest, insisting that the firing was the result of personal rivalry. They alleged that Vicky and his associates were involved in drug trafficking and immoral activities in the Burail area, and warned of "worse consequences" if such activities continued.

Following their self-confession, the Operation Cell of Chandigarh Police detained both Ritwik and Aman for questioning in the evening.

Police officials confirmed that the duo are being interrogated to establish the full sequence of events, verify their claims, and identify any other persons linked to the case.

## At centre of first 'I Love Mohammad' FIR, residents of Kanpur neighbourhood say: 'Displayed banner last year too, what is our crime?'

### According to the police, the board with 'I Love Mohammad' was installed in front of Jafar Wali Gali in Mohalla Saiyad Nagar, an area with a mixed population in Kanpur.

#### Lucknow .(Agency)

It has been a month and a half since Kanpur police booked nine persons over "I Love Mohammad" posters and a lightboard – a development that triggered protests not just in Uttar Pradesh but in Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Karnataka.

At the centre of it all, organisers of the annual Barawafat procession in Kanpur, held to commemorate the birth of Prophet Mohammad, say a similar banner last year saw no outcry or police action. The only difference: That was a cloth banner, while this time the words were written on a well-lit display board.

"We don't see anything objectionable in it. Last year, we displayed the same message on a cloth banner, and no one raised any objections. This year, we used a light board to display it, and suddenly, people started objecting to it. I don't

understand why," Mohammad Siraj, one of the organisers of the Barawafat procession who has been named in the FIR, said, asking "why did the local police support them (the complainants)?

"We never raised such an objection for others," he said. According to the police, the board with 'I Love Mohammad' was installed in front of Jafar Wali Gali in Mohalla Saiyad Nagar, an area with a mixed population in Kanpur. Police said that on September 4, some locals opposed the installation, calling it an attempt to introduce a "new practice." Attempts to remove the board led to a heated exchange and tensions in the area, and senior police officers had to intervene to calm tempers. Eventually, the board

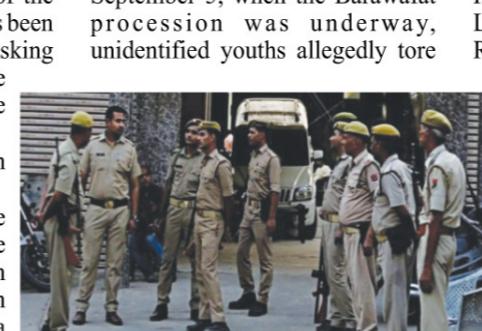
was removed and relocated. On September 5, when the Barawafat procession was underway, unidentified youths allegedly tore

No arrest has been made so far. The FIR, which also mentions another 'I Love Mohammad' banner put up at Rawatpur village, has been filed under sections of promoting enmity between different groups and acts intended to outrage religious feelings.

Those named in the FIR, all residents of Jafar Wali Gali, say they are still confused by the FIR, which mentions three separate incidents over two days. "We are still unclear why the police have booked us – whether it is for putting up the light board or the alleged tearing of religious posters," said one person who has been named. "Since the police have not clarified, all those named in the FIR and their families are worried. Police are now telling our elders that putting up the

light board was not an issue, but they still have not explained why the organisers of the Barawafat procession were booked," said 25-year-old Mohammad Siraj, who runs a cold drink shop in Saiyad Nagar and is among those booked.

The organisers said they believe the objections were raised only because the light board was displayed "more prominently" this year. "The board was initially placed at the corner of the road opposite the Jafar Wali Gali. After people objected to it, we moved it to the entrance of the gali and the issue was resolved. The lighting of the gali was done after obtaining permission from the authorities," said 40-year-old property broker Babu Ali, one of the organisers named in the FIR. He expressed surprise over the police registering the FIR five days after the incident.



down religious posters installed by Hindu outfits, police said. On September 10, police registered an FIR at the Rawatpur police station and named nine persons, including the procession organisers, and 15 unidentified individuals.

# MiG-21 testimony to India-Russia ties, not just aircraft: Rajnath at jet's farewell

## Agency New Delhi.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the MiG-21 is not merely an aircraft but a shining example of the deep relations between India and Russia. He hailed the legendary jet as a "mighty machine, national pride and defence shield" that shaped the nation's confidence and inspired generations of air warriors. "We have a deep attachment to it. For a long time, MiG-21 has been a witness to numerous heroic deeds. Its contribution has not been limited to a single event or a single war," Singh said at the decommissioning ceremony of the aircraft at Chandigarh Air Force Station. Recalling its role in the 1971 war, the Kargil conflict, the Balakot airstrike and Operation Sindoora, he said, "Who can forget the 1971 war? During the war with Pakistan, in adverse circumstances, the MiG-21 attacked the Governor's House in Dhaka, and on that very day, it outlined the result of that war. Besides this, in its long history, there have been many such occasions when the MiG-21 proved its decisive capacity."



## "MiG-21 Has Been A Huge Part Of My Life": Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla

### Agency New Delhi.

Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, who is witnessing the final flight of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) iconic fighter jet MiG-21 on Friday, said he has spent a "big part of his life" with the aircraft. Mr Shukla actively flew the MiG-21 fighter jet between 2007 to 2017, he said.

"MiG-21 has been a huge part of my life. I have done a lot of flying in this aircraft. It has taught me a lot, and I'm very excited to be here to see the last flight of the MiG-21 and meet everybody who was a part of my journey. First, I flew the MiG-21 Calibre variants, then the MiG-21 Bison. I have been in a lot of squadrons, too. It has been a great experience," the Group Captain said. "Feeling nostalgic", Mr Shukla said, "I have spent a big part of my life with this aircraft. And now it is being decommissioned. And it is going to be my last flight. I wanted to sit in a cockpit and fly today. But unfortunately, I didn't have enough time to do that. But I am very happy to be here. I am very happy to see the MiG-21 again."

He added, "It is very enlightening for anybody, and for me, I would say it is a personal journey of my growth along with the aircraft. So I am feeling great to be here."

### India's farewell to MiG-21

Inducted in 1963, the MiG-21 aircraft is retiring today after nearly six decades, with India giving it a farewell at the Chandigarh air base. During the farewell event, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh flew the last sortie of the MiG-21 Bison aircraft. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, former IAF chiefs AY Tipnis, SP Tyagi, and BS Dhanoa, India's first man on the International Space Station, and scores of veterans, many who had piloted the aircraft, were present on the occasion. The Defence Minister described the MiG-21 as a "mighty machine" and a "national pride". "There is a deep attachment to the aircraft that shaped our confidence. MiG-21 is not only an aircraft or machine but also proof of deep India-Russia ties. The history of military aviation is incredible. The MiG-21 added many proud moments in our military aviation journey," he said.

## CPWD to strengthen government buildings for earthquake safety

### Agency New Delhi.

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is set to launch a comprehensive structural safety audit of government buildings under its jurisdiction, with a primary focus on high-risk structures in the national capital such as hospitals, schools, colleges, and institutional buildings. The move is in response to a Delhi High Court directive enforcing a 2019 seismic safety action plan.

According to officials, the CPWD will complete the structural audits within one year, and retrofitting or strengthening of identified buildings must be completed within two years thereafter.

They said that priority will be given to buildings constructed before 2002, which are more likely to fall short of current seismic standards. The Delhi High Court had made it clear that the 2019 seismic safety plan issued by the city's urban development department carries the weight of a statutory mandate. The court said that all local authorities are legally bound to implement the plan, regardless of whether they were a party to the litigation.

While the CPWD was not directly involved in the case, it constructs and maintains a large number of government buildings in Delhi and issues building plan approvals. As such, officials said implementation of the action plan is both "necessary and advisable." In an official note, the CPWD said that that all new building approvals will now require structural safety certificates from qualified structural engineers. For existing structures, audits and retrofitting will proceed depending on the availability of engineers and funding. The department also indicated that this initiative may be extended to other parts of the country, particularly areas in seismic zones IV and V. Regional data will be compiled and submitted to the CPWD's Director General, with progress to be reviewed every six months.

## Delhi to conduct its first cloud seeding trial in October as part of plan to tackle pollution

### Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to conduct pilot cloud seeding trials in the national capital. The agreement, formalised at the Delhi Secretariat in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, will allow scientific experiments aimed at inducing artificial rainfall in northwest Delhi during the months of October and November.

Announcing the project, Sirsa said the first trial is scheduled to take place between October 7 and 9, with up to five trials planned over the next two months, depending on the outcomes of the initial attempt.

"We will evaluate the results of the first trial before proceeding with subsequent operations," he noted. The project, estimated to cost Rs 3.2 crore, is part of a broader strategy to tackle Delhi's chronic pollution problems using advanced scientific methods. Gupta described the initiative as both "historic and beneficial" for the city.

"From promoting electric mobility to reducing smog emissions, we are working on every possible front. This MoU will pave the way for cloud seeding trials that will provide valuable data and potentially offer a new tool in our fight against pollution," CM Gupta said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently granted approval to IIT Kanpur under Rule 26(2) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The clearance allows the Department of Aerospace Engineering at IIT Kanpur to conduct the operations using a Cessna 206-H aircraft (VT-IIT). The flights will be conducted under strict visual flight rules, in compliance with air traffic regulations, and only after obtaining clearances from state and local authorities.

## Vehicles per 1K people, accidents dip in Delhi: Report

### Agency New Delhi.

The national capital has witnessed a significant decline in the number of vehicles per 1,000 people over the past eight years, along with a reduction in road accidents, even as ridership trends on buses and metro services showed contrasting patterns, according to the Delhi State Framework Indicator Report on Sustainable Development Goals released by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

The report reveals that vehicle density per 1,000 population dropped sharply from 530 in 2015-16 to 370 in 2022-23, before marginally rising to 373 in 2023-24. This decline coincided with a fall in the number of road accidents, which decreased from 8,085 in 2015 to 4,720 in 2021.

However, accident figures climbed again to 5,560 in 2022. Data from the National Crime Records Bureau, cited in the report, showed that 9,880 people were killed or injured in road accidents in 2015. This number reduced to 5,228 in 2021 but increased to 6,174 in 2022, indicating a reversal of the declining trend.

Public transport usage presented a mixed picture. The fleet of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses grew from 5,842 in 2015-16 to 7,485 in 2023-24. Yet, their average daily ridership fell from 4.59 million passengers to 4.24 million during the same period. In contrast, the Delhi Metro recorded a dramatic rise in ridership, surging from 2.62 million in 2015-16 to 5.78 million in 2023-24.

Access to public transport also fluctuated. In 2015-16, 42.95 per cent of Delhi's population had access to such facilities. This dropped to 40.80 per cent in 2022-23 before improving to 45.83 per cent in 2023-24. The report underlines that by 2030, the government aims to ensure safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport for all. The focus is on improving road safety, expanding public transport, and paying special attention to vulnerable groups including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The findings reflect both progress and persistent challenges as the national capital works toward meeting its sustainable development goals in the transport sector.

## Why BJP chose Biplab Deb for a crucial state like West Bengal

### Agency New Delhi.

The BJP's decision to entrust Lok Sabha MP Biplab Kumar Deb with a larger political role in West Bengal is not without reason. His journey within the party, from a Delhi-based karyakarta to the Chief Minister of Tripura and now a Lok Sabha MP, reflects both political acumen and organisational grit.

Biplab Deb's entry into Tripura politics in 2015 marked a turning point for the BJP in the northeast. When he landed in the state, the party was virtually non-existent, lacking even Mandal Adhyakshas.

However, the membership drive, which attracted more than 1.5 lakh people through a missed call campaign, offered Deb an opportunity to build from scratch. He personally reached out to new recruits, in some cases even visiting households of CPI(M) leaders whose family members had

joined the BJP. Recognising his relentless efforts, Union Home Minister Amit Shah appointed Deb as the state BJP president in 2016. Just two years later, Tripura witnessed a political upheaval: the BJP won 36 of 60 Assembly seats, ending 25 years of Left rule. Deb became the state's first BJP Chief Minister, a feat that cemented his reputation as a grassroots organiser capable of challenging entrenched regimes. His political trajectory only rose

further. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Deb secured the Tripura West Lok Sabha seat with 8,81,341 votes, defeating Congress's Ashish Kumar Saha by an emphatic margin of 6,11,578 votes -- one of the largest ever in the constituency.

Soon after, the party tested his skills on a bigger stage, appointing him co-in charge of the 2024 Haryana Assembly Elections. At stake was not just another state election, but the BJP's credibility after its poor Lok Sabha performance earlier that year.

Haryana was grappling with anti-incumbency, and the election was widely described as a litmus test. Working under the leadership of Dharmendra Pradhan, Deb crafted strategies that delivered the BJP a historic third consecutive government in the state, restoring confidence in the party's organisational machinery.

**"What's Wrong With That?" Supreme Court Relief For CBI In Tirupati Laddoo Row**

### Agency New Delhi.

In a relief for the CBI in the Tirumala Tirupati laddoo row, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed the Andhra Pradesh High Court's order that held that the director of the country's premier investigative agency acted contrary to the top court's directions by allowing an officer not formally part of the special investigation team (SIT) to investigate the case. "If the SIT wants to appoint a special officer, what's wrong with that?" a bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gayav and Justice K Vinod Chandran said.

The high court had said that the CBI director acted contrary to the Supreme Court's directions of 2024 by allowing J Venkat Rao to

investigate the use of "adulterated ghee" in the preparation of prasadams (religious offerings) at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams in Andhra Pradesh.

The high court said it ordered the formation of an independent five-member SIT comprising two CBI

officers, to be nominated by the director, two officers of Andhra Pradesh Police, to be nominated by the state, and one senior official of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

It said that Venkat Rao was not specifically named as one of the state's representatives in the SIT and held that he could not assume investigative powers in the matter. The high court order came on a plea filed by Kaduru Chinnappan, who alleged harassment at the hands of Mr Rao. Mr Chinnappan alleged that he was repeatedly summoned by Mr Rao and was compelled to appear before the SIT office at Tirupati, and pressured into giving "scripted false statements".

**Assam man jumps into Brahmaputra in grief over Zubeen Garg's death**

**A grief-stricken fan jumped into the Brahmaputra after singer Zubeen Garg's death, while the SIT probing the case arrested musician Shekhar Jyoti Goswami.**

### Agency New Delhi.

On Wednesday, at Guwahati's Saraihat Bridge, a young fan, overcome with grief, tore his clothes and cried out: "When Zubeen Da is not here, what will we do? Joi Zubeen Da!" In a moment of despair, he jumped into the Brahmaputra flowing below.

Witnesses stood in stunned silence as the dramatic scene unfolded. Police teams from Pandu, with the help of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), launched an extensive rescue operation that stretched up to the hills of Sualkuchi. The Assam Police confirmed that they were able to rescue him, and he was now under medical care.

On Thursday, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing Garg's death arrested musician Shekhar Jyoti

Goswami. Officials confirmed that Goswami, who was present during the controversial yacht trip linked to the incident, has been taken into custody for questioning. The nature of allegations against him has not yet been disclosed, and no formal charges have been announced.

Sources confirmed that the investigation is progressing with multiple leads as investigators attempt to reconstruct the chain of events that led to Garg's sudden demise.

The Assam government has constituted a 10-member SIT headed by Special DGP MP Gupta to investigate the circumstances of Garg's death. Born in

Meghalaya, Garg rose to fame in

In addition to Hindi, he recorded songs in his native languages, Assamese, Bangla, Nepali, and several other regional languages, building a loyal fanbase with diverse audiences.

Often hailed as the "voice of Assam," Garg died at 52 in Singapore following a scuba diving accident. Despite being rescued from the sea and rushed to intensive care, doctors could not save him.

According to sources, Garg fell unwell during a sea outing and was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was placed under intensive care but did not survive. His sudden demise has left fans, the Assamese community, and the Indian music industry in shock.

and became a household name nationwide after his hit song "Ya Ali" in the Emraan Hashmi-starrer Gangster (2006).

and became a household name nationwide after his hit song "Ya Ali" in the Emraan Hashmi-starrer Gangster (2006).

## NEWS BOX

No Bumrah perks, but Mohammed Shami toiling to keep India comeback dream alive

New Delhi. (Agency)

There is no update on Mohammed Shami, said chairman of the national selection committee Ajit Agarkar on September 25 while announcing India's Test squad for the home series against the West Indies. The 35-year-old fast bowler was left out of the two-Test series, with Agarkar indicating that Shami simply hadn't played enough domestic matches to earn a comeback. Once considered inseparable from Jasprit Bumrah in India's pace attack, Shami has slipped off the radar in all formats. The hero of the 2023 ODI World Cup last played a Test in the 2023 World Test Championship final, and his final white ball game in the Champions Trophy 2025. Since Shami dropped off the radar, India have played five Tests against England, enjoyed a strong Asia Cup 2025 campaign, and named their squad for the first home Test series of the season. The selectors picked Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasidh Krishna, the trio from the England Tests, as the specialist pacers for the West Indies series. India Today has learnt that the omission has frustrated those close to Shami, who believe the veteran still has plenty to offer in all formats. Once a permanent fixture in the playing XI, Shami's



fortunes changed after he was ruled out with ankle and knee injuries suffered during the 2023 ODI World Cup. After going under the knife for his ankle issue, it took him nearly six months in rehab to get back in the field once again. But despite repeatedly declaring himself fit during the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, when India's bowling stocks were stretched, Shami was overlooked. He returned in time for the Champions Trophy and led India to victory in Dubai, finishing as the team's best pacer with nine wickets in five games. Yet, despite that form, he has been sidelined again. The snub, particularly in the red-ball format, has not gone down well. A source close to Shami said the mood in his camp is grim, with frustration stemming from what they believe are double standards in selection.

## IND vs WI: West Indies suffer big blow as Shamar Joseph ruled out of series

New Delhi. (Agency)

West Indies have suffered a big blow ahead of the series against India as pacer Shamar Joseph has been ruled out of the two-match series on Friday, September 26 due to an injury. Shamar has been replaced in the lineup by Johann Layne, who is an all-rounder. The 26-year-old pacer was expected to be one of the main bowlers for West Indies in India during the Test series, which will begin on October 2 in Ahmedabad. Shamar has been in incredible form in Tests, picking up 22 wickets from three matches he has played this year and finding himself amongst the top five wicket-takers in the format. Shamar will be re-evaluated ahead of the Bangladesh limited-over series, which will begin on October 18 and consists of three ODIs and T20Is. Johann Layne has replaced Shamar Joseph in the squad for the test series against India. Joseph has been



ruled out due to an injury and will be re-evaluated ahead of the Bangladesh limited-overs series," read the statement from West Indies cricket. Layne has played 19 first-class games so far in his career. During this time he has scored 495 runs in 32 innings with two fifties to his name. However, his returns with the ball makes him a valuable option for West Indies during the series. Layne has picked up 66 wickets in his first-class career so far at an average of 22.88, with four five-wicket hauls to his name. The series against India will be played Ahmedabad and Delhi, with the second Test starting on October 10th. India announced a strong squad for the series, with the likes of Karun Nair, Abhimanyu Easwaran missing out and Axar Patel and Devdutt Padikkal coming into the mix.

**From being a chill goalkeeper on the field to being a strict taskmaster on the halfway line, PR Sreejesh tells India Today about his coaching style, mentor role with SG Pipers and his ultimate goal as the senior team coach.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

The last time I talked to PR Sreejesh was just before the Paris Olympics 2024. At that time there was a lot of talk about Sreejesh's future with the Indian team, as he was 36 at that time and had a career filled with a lot of highs and brilliant moments. I asked him if it was his last Olympics, and he was adamant in saying, no, that wasn't the case. But just a few days later, Sreejesh shocked everyone by saying that the Olympics 2024 would actually be his final tournament in India colours. Like many, I was sad about the development and I decided to ask why he did that just before we

started our chat. With a big laugh, the wall of Indian hockey just said, "And that's Sreejesh in a nutshell. An approachable and positive person off the field, always up for a laugh. On the field, as his nickname suggested, he was the wall that just kept the opponents at bay and single-handedly win penalty shoot-outs for his side."

India recently won the Asia Cup 2025 in Rajgir, where fans did miss the presence of the legendary goalkeeper at times. But Sreejesh isn't really missing being on the turf. He has got a couple of roles to handle off it, being the Indian Jr. men's team's head coach, mentor of the SG Pipers men's team in Hockey India League, and also being the director of hockey for the franchise. "Life got busier after retirement because being a player, you are just taking care of yourself, your performance, diet and health, that's all. But now you are responsible for 34 players and your coaching staff. So, you're spending the same amount of time on the field coaching the players and around 6 to 7 hours on the computer just preparing for the next sessions, analyzing the sessions, and

preparing for the next tournaments. So after retirement, I'm busier. I'm literally busier," said Sreejesh.



Sreejesh: The strict coach

The former India goalkeeper was made the Jr. men's team coach while the Paris Olympics was still going on, and he had told me in our first interaction how he was eager to be a coach. So, does Sreejesh continue his merry and fun ways with the young team as a coach? Well, the 37-year-old said it is actually the opposite. He called himself a very strict coach, who is all business when

the game is on. However, he does understand the efforts of a player and what they have to deal with. So he keeps things open with his players. "I understand the effort of a player and how they think, the pressure they deal with. I try to be more open with my players and I, I kept everything on the table saying that this is what I want and this is my dream and this is my picture and you make it colorful. That's it. So, they understand it really well." "Second thing is that, I'm kind of a coach who shares my experience, how I try to tackle things, how other players used to tackle things, how other players used to manage their pressure, and how they used to play their best performance. So, for the youngsters, I'm a bit strict competitively and not the jolly type. It's all business. You are here to perform. You're here wearing that Indian jersey. That means you have a responsibility. You're not here for time pass. So I make sure that, they're giving their best for the country and win a medal." "When it comes to the junior teams, it's a responsible job because they're the future and I am shaping it," said Sreejesh.

## Abhishek Sharma drops stylish Dubai pics, Guru Yuvraj Singh has hilarious response

**Abhishek Sharma's latest post on Instagram got a hilarious comment from his guru Yuvraj Singh, who decided to have some fun at the expense of his young disciple. Abhishek posted images from his free time in Dubai.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Abhishek Sharma decided to post some dashing pictures on his Instagram from Dubai, but it was Yuvraj Singh's hilarious response that won hearts as the Indian legend decided to have some fun at the expense of his young disciple. Abhishek has been India's star during the Asia Cup, topping the runs charts and smacking the ball to all corners of the field. The Indian opener has scored 248 runs at an average of 49.60 and a strike-rate of 206.66. In his last two outings, Abhishek scored 74 against Pakistan and 75 against Bangladesh to help his side cruise into the final of the Asia Cup with ease. As India were enjoying an off



day on Thursday, September 25, Abhishek decided to post some pictures from his outing in Dubai. Fans were left in awe of the stylish looks of the 25-year-old as fans would praise him in the comments section. However, the one remark that stood out from the rest was that of Yuvraj. The former Indian all-rounder said that he had his eyes on his disciple to ensure that he maintains discipline while on the tour. Fans would react to Yuvraj's comment, with some even asking him to be a little easy on his young

disciple. Abhishek has been doing well during the Asia Cup to make his guru proud and recently broke a record of Yuvraj during the tournament. With his fifty against Bangladesh, Abhishek went past Yuvraj as he has five fifties where he had faced 25 deliveries or fewer. Abhishek said that Yuvraj has been advising him to let others also get big hits during a match and not take all the glory for himself. "He always says — when you've hit a six, then give the other guy a chance to hit too."



## Surya asked to avoid political comments over Pak complaints at ICC hearing: Sources

New Delhi. (Agency)

India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has been formally warned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to refrain from making political remarks, following a complaint filed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The issue arose after India's group-stage victory over Pakistan on September 14, when Yadav, in his post-match press conference, dedicated the win to the Indian Armed Forces involved in Operation Sindoos and expressed solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. The PCB specifically objected to Yadav's reference to Operation Sindoos, the name given by the Indian government to their military retaliation following the Pahalgam attack in April, arguing that his tribute carried political undertones. Yadav appeared before match referee Richie Richardson and pleaded not guilty. The ICC has now advised him against repeating similar comments in the future.



Richardson is expected to announce his decision on Friday, ahead of India's final Super 4 match against Sri Lanka. Any potential punishment for Yadav could range from a formal warning to a deduction of match fees, though no verdict has been finalised. Meanwhile, the ICC will also consider complaints lodged by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) against Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf and opener Sahibzada Farhan for their gestures during the India vs Pakistan Super 4 game in Dubai

on September 21. Rauf's actions appeared to reference Pakistan's disputed claim of shooting down six Indian jets during earlier border tensions, while Farhan celebrated his fifty with a gesture resembling firing a machine-gun, which was widely criticised as insensitive. Farhan although defended his actions later, reasoning the celebrations to be one that came at the top of his mind. The gestures by both

Pakistan players drew significant criticism on social media, adding to the tensions surrounding the tournament's high-profile encounters. On the cricketing front, India had already secured their place in the Asia Cup final after defeating Bangladesh in their Super 4 match on September 24. Pakistan followed suit with a victory over the same opponents the following day, setting the stage for a third meeting between the arch-rivals in the final



Hopefully that stands us in good stead, and we can put across some really good performances and hopefully create some history," Root said. While Root has achieved remarkable success in Test cricket, he is yet to score a century in Australia — a milestone that has eluded him in 14 matches across 27 innings, where he has accumulated 892 runs at an average of 35.68. His highest score remains 89, and he has registered nine fifties in the challenging conditions Down Under. Despite this, Root is clear that personal milestones are secondary to team success. "This tour is not about me making 100. It is about us going and winning an Ashes series. As an experienced player, if I go out and make big scores and big 100s, then that gives us a great opportunity."

## IND vs PAK final: Pakistan coach urges players to focus on cricket amid off-field row

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has delivered straightforward message to his players ahead of the Asia Cup 2025 final against India — focus solely on cricket and avoid getting caught up in the controversies surrounding the high-profile rivalry. The arch-rivals are set to meet for the third time in this edition of the tournament, but instead of the cricket itself, much of the attention so far has been on off-field issues and on-field gestures that have sparked debates and escalated tensions. The build-up to any India vs Pakistan clash is always loaded with anticipation, and this Asia Cup has been no different. However, the spotlight has shifted away from the game on several occasions due to dramatic incidents. Speaking after Pakistan's narrow 11-run victory over Bangladesh that secured their place in the final, Hesson made it clear that his focus remains firmly on cricket. "Look, my message is we just focus on cricket. That's

what we will be doing. Those things, you probably know more about them than me. I deal with the cricket side. In terms of gestures, there's always been passion, isn't it? When you are in high-pressure games, the focus will be on focusing on the job and playing a good game. That's my part of my job," Hesson said.

Drama to the brim in India vs Pakistan. First came the handshake controversy, when India skipper Suryakumar Yadav declined to shake hands with Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha during the toss in their group-stage clash. The drama continued after India's seven-wicket win, with the entire Indian team avoiding post-match handshakes. Matters escalated further during the Super 4 game in Dubai, when Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf and opener Sahibzada Farhan were seen making provocative gestures toward Indian fans in the stands. The

controversies, however, have extended beyond public debate. India filed an official complaint with the International Cricket Council (ICC) against Rauf and Farhan over their actions in the Super 4 clash. In response, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reportedly lodged its own complaint against Suryakumar Yadav, citing his gesture of dedicating India's group-stage win to the



armed forces and his remarks in solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. On Thursday, September 25, Suryakumar attended a hearing conducted by match referee Richie Richardson regarding Pakistan's complaint. The decision on that matter is expected before India's final Super 4 game against Sri Lanka. Similarly, both Rauf and Farhan are set to face hearings over India's complaint regarding their conduct in Dubai. Despite the backdrop of tension, the cricket continues. Pakistan sealed their place in the final with a hard-fought win over Bangladesh, while India had already secured qualification earlier with victories over Bangladesh and Pakistan. Now, as both sides prepare for the grand finale on September 28, the hope from Hesson and fans alike is that cricket finally takes centre stage.

## EPFO 3.0 roll-out likely delayed, ATM withdrawals pushed to 2026

### NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The much-awaited EPFO 3.0 roll-out could take longer than expected. The facility to withdraw provident fund (PF) money directly from ATMs is likely to come into effect only from January 2026, according to a report by Moneycontrol.

Earlier this year, Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had announced that EPFO 3.0 would make the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation as easy to access as a bank. One of the biggest attractions of the update was the plan to allow members to withdraw PF money using ATMs.

### DECISION PENDING WITH CBT

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), which is the top decision-making body of EPFO, is expected to take up the proposal in its next meeting scheduled for the first half of next month. Once approved, the scheme will move closer to reality. Interestingly, the IT infrastructure needed for this facility is already in place. The upcoming meeting will focus on finalising the modalities and operational details before the service can be launched.

### WHAT EPFO 3.0 PROMISES

EPFO 3.0 is expected to bring in a host of features that will make provident fund management faster and simpler for members. Claims will be settled automatically without manual intervention, and employees may soon be able to withdraw a portion of their PF savings directly from ATMs. Updating account details will also become easier as members will be able to make corrections online without visiting an EPFO office. In addition, the retirement body is looking to integrate social security schemes such as the Atal Pension Yojana and PM Jeevan Bima Yojana, offering broader coverage to workers.

## Pharma stocks slide; US import tariffs trigger broad sell-off



### CHENNAI. (Agency)

Pharma stocks led the decline in Indian markets on Friday, (September 26), with the Nifty Pharma index slipping sharply into negative territory. The sell-off was triggered by the US government's announcement of a 100 percent import tariff on patented and branded drugs starting October 1, a move that rattled investors and raised concerns over the future of Indian pharmaceutical exports.

Although Indian companies primarily export generic drugs to the US, the sweeping tariff decision has created uncertainty about whether future trade measures could extend to other categories such as complex generics or biosimilars. The announcement prompted a wave of selling across the sector, with all 20 constituents of the Nifty Pharma index trading lower in early deals. Heavyweight Sun Pharma was among the biggest drags, while Cipla, Biocon, Natco Pharma, and Laurus Labs also lost between 2 and 5 percent. The weakness in pharma came against a backdrop of fragile market sentiment. Global equities were under pressure as Asian stocks edged lower and investors turned cautious ahead of fresh US economic data and Federal Reserve signals. Continued foreign portfolio outflows added to the negative undertone in Indian markets, intensifying the fall in vulnerable sectors like pharma and IT.

Technical indicators also suggested weakness in the sector. Analysts noted that the Nifty Pharma index was already struggling near key support levels, and the tariff announcement accelerated the downside momentum. Some technical projections even warned of steeper corrections in select stocks if support zones fail to hold.

## Festive season bonanza! Performance-linked reward for non-executive workers of Coal PSUs

### New Delhi. (Agency)

In a good news for its non-executive workers, the coal PSUs under the Ministry of Coal on September 26, 2025 announced a Performance Linked Reward (PLR) of Rs 1,03,000 for them. The incentive decision was finalised at the 6th meeting of standardization committee of Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry, held on September 25, 2025. The Performance Linked Reward will benefit 2.1 lakh non-executive cadre employees of Coal India Limited, its subsidiaries and around 38,000 SCCL non-executive cadre employees, the Ministry of Coal stated in its release. The ministry informed that the amount will be credited to the accounts of the non-executive workers on pro-rata basis, depending on attendance. The PLR will have total financial implication of Rs 215382 crore for CIL and Rs 380 crore for SCCL. The decision to give monetary benefits was taken to reward the employees for their efforts and help them financially during the festive season. "PLR aims to recognise the contribution and hard work of non-executive workers across all CIL subsidiaries & SCCL and ensure they are fairly rewarded for their efforts. The payment of PLR provides a timely boost to the workers and their families during the festive season."

## Govt may tweak e-commerce FDI norms to boost MSMEs to export

### Under this framework, third-party export entities would hold inventory and manage backend processes on behalf of MSMEs

### NEW DELHI. (Agency)

To facilitate greater participation of MSMEs in global e-commerce exports, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has proposed introducing an inventory-based e-commerce export model. Under this framework, third-party export entities would hold inventory and manage backend processes on behalf of MSMEs. To operationalise the model, DGFT has also suggested amendments to e-commerce FDI regulations, specifically reviewing the current prohibition on inventory-based e-commerce for this export-only carve-out. In its proposal (a



copy of which has been reviewed by TNIE), DGFT highlighted that less than 10% of MSMEs selling online domestically participate in global e-commerce exports, primarily due to complex documentation, compliance requirements, packaging standards, limited expertise, and high logistics costs. As per the draft framework, the model

will be strictly export-only — inventory held by export entities must be exclusively for exports (Export Inventory) and cannot be sold or diverted into the domestic tariff area (DTA). Any diversion would be considered a contravention attracting penalties. Only goods manufactured or produced in India and procured from domestic, GST-

registered MSME sellers will qualify under this model. Export entities will also be required to establish internal grievance redressal systems to resolve seller complaints within 15 working days. Unresolved issues may be escalated to DGFT, which must provide a resolution within 30 days. A key safeguard for MSMEs is the mandatory pass-through of export-linked benefits. While export entities will be entitled to claim incentives such as GST refunds, duty drawback, and RoDTEP, they will be required to pass these benefits on to MSME sellers on a pro-rata basis. Designated export entities would act as intermediaries, handling paperwork, logistics coordination, and even managing refunds or product returns. They would also be able to access export-related incentives, with the government examining mechanisms to ensure that a share of these benefits flow directly to MSMEs. DGFT has also proposed strict penalties for non-compliance such as inventory diversion or delayed settlement of benefits.

## From EMIs to assets: How home loans are creating India's new wealth generation

### New Delhi. (Agency)

Owning a home in India today is about much more than having a roof over your head. For millions of Indians, monthly EMIs are no longer just loan repayments—they are stepping stones to long-term wealth. From middle-income families buying their first home to high-end buyers investing in luxury residences, home loans are quietly creating a new generation of asset holders. HOUSING FINANCE MARKET ON THE RISE

Amit Jain, CMD of Arkade Developers Limited, highlights the scale of the opportunity: "India's housing finance market, currently at Rs 33 lakh crore, is projected to cross Rs 78 lakh crore by FY 2030, growing 15–16% annually. Affordable housing alone is set to

### E M I S A S A T O O L F O R I N T E R G E N E R A T I O N A L W E A L T H

For many families, EMIs serve a bigger purpose than repayment—they are a pathway to future security.

Rohan Khatau, Director of CCI Projects Pvt Ltd, explains: "EMIs are not just a funding tool but a transition between present ambitions and future prosperity. Regular instalments slowly transform borrowed capital into a physical, growing asset, assisting families to create intergenerational wealth without the instability of entire financial tools." Khatau continues, "Middle-income earners are using stable sources of income to invest in property at current prices, as their ownership interest in the property increases on a monthly basis. With new infrastructure and metro connections, neighbourhood values are steadily rising, which makes an EMI more of an investment instalment than just a loan repayment." In other words, Khatau highlights how EMIs are transforming monthly obligations into tangible, long-term assets, offering both stability and growth.

## Crypto in slump. 3 reasons why Bitcoin, Ethereum and Dogecoin are struggling

### Kolkata. (Agency)

The cryptocurrency market is facing a rough day, with major tokens like Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Dogecoin all sliding in value. Investors are worried as global uncertainty and market pressures weigh heavily on sentiment.

The fall has wiped billions from the overall market, reminding traders how quickly things can turn in the world of digital assets.

### BTC, ETHEREUM AND DOGECOIN UNDER PRESSURE

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency, is trading at \$109,549.23, at time of writing this article (1200 pm). The coin has been volatile, falling by 6.14% over the last week. While long-term holders remain calm, short-term traders are reacting sharply to news, adding to price swings. Ethereum, too, has witnessed a drop in its value, declining by 13.09% over the last week and is trading at \$3,943.35. The decline has been linked to heavy outflows from Ether-based ETFs, showing that institutional investors are turning cautious. Dogecoin has also been hit hard, slipping by 17.30% since the past week, with its memecoin status making it more vulnerable to sudden selling. According to CoinSwitch Markets Desk, "The broader crypto market consolidated in red yesterday as lower-than-expected U.S. jobless claims tempered hopes of near-term Fed rate cuts. While risk-off sentiment has driven a wave of liquidations, an important counter-trend is emerging: spot buyers are stepping in with larger allocation sizes."

### REASONS WHY CRYPTO IS DOWN

Several factors are behind cryptocurrencies' sharp slump.

Government Shutdown Fears Hit Sentiment

One of the biggest reasons for today's slump is the rising fear of a US government shutdown, which could unsettle financial markets and reduce risk appetite.

Mass Liquidations Amplify the Decline

Another factor dragging crypto prices down is the huge wave of liquidations. In the past 24 hours alone, more than \$1.6 billion worth of leveraged positions have been wiped out. Most of these were long bets placed by traders expecting prices to rise. As these positions got liquidated, it created a chain reaction of selling, putting further pressure on Bitcoin, Ethereum and other tokens. Options Expiry Adds to the Pressure

The upcoming expiry of billions of dollars in Bitcoin and Ethereum options has also unsettled the market. Traders are adjusting their positions ahead of the expiry, leading to more volatility.

## Tata Motors bucks weak market as JLR restarts operations after cyberattack

### CHENNAI. (Agency)

Tata Motors shares traded higher on Friday, standing out in an otherwise weak market where most sectors were under pressure. The stock gained after its UK subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover announced that it had begun a phased restart of operations, restoring some of the digital systems that had been knocked offline by a recent cyberattack. The update eased concerns about prolonged disruptions at the luxury carmaker, which accounts for a significant share of Tata Motors' revenues. Investors welcomed the news as a sign that JLR's operations could gradually return to normal, limiting the financial impact of the shutdown. The recovery at JLR comes after Tata Motors' stock had fallen for two consecutive sessions, making Friday's gains partly a result of bargain-hunting and technical support.

Jaguar Land Rover had been forced to shut down production for several weeks after a major cyberattack disrupted its digital systems earlier this month. The incident affected ordering platforms, parts supply chains, and

manufacturing, where heavy reliance on digital networks makes companies more vulnerable to such attacks. While

the full financial impact on JLR is still being assessed, analysts believe that restoring core systems quickly is critical to limiting damage and restoring business confidence.

The rebound is notable given the broader weakness in the Indian market, which has been under pressure from global trade concerns, foreign outflows, and volatility in key sectors. While Tata Motors' outperformance reflects optimism around JLR's

recovery, analysts caution that the company continues to face headwinds from weak demand, tariff-related pressures, and rising costs across its global and domestic businesses. For now, however, the phased reopening at JLR has provided a short-term boost, allowing Tata Motors to buck the market trend and attract renewed buying interest.

some manufacturing operations, leading to concerns about delays in deliveries and revenue losses. Industry reports suggested the shutdown could last up to four weeks, making Friday's announcement of a phased restart a key relief for both the company and its investors. The disruption had also raised questions about cybersecurity preparedness in global auto

While platforms like Bima Bharosa and the Insurance Ombudsman exist, they require a certain process to be followed," said Shilpa Arora, Co-Founder and COO at Insurance Samadhan. In reality, most policyholders are not even aware of these channels. Many only reach the insurer's call center, not even the Grievance Redressal Officer (GRO), and often lose hope when their issue remains unresolved," she added. Arora said that's when people begin searching for genuine help. In just April–June 2025, Insurance Samadhan reported 4,004 disputes worth over Rs 75 crore—a 45% jump from the previous quarter. Health insurance made up nearly two-thirds of the complaints, followed by life and motor insurance.

Since its inception, the platform has handled more than 18,000 grievances, mostly health claim rejections and mis-selling. In contrast, IRDAI's Bima Bharosa portal processed over 2.1 lakh grievances in 2023–24, while the Insurance Ombudsman handled 52,575. Awareness of these official channels, however, remains low. Those who try often face delays or procedural hurdles. Ombudsman awards are binding only up to Rs 50 lakh, leaving bigger disputes unresolved. Health insurance has emerged as the flashpoint. In FY24, rejections in health claims touched Rs 26,000 crore—a 19% rise from the previous year. Many were turned down over technical issues such as documentation lapses or alleged non-disclosure. For policyholders, these battles often come in the middle of medical crises, adding emotional strain on top of financial stress.

Experts blame weak regulatory intervention. Dr. KC Haridas, PhD

## Why more insurance policyholders are turning to private grievance platforms

### 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)

More and more policyholders are bypassing official grievance channels, turning instead to private platforms that promise faster, simpler resolutions. Distrust is growing in formal systems like the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) Bima Bharosa portal and the Insurance Ombudsman, which many find confusing and slow. "There exists a clear gap in the insurance journey—most policyholders struggle to understand their policy documents, present their cases effectively, or even know their rights.



19% rise from the previous year. Many were turned down over technical issues such as documentation lapses or alleged non-disclosure. For policyholders, these battles often come in the middle of medical crises, adding emotional strain on top of financial stress. Experts blame weak regulatory intervention. Dr. KC Haridas, PhD

(Insurance), FII, and Composite Insurance Broker, said, "From our experience, IRDAI often acts as a post office: it forwards complaints to the insurance company and asks for

explanations. If the company's explanation is satisfactory, the matter is dropped. There is little intervention from IRDAI in these cases." He added that the complexity of the redressal system—ombudsman, IRDAI, consumer courts—worsens the trust deficit. "People lose faith in insurance when small valid claims are denied, even after paying premiums for years. The best option is to work with a technically competent insurance broker (not aggregators), who can advocate for the client and get claims settled," Dr. Haridas said. "The premium does not increase for using a broker as their commission is built into the premium, and GST on brokerage is now zero. If a common health industry regulator is introduced—similar to RERA in real estate—malpractice can be curbed, and consumer protection will improve," he added.



# Janhvi Kapoor

## Turns Heads In All-Black Look, Do Not Miss Her Bootcut Denim

Janhvi Kapoor, who charmed fans with her performance in *Param Sundari*, is now gearing up for her upcoming film *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*. Scheduled to hit theatres on October 2, the movie has already built strong anticipation. Meanwhile, Janhvi keeps turning heads with her chic promotional looks that balance elegance and style. On Thursday, the actress was spotted at Mumbai airport, reportedly returning from a round of promotional activities. Her look instantly grabbed attention as she kept things striking and stylish in a bold all-black outfit.

### Janhvi's Sleek Black Ensemble

Known for her impeccable airport fashion, Janhvi didn't disappoint this time either. She chose a black button-down top paired with fitted black pants, creating a sleek monochrome vibe. Adding to the edgy appeal, she sported dark sunglasses and let her wavy, voluminous hair flow freely over her shoulders. Her minimal approach to accessories worked perfectly, while her choice of footwear, chunky black shoes, gave the ensemble a chic finish. The look was comfortable, travel-friendly and stylish, all at once, proving why she's often hailed as a fashion icon.

### A Sneak Peek into the Film

Helmed by Shashank Khaitan, this upcoming romantic comedy pairs Janhvi Kapoor with Varun Dhawan in lead roles. The plot follows Sunny (Varun) and Tulsi (Janhvi) as they try to reconcile with their exes, portrayed by Sanya Malhotra and Rohit Saraf.

Adding to the fun are Maniesh Paul and Akshay Oberoi, who bring in extra doses of humour and charm. With its offbeat storyline and an ensemble of talented actors, the film has already stirred excitement and is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

### Janhvi's Upcoming Project Homebound

Apart from *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*, Janhvi Kapoor has another exciting film lined up, *Homebound*. Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan and co-starring Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa, the film is based on a 2020 New York Times article by Basharat Peer. It also features Reem Shaikh, Harshika Parmar and Shalini Vatsa. *Homebound* recently made headlines for being selected as India's official entry to the Oscars 2026. Produced by Dharma Productions, the film further cements Janhvi's place as one of the most promising talents of her generation.



# Malaika Arora's Latest Navratri Special Look Will Make You Sing 'Anarkali Disco Chali'

From sporting laid-back outfits to stunning in heavy-work ethnic ensembles, Malaika Arora pulls off every look with effortless glam. She is among the fashionistas who know how to balance modernity with sophistication. The actress is now spotted in an elegant Indian traditional attire outside her Bandra residence in Mumbai. And let's be honest, her look is the ultimate fashion inspiration for anyone who wants to be the show-

stopper of Navratri 2025.

**Malaika Arora Spotted in An Elegant Ethnic Ensemble**  
On Thursday, September 25, Malaika Arora was spotted while stepping out of her Mumbai residence. Paparazzi couldn't resist themselves to capture the regal beauty of the actress. Malaika opted for a breathtaking maroon ethnic ensemble that exuded regality with festive charm. Her outfit featured a heavily embroidered long anarkali-style silhouette with intricate golden threadwork and motifs all over. The full-sleeved



attire was paired with a matching dupatta, further enhancing the traditional elegance. The flowing hemline added just the right amount of movement and drama as she walked. Malaika accessorised the look with an opulent statement necklace adorned with white and green stones. Skipping earrings, Malaika balanced the jewellery by wearing a pair of statement bangles on both wrists. For makeup, she chose a glowing nude-toned base with kohl-rimmed eyes, soft contouring and a hint of nude lip colour. Her hair was styled in a sleek bun, adorned with fresh white gajra, while a tiny bindi on her forehead completed the look.

### Malaika Arora's Look Is The Fashion Guidebook for Navratri 2025

Known for her ever-evolving fashion sense, Malaika Arora once again proved how to blend regal charm with sophisticated elegance without overdoing it. This look arrives at the perfect time, as fans gear up to pick the best festive outfits for Navratri. The vibrant maroon hue of her ensemble mirrors the season's spirit, while the rich golden embroidery celebrates Indian craftsmanship.



## Divyanka Tripathi And Vivek Dahiya's Navratri Celebrations With Close Friends



Television stars Divyanka Tripathi and Vivek Dahiya are among the most popular couples in the industry. With their charming bond and light-hearted charm, the duo never fails to win their followers' hearts. Just like every other festival, the duo are also celebrating Navratri together in style. In the latest pictures shared by Divyanka, the couple were seen enjoying a garba night with friends.

In the picture, Divyanka was seen in a blue and green saree with floral and peacock feather motifs. On the other hand, Vivek was seen in a blue kurta with a multicoloured pattern on the shoulder.

### Divyanka Tripathi At Star Parivaar Awards 2025

Meanwhile, Divyanka was recently seen at the Star Parivaar Awards 2025. She reunited with her *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* co-star Karan Patel. On her Instagram stories, Divyanka Tripathi posted a screen grab of an article with a headline that read, "Yeh Hai Mohabbatein's Ishita and Raman return to the Star Parivaar Awards stage, and it means the world!!!"

According to Urban Asian, the Star Parivaar Awards 2025 were filmed on September 20 and will soon be aired on television. This year, on the 25th anniversary of the awards show, the producers have reportedly invited several legendary personalities and celebrities to attend. Divyanka Tripathi and Karan Patel reconciled at the event. The duo are expected to perform in the show, spreading the aura of their presence on-screen once again, almost six years after the show concluded.

### Divyanka Tripathi's Work Front

Divyanka Tripathi was last seen in a web series called *The Magic of Shiri*. Birsa Dasgupta directed the series, which starred Javed Jaaferi, Darshan Jariwala, Neelu Kohli, Parmeet Sethi, Nishank Verma, and Namit Das, as well as Divyanka Tripathi. The series launched on JioHotstar, the OTT powerhouse. The actress has yet to announce her next project.

## Kareena Kapoor Khan Meets Gulzar, Shares Photos With Legendary Lyricist



**Earlier on Thursday, Kareena also announced that she has begun shooting for Meghna Gulzar's directorial, titled Daayra.**

Kareena Kapoor Khan is on cloud nine as she recently met legendary lyricist Gulzar. On Thursday, the Bollywood diva took to her Instagram handle and dropped a series of photos in which she was seen meeting the lyricist. In the pictures, Gulzar was seen on the sets of Kareena Kapoor's upcoming movie, which is being directed by his daughter Meghna Gulzar. Sharing the photos, Kareena wrote, "One for the books Meeting Gulzar saab chalo for me sab kuch go gaya (Meeting Gulzar Sir is everything for me)". Check it out here:

It was earlier today when Kareena announced that she has begun shooting for Meghna Gulzar's directorial, titled *Daayra*. She took to social media to share the news, posting a behind-the-scenes video that offers a sneak peek into the team's preparations over the past few months. She revealed that it marks the first day of shooting for her 68th film and asked her fans for their love and blessings.

The video clip also included several glimpses of the team's prep for *Daayra*. Kareena was seen reading the script in one glimpse, while another shows Prithviraj Sukumaran in character, dressed in a police uniform. The video also showed veteran lyricist and poet Gulzar on the sets of *Daayra*, warmly interacting with Prithviraj and other team members. Sharing the video, Bebo wrote, "Day 1 68th film *Daayra* with the most amazing @meghagulzar and @therealprithvi ... Send love and blessings."

### About *Daayra*

*Daayra* taps into the pulse of the people as it confronts the topical and diabolical realities unfolding in society today. This crime-drama thriller explores the age-old paradox of crime, punishment, and justice with powerhouse actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in intense, commanding roles. *Daayra* marks Meghna's next directorial after *Sam Bahadur* (2023). Co-written by Yash and Sima alongside Meghna, the film promises a gritty and nuanced exploration of crime and punishment, justice, and truth.



# Fit enough to Cycle?

You must cycle to stay fit and be fit enough to keep cycling. Your route to a healthy ride... Step out of your homes early morning and you'll be pleasantly surprised by the number of cyclists on the roads. Clad in funky cycling gear, this is a mix of fitness enthusiasts, sportspersons preparing for a cycling expedition or just laymen cycling to work daily. They all have different reasons for resorting to the pedal - from challenging the smoking habit and fighting bad cholesterol to tackling diabetes, and of course, getting in shape. It's an excellent way to strengthen the body and calm the mind.

However, since cycling is strenuous, it can make you weak. Eating the right foods before, during and after your ride, helps to replace the fuel your body demands. If you are active for longer periods, it is important to consume carbohydrates, proteins and other nutrients that can be rapidly absorbed by hungry muscles.

**Kills Insomnia**  
Cycling is a complete exercise for the body, especially the legs. Just like any other sport or fitness regimen, it helps to improve muscle strength, decrease stress, build better posture and focus. It is a great fat killer and sleep propeller! Yes, cycling induces sleep like very

few other workouts can, and is therefore highly recommended for insomniacs.

It keeps your body responsive irrespective of age or gender too. Cycling isn't just meant for youngsters, it helps you in every age to keep the bones strong and the body in shape.

**Doctor's Permission**

A cyclist should be flexible, have good stamina, leg strength and should have done good cardio before getting into this sport. Legs and back are the biggest assets on a bike, so people with problems in these areas should secure a doctor's permission and a preparedness to take to the wheels. A strong core, active involvement in other forms of fitness like yoga, running, sprints, lifting heavy weights should help a person in getting actively involved in cycling. Once into the habit, the level of fitness can be easily attained if one gradually starts with 15 to 20 minutes and then moves to a longer duration and distance.

**Ideal Diet**

Carbohydrate is the high grade fuel for your muscles. Having lots of carbs is what lets you ride fast and far. The body is only able to store a relatively small amount of carbohydrate, which is why keeping it topped up is important. So hoard on whole meal breads, bananas and high-fibre cereals. Good fat is another important part of the diet including Omega3, Protein-rich meats and vegetables combined with whole grains will help to restore your muscles while keeping fat levels down. If you face a lengthy drive home following a long bike ride, be sure to have some protein bars and a recovery drink on hand to start the recovery process within the optimal time period.

**Raise The Game**

Following a disciplined lifestyle is a must for a daily cyclist. Alternating workouts help in building energy and stamina. Skipping is a great way to warm up. Crunches are a great workout for the core and can be performed indoors. One could alternate between picking

weights and other cardio-based sports, like running and dancing, including two days of stretches - yoga and meditation (instilling mindfulness). A good sleep and a well-rested body will ensure the body is energised and calm

enough to raise the fitness levels. Water burns fat while cycling, it helps in getting toxins out of the body and absorbs nutrients easily. This helps cyclists to optimise this sport and do long distances.



## 10-minute exercises for busy corporate employees

We all need to work out every single day.

While health experts prescribe 30 minutes of cardio, four times a week, if you have a crazy schedule and are hard-pressed for time, there's no need to lose out. Short burst fitness moves have been hailed every bit as effective. Here are ways to sneak exercise into your day and get recharged...

**Skiping:** All it takes is 10 minutes to get ship-shape with a jump rope, or skipping. It works on the core, arms and legs and experts say it can burn over 100 calories in a single 10-minute session, daily. Try this before your breakfast or cart a rope along to the office and do a short single-leg or double-leg session there. Use a rope that's your size and remember, this can place some stress on the ankles and knees so do a few ankle rotations before starting out. If you suffer from chronic knee pain, consult a doctor first. Benefit:

Reduces belly fat, builds endurance

**Stairwell walk/run:** Got no time for the gym? No sweat! Ditch the elevator and take the stairs. This is a great cardio workout and a calorie torcher too! Any aerobic activity lessens bad cholesterol, raises good cholesterol levels and boosts circulation, among things. And as the body uses effort to lift upwards, it helps engage more muscles, even tiny ones, in the leg. Did you know walking up 200 steps twice a day increases aerobic fitness levels by 17%? Try it today. Benefit: Increases circulation, cuts risk of heart attack by 25%

**Stability ball:** Several studies have been suggesting that you swap the office chair with a stability ball. It can repair bad posture because when you try and balance, the body is forced to automatically get into the correct one. This also engages the core and since you have to change your position often it does away with the damage

caused by a chair when you tend to sit long hours in the same slouched position. Remember to keep the back

straight when you try this one. Benefit: Alleviates back pain, builds the core TRX: The resistance band regimen is one of the best workouts to reduce aches and muscular tightness in the neck, shoulder and upper back that arises out of long hours of sitting. The band is a portable tool and can be set up anywhere. Place it under your feet and holding each handle, lift the arms up to shoulder level and slowly release them back to the start. Or do a lunge with the band under the feet, while you hold each handle.

What happens is the stretching that ensues increases blood flow and oxygen to your muscles and lessens pain, which in turn also reduces headaches. Benefit: Headache and stress reliever In-office cycling: More corporates in the West are opening up to the idea of a 'cycle-in office' where you pedal push your way around the premises a la the movie, The Intern. As per a report, London is set to open such an office. Though it needs space, we hope it happens back home, too! If not, you can always cycle to work. The low-impact exercise can help ward off obesity, stroke and arthritis and builds muscle tone.

## Home remedies to deal with acidity

- Eat an overripe banana to beat an especially bad bout of acidity.
- Have cold milk without any additives like sugar.

-If you frequently suffer from acidity, drink a glass of lukewarm water every day before going to sleep and immediately after waking up in the morning.

-Eat an overripe banana to beat an especially bad bout of acidity, as they tend to contain more potassium which makes it the perfect antidote.

-Have cold milk without any additives like sugar. You could mix it with a spoon of ghee to make the remedy

even more effective.

-Boil one cup of water and add 1 tsp of aniseed (saunf). Cover and leave overnight. Strain the water in the morning and add 1 tsp of honey. Take this thrice a day to prevent acidity.



## 5 golden benefits of waking up early



"The early morning has gold in its mouth," said Benjamin Franklin. The analogy by Franklin is by no means long drawn because getting up before the sun has many perks. Following is a list of reasons which will convince you to set your alarm for 6 a.m. tomorrow.

**More productivity**

Getting up early gives you a kick start for the day ahead. Besides allowing you more hours for your work, it also boosts your speed. Studies have suggested that when a person gets up early, he is more energetic and takes lesser time to do a task that would take more time otherwise. He is also more adept in taking better decisions, planning and

achieving goals.

**Mental fitness**

One very significant benefit of waking up early is reduced stress level. When you rise early, it eliminates the need to rush in the morning. You can then start your day on an optimistic note and such positivity often stays with you throughout the day.

**Better sleep quality**

Early risers often go to bed early. Getting up early is not something that should be followed irregularly but it needs to be established as a routine in your life. This translates into better sleep quality as your body's internal clock adapts to your new sleep routine.

**Bigger scores**

A research conducted by Texas University has identified that students who were early risers scored better grades than those who were late to rise. Their GPAs were higher than the latter. One can link it to an enhanced productivity and quality of sleep.

**Brighter world**

Getting up early instils you with positivity. A research has suggested that people who got up early were happier, not just for a short duration but overall in life.