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Punjab Under Water: 1,300 Villages Submerged, Trump Targets India

The Sikh Times
Gurcharan Singh
Babbar

Chandigarh/New Delhi, August 31 – Punjab is facing one of the worst natural disasters in recent history, as nearly 1,300 villages across the state have been submerged under floodwaters. Torrential rains and swollen rivers have inundated vast tracts of farmland, turning fields into lakes and homes into ruins.

According to ground reports, floodwaters have risen to 6–8 feet in several villages, leaving entire communities stranded. Hundreds of cattle have drowned, while many others have been swept across the border into Pakistan. Farmers – the backbone of Punjab's agrarian economy – have been devastated, with crops worth thousands of crores of rupees destroyed under sheets of water. Families have lost

homes, belongings, and livelihoods overnight, as despair spreads across the state.

This is not just a flood – it is a tragedy of unimaginable scale," observers say. "Punjab's farmers have been left ruined. Renowned philanthropist and social worker Dr. S.P. Singh Oberoi sounded the alarm on social media, painting a grim picture of Punjab's current condition. He has already donated a substantial personal amount for relief and has appealed to Sikhs across the world to unite in helping their brothers and sisters back home.

"Punjab's farmers are on the verge of collapse. This is the time for Sikhs in India and abroad to stand together and extend every possible support," Dr. Oberoi declared. Sikh organizations and jathebandis have urgently appealed to the Central Government to step in with immediate assistance. They have demanded swift relief



packages, rehabilitation measures, and long-term planning to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe.

In an unexpected twist, U.S. President Donald Trump has issued a highly controversial statement, accusing India of "intentionally sending water into Pakistan" via the Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers. Trump alleged that this action has left large parts of Pakistan submerged, caus-



ing massive destruction of homes and livelihoods.

Declaring support for Pakistan, Trump vowed to "stand with Islamabad" and even appealed to other nations to extend aid to Pakistan. His remarks have since gone viral on social media. Indian experts and officials have strongly dismissed Trump's allegations as "baseless and politically motivated." They emphasized that the floods devas-

tating both Punjab and Pakistan are purely the result of natural forces – excessive rainfall and overflowing rivers – with no human conspiracy behind them. What has raised eyebrows in India is Trump's silence on Punjab's suffering. Despite half of Punjab being submerged, he chose not to acknowledge the crisis in India, focusing solely on Pakistan. Analysts see this as a calculated political move aimed at discrediting India and undermining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership on the global stage. The tragedy in Punjab has sparked deep anxiety among Sikhs worldwide. From Canada to the U.K., from the U.S. to Australia, diaspora communities are expressing solidarity and planning relief efforts. Sikh leaders say that the disaster must not be politicized and that urgent humanitarian assistance is the need of the hour.

Continued news page 2

GST Refunds to be Settled Before Diwali for Traders: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 31 August The Delhi Government has taken a significant step to make this Diwali brighter and more prosperous for the traders of the capital. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that nearly Rs 1,600 crore in GST refunds, pending since 2019, will be released before Diwali, enabling traders to celebrate the festival with greater joy and prosperity. On this matter, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta convened a special meeting of the Department of Trade and Taxes (GST) at her camp office 'Chief

Minister Jan Seva Sadan'. The meeting was attended by GST Commissioner Ms Nandini Paliwal, Finance Secretary Mr Shurveer



Singh, and other senior officials of the department. A key decision in the interest of Delhi's trading community was taken during this meeting. The Chief Minister stated that the previous government had

failed to take any concrete measures towards the settlement of this long-pending amount. Taking serious note of the issue, she issued clear directions that the entire refund be disbursed to traders before Diwali. She further informed that, to make the refund process faster and more transparent, the Delhi GST Department, in collaboration with IIT-Hyderabad, has developed an advanced IT module. This system, based on data analytics, data automation, and expedited verification, will ensure quicker settlement of refund applications, providing timely relief to traders.

Continued news page 2

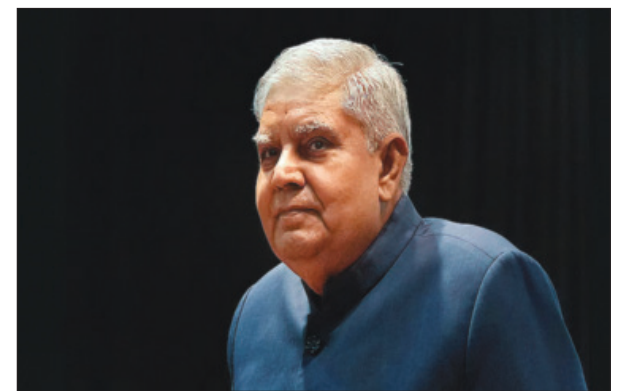
Dhankhar seeks Rajasthan MLA pension after VP resignation

Jaipur.(Agency)

Barely a month after resigning as Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar has applied for a pension as a former member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

Dhankhar, who represented the Kishangarh constituency in Ajmer district from 1993 to 1998 as a Congress MLA, has submitted his request to the Rajasthan Assembly Secretariat in Jaipur.

If approved, he will receive a monthly pension of ₹42,000, along with other benefits available to former legislators in the state. At 74, he joined the BJP in 2003 and had been



receiving the MLA pension until 2019 when he was appointed Governor of West Bengal. After stepping down as Vice President in July citing health reasons, Dhankhar has largely stayed out of the

public eye. Opposition questioned his resignation, but home minister Amit Shah said it was due to health reasons. Dhankhar's political journey spans decades, and his pension application is under review.

Adhir Ranjan Targets Mamata Banerjee For Skipping Voter Adhikar Yatra, Trinamool Congress Responds

New Delhi.(Agency)

A slugfest has begun between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Congress over TMC sending a delegation to Bihar to represent Mamata Banerjee's party at Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra.' Congress veteran leader and former MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury criticised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for sending two

party leaders instead of attending herself.

On Saturday, while addressing a programme in Kolkata, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said Mamata skipped the Bihar visit because she does not want to "pale" in comparison to Rahul Gandhi.

"Hindus, Muslims, Dalit have their voting rights. And Rahul Gandhi is fighting for the protection of everyone's voting

rights. When Modi is trying



to thwart that fight, when all the opposition leaders of the country are present

there to fight, the Bengal Chief Minister does not want to go, because she will pale in comparison to Rahul Gandhi. Which is why she will not go," Chowdhury said.

Yusuf Pathan and Lalitesh Tripathi will represent the Trinamool Congress at the concluding leg of the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar on September 1. Reacting to Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's

remarks, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said, "It is our decision who will represent the party in the Bihar programme, which already has the support of Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee. That is why they are sending two of their leaders as representatives. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is feeling pain because Baharampur MP Yusuf Pathan is in the delegation. He defeated.

Rahul Gandhi On Dais, Tejashwi Yadav Hints He's Bihar Chief Minister Face

Patna.(Agency)

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)'s Tejashwi Yadav has dropped a big hint over the chief ministerial face of the Opposition alliance in Bihar. In a jibe at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Mr Yadav alluded that he is the face of the Opposition. His remarks came in the presence of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, during the last leg of the Congress's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' yesterday. "This is a copycat government. We need an original CM, not a duplicate one," Tejashwi Yadav said at a rally in Ara, targeting Mr Kumar. He then turned to the crowd, asking, "Is it not a copycat government? Isn't it copying me? Tejashwi is ahead; the government is behind. Do you want a duplicate CM or an original CM?"

He also called the yatra a "historic journey" that has got the support of lakhs of people and slammed the BJP over "vote theft" charges.

"The BJP is scared. That's why they want to implement Tejashwi's vision, but there is still a lot left that we will tell after the notification comes that what all we will implement in Bihar. Everyone in Bihar is saying that we want a real CM, not a duplicate CM," he said. Mr Yadav, the son of two former chief ministers, is the scion tasked with carrying forward Lalu Yadav's legacy, who had managed to make the RJD the largest party in the assembly in the 2020 elections. He had even become a deputy to Nitish Kumar briefly, which marked one of the JDU leader's flip-flops.

The 2025 elections will be crucial for the Mahagathbandhan, the Opposition's grand alliance comprising the Congress and RJD, as it will try to dethrone Mr Kumar, who has managed to hold on to the top post since 2015 and is the likely NDA choice this time as well.

The RJD has already endorsed its leader, Mr Yadav, as the Chief Ministerial candidate, while political analysts suggest that Congress, even if reluctant, might give in to the RJD decision, being a junior partner in the alliance and lacking the vote share to go solo. The Congress, so far, has appeared undecided on the call. Mr Gandhi had last week side-stepped a question on if it would endorse Mr Yadav as the chief ministerial face. "All INDIA bloc partners are working together in a spirit of mutual respect, without any tension.



Others should learn: Samajwadi MP Afzal Ansari praises RSS chief's call for unity

New Delhi.(Agency)

Samajwadi Party MP Afzal Ansari openly praised Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat while taking digs at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Speaking in Gazipur after a review meeting on the district's power supply, Ansari welcomed Bhagwat's recent remarks on unity and brotherhood. "Mohan Bhagwat said that the country needs unity and brotherhood, and the business of hatred should stop. This is welcome, and I appreciate him. Other religious leaders should also take a lesson," Ansari said. He further added, "There is no bigger

organisation in the world representing Hinduism than the RSS. If its chief says that looking for a Shivling in every temple and shrine will weaken the country, then this statement should be taken seriously. I welcome his words, and others should also welcome his positive message."

The SP MP stressed that Islam has been an integral part of India for centuries, a fact acknowledged by Bhagwat. "Islam is not a new religion, it has been in India for a very long time, and Mohan Bhagwat has made this truth clear," he said. However, the tone quickly shifted to politics when Ansari targeted the prime minister and the



Uttar Pradesh chief minister over their personal lives. "The master sitting in Delhi has no family, and the one sitting in Uttar Pradesh also has no family," he said. At this point, SP MLA Jai Kishan Sahu, seated next to Ansari, quipped that "they are trying." Ansari instantly retorted, "I am talking about a licenced family, not an unlicensed one. It is their misfortune that the

Almighty did not bless them with children." Ansari went on to say that Modi and Yogi were "without family," even referring to Chanakya to sharpen his jibe, while recounting his own seven generations. On the political front, Ansari endorsed RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial face in Bihar. Praising SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's "Awadh and Magadh" statement, he said, "There is no doubt that Tejashwi will be the Chief Minister in Bihar this time." When asked why Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's name was not mentioned, Ansari remarked, "Let it be.

"From Tomorrow, Will Stop...": Manoj Jarange's Threat Over Maratha Quota Demand

New Delhi.(Agency)

Activist Manoj Jarange on Sunday asserted he will not leave Mumbai until his demand for reservation to the Maratha community is met, as his hunger strike entered the third day.

He also claimed his demand was constitutionally valid and that the government has records showing Kunbis and Marathas are the same caste.

A large number of agitators were present at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) impacting traffic in the area and nearby junctions, according to police.

"As the Agitation at

Azad Maidan still continues, agitators are present at CSMT Junction Impacting traffic in the area and near by junctions. Motorist are advised to avoid these route and take alternate route to reach their destination," the Mumbai Traffic Police said on their X handle.

Jarange said people from the Maratha community have come to Mumbai to participate in the agitation with a lot of pain in their hearts and urged Maharashtra government not to consider them as a "crowd". The 43-year-old activist has been staging an indefinite hunger strike at the Azad Maidan in south

Mumbai from Friday to press for the reservation.

He has been demanding a 10 per cent quota for



Marathas and wants them to be recognised as Kunbis -- an agrarian caste included in the Other Backward Classes category -- which will make them eligible for

reservation in government jobs and education, though OBC leaders are opposed to it.

"From tomorrow, I will stop taking water as the government is not accepting the demands. But I am not going back till the quota demand is met.

We will get Marathas reservation under the OBC category no matter what," Jarange asserted.

"Our demand is constitutionally valid. The government has records of 58 lakh Marathas as Kunbis. Marathas will come to Mumbai (for the agitation) as and when they get time," he said.

India, China eye reset as PM Modi holds talks with Xi Jinping in Tianjin

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for bilateral talks Sunday in the port city of Tianjin, as India and China look to reset strained ties amid Donald Trump's tariff offensive that has soured Washington's ties with both New Delhi and Beijing.

The 40-minute closed-door meeting comes on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. PM Modi is also scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin, the first huddle between the two

President will hold two bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SCO summit. The next day, he will sit down for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

For Modi, the spectacle of him standing alongside Xi and Putin at the summit will send a pointed message to Trump.

Especially since in recent weeks, Trump and his officials have intensified their attacks on India over its purchase of Russian oil amid the war in Ukraine. White House adviser Peter Navarro went as far as to claim that the Ukraine conflict was essen-



leaders since the US doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent over New Delhi's refusal to stop buying Russian oil.

Seven years have passed since PM Modi last set foot in China. His last trip, to Wuhan in 2018, followed the tense Doklam standoff. This time, the focus is on economic and strategic alignment as the two Asian powers navigate the turbulence caused by the US President's tariff barrage. On Sunday, PM Modi and the Chinese

tially "Modi's war". **INDIA, CHINA HIT RESET BUTTON**

However, the focus will remain on the outcome of the talks between Modi and Xi.

Last October, PM Modi and Xi broke the ice with their meeting in Kazan, Russia, after avoiding each other for years, even at multilateral forums. The meeting came after India and China agreed to disengage in the remaining two friction points along the LAC.

Chaos at Ghaziabad's Morta pump as 30 vehicles' engines stop after refuelling

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Around 30 vehicle owners have submitted a police complaint after their cars broke down allegedly within hours of refuelling at a fuel station in Morta between Aug 26 and 29. On Saturday, angry customers gathered at a Bajaj HP filling station near pillar number 609 after their cars, some of them high-end models such as Kia Sonet, Kia Seltos, Scorpio, Innova, and Fortuner, developed engine snags. They accused the outlet of selling adulterated diesel and claimed the alleged impurities in diesel may cost dozens of car owners heavily, with estimates suggesting repair bills of up to Rs 3.5 lakh per vehicle.

Sachin Tyagi, whose Kia Sonet broke down, said the problem surfaced immediately after refuelling. "I had filled my tank on Aug 26 and drove towards Raj Nagar Extension, but the car would not cross 40 kmph. The next day, it refused to start. At the showroom, I was told impurities in diesel had choked the fuel system and repairs would cost me Rs 3.5 lakh," he said, adding the 45 litres of diesel had cost him Rs 3,951, with the current price at Rs 87.8 per litre. Another motorist, Mohit Tyagi, faced similar trouble with his Kia Seltos. "My driver was headed



to Haldwani after refuelling the car at the Morta pump, but the car broke down midway. It has to be towed back now," he said. For Shuvam Tyagi, the setback was doubled. "Both my Scorpio SUVs are lying at the showroom. One broke down the morning after refuelling, so I used my second vehicle. After refuelling, it also suffered the same fate," he said. By Thursday, at least 29 affected car owners had come together to stage a protest.

"All of us had refuelled at the same station between Aug 26 and 29. The manager refused to accept responsibility, so we called the police. We will also move the consumer forum," one of the protesters said. Residents said hundreds of cars and trucks

had refuelled at the station during the period, raising fears that the scale of damage may be wider than currently reported.

Mechanics at authorised service centres confirmed that impurities in the fuel had damaged engines. A Mahindra showroom mechanic told TOI, "The fuel filters were completely clogged and injectors ruined. Depending on the model, repairs could range between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh."

"Abhishek, the manager of the Bajaj HP station, acknowledged receiving complaints but stopped short of admitting fault. "We have sent diesel samples for testing. Until the results are in, I cannot comment," he said. Automobile

experts said contaminated diesel can severely damage filters and injectors, often leading to expensive replacements. Even small

Ghaziabad. (Agency) debris in the fuel can choke injectors and harm pumps. And in such cases, timely replacement of filters is critical, they said.

Ghaziabad has 300 more hectares where illegal colonies may come up

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

The city is witnessing a troubling trend as non-conforming land use has expanded by 301 hectares in the latest Master Plan 2031. This significant increase signals a surge in unplanned development, which could possibly fuel the proliferation of illegal colonies. Non-conforming land refers to areas where the designated use is not clearly defined under city planning norms. Unlike residential, commercial, industrial, or green zones — each governed by specific regulations — non-conforming land lacks such guidelines, making it susceptible to unauthorised construction and haphazard growth.

"A defined land use of a city is essential for its planned growth and is

broadly subdivided into categories such as residential, commercial, mixed, industrial, office, green, and transport. The norms such as construction, FAR, and covered area differ in each land use. But for non-conforming plots, the land use is not defined, and practically no such norms as in other land use parcels could be put into effect. This is one of the major reasons that leads to a rise in the number of illegal colonies," said Asheesh Shivpuri, former town planner of Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA). According to the Master Plan 2031, the city now has 1,391 hectares classified as non-conforming land, up from 1,090 hectares in the previous plan for 2021. This now accounts for about 4% of the total land under the master plan.

Front continued news

GST Refunds to be Settled Before Diwali for Traders: CM Rekha Gupta

Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta instructed officials to ensure that all pending, undisputed, and genuine refund applications are processed strictly in accordance with the relevant rules, and that the task be completed on a priority basis.

She remarked that timely refunds would ensure adequate liquidity for traders, reduce their litigation costs, and collectively accelerate Delhi's economic growth.

The Chief Minister further reiterated that strengthening Ease of Doing Business for traders is a top priority of the government. She assured that her administration fully understands the needs and challenges of the trading community and is continuously making concrete and effective efforts to protect and promote their interests. She added that, as part of this effort, the government has also established a Traders' Welfare Board. Notably, this Board includes appropriate representation from Delhi's traders themselves, ensuring that their issues and concerns are addressed in the truest sense.

Punjab Under Water: 1,300 Villages Submerged, Trump Targets India

The Road Ahead

- ❖ 1,300 villages submerged in Punjab.
- ❖ 6-8 feet of water in residential areas.
- ❖ Thousands of cattle drowned or washed into Pakistan.
- ❖ Crops worth thousands of crores destroyed.
- ❖ Homes and livelihoods lost across rural Punjab.

Punjab is crying out for urgent attention. While global politics plays out, the people of Punjab wait for relief and rehabilitation. The disaster has once again reminded the nation of the vulnerability of its farming heartland and of the need for unity, compassion, and swift government action.

Haryana clears Rs90cr to process legacy waste at Bandhwari

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The directorate of urban local bodies has granted administrative approval for a new tender to process 14 lakh tonnes of legacy waste at the Bandhwari landfill. The Rs 89.9-crore project, to be executed by MCG, aims at the long-overdue remediation and reclamation of the site. The ULB has issued strict instructions to MCG, instructing officials to ensure that refuse-derived fuel (RDF) generated during the process is used in industries as a substitute for conventional fuel, in accordance with CPCB and SPCB guidelines. Moreover, officials must secure declarations from the executive officer or secretary concerned, confirming that no processed waste fractions from Bandhwari landfill are dumped 'unscientifically' within or outside municipal limits. According to the approval



letter issued to the MCG recently, the move has been approved by chief minister Nayab Singh Saini. It directs MCG to ensure strict compliance with waste management rules and National Green Tribunal directives. In the letter, the ULB mentioned that the payments to the agencies will be made only based on the quantity of outcome fractions after processing. The ULB also clarified that if an integrated solid waste management project

under the public-private partnership (PPP) model is implemented in Gurgaon, responsibility for handling the remaining legacy waste will be shifted to the concessionaire. Payments to agencies, the ULB mentioned in the letter, will be made only based on the quantity of outcome fractions after processing. "We have now received the approval and will soon float the tender so that the process can be completed to get the agencies and commence the work of legacy waste

treatment," said an MCG official privy to the matter. The bidders awarded the work will be responsible for clearing the site in its entirety, even if the waste exceeds the projected 14 lakh MT, without additional payment. "The work should be completed within the time period given by Hon'ble NGT..."

If it is found that there is any deficiency/deviation in the RFP floated by MC and found any laxity/negligence during the technical evaluation and bids at any stage, then the competent authority of MC shall be fully responsible for the same," read the approval issued on Aug 27. The MCG recently terminated the contract of two agencies earlier given the contract to process 14 lakh MT of waste due to their slow pace. Despite repeated directives, MCG missed deadlines for clearing legacy waste from Bandhwari.

Gurgaon encounter: Notorious shooter of Rohit Godara gang held by STF after gunfight

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A notorious shooter and member of the US-based gangster Rohit Godara gang was apprehended on Sunday morning following an encounter with the STF, Gurgaon. The victim suffered a bullet near his right knee. Total of four bullets were fired at the spot around 2am. The accused, also identified as Rohit, with a reward of Rs25,000, is a resident of Bharaf Village, Mahendragarh.

Acting on credible information received by Inspector Narender Chauhan, in charge of STF Unit Gurgaon, the STF team established a naka near Baliyawas Village on the Faridabad-Gurgaon road.

Rohit was intercepted while planning a major crime in Gurgaon. Upon interception, the accused opened fire at the cops. The cops fired in retaliation. After a brief exchange of fire, the accused was apprehended. During the operation, Rohit sustained bullet injuries. The injured accused was taken to General Hospital here and subsequently referred to PGIMS Rohtak.

Leopard killed in hit & run on Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, 7th on stretch since 2015

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A two-and-a-half-year-old female leopard was killed in a hit and run on Gurgaon-Faridabad Road early on Saturday, renewing concerns over increasing fatalities of big cats along this vital wildlife corridor. The incident, according to forest officials, occurred near Mangar around 4.30am. The carcass was sent to Sohna wildlife centre for necropsy. The stretch — connecting Asola and Mangar — has been notorious for man-animal conflicts. Since 2015, seven leopards have died in road crashes in the Gurgaon Aravali region, underscoring the urgent need for better protection. Subhash Yadav, chief conservator (wildlife) in south Haryana, said he would recommend constructing underpasses to the state govt to help reduce such accidents.

"This road has become a death trap for leopards. We have a few core areas for leopards in south Haryana. One

of them is from Asola to Mangar, another is the Manesar zone near the NSG campus. We will barricade these roads to stop wildlife from venturing onto them," he said. Preliminary investigation suggests the leopard died from a head injury, likely caused by the high-speed collision with a heavy vehicle. "We will be able to determine the exact cause of death only after the autopsy report is ready," said Ramkumar Jangra, the divisional forest officer.

The pattern of fatalities is familiar. In March 2023, a leopard carcass was found in Bandhwari village off the same road. In June 2021, a two-year-old female leopard died after being hit by a vehicle on Pali Chowk in Faridabad. Oct 2019 saw a one-and-a-half-year-old leopard crushed to death on Pali Road, and in Jan that year, a female leopard was killed in another road accident. The list stretches back over a decade, with similar incidents reported

in 2015, 2014, 2009, and even 2008. Wildlife activists have long called for urgent measures to reduce such man-animal conflict. In 2023, three unused stormwater drains were converted into wildlife underpasses on the Gurgaon-Manesar highway, aiming to create safer passages for animals. A similar effort was made on the Gurgaon-Faridabad Road, but the lack of barricades and the low height of these underpasses meant leopards and other animals continued to cross high-speed roads, often with fatal consequences. "Between 2010 and 2019, road and railway accidents claimed nearly 280% more leopards across the country. A total of 73 died on roads and 10 on railway tracks in 2019 alone — the highest in a decade," said Vaishali Rana, a Gurgaon-based environmentalist. "Speed control measures and speed breakers along the stretch can save animal lives."

Leaking customer data & more: How bankers helped cyber gangs; 42 arrested

GURGAON. (Agency)

The arrests of 42 bank employees in cybercrime cases over the past year have helped the city cops map out the multiple ways in which fraudsters find their targets and manage to evade scrutiny. Police said bank staffers involved in the scam often leaked data of their customers, alerted fraudsters if cops came looking, and let suspicious transactions go through without flagging it to their colleagues or the authorities. The frauds were orchestrated at a wide level — the arrested bankers were anything from clerks to assistant managers. They were from both govt and private banks. In a recent case on Aug 23, the city police busted a bogus call centre, where they arrested six persons. The team — led by ACP Priyanshu Dewan — seized mobile phones of the accused. One of the devices contained screenshots with details of credit card holders from a prominent private bank in the country. The screenshots also had customers' names, credit card numbers and contact numbers. "The accused had information about 1,000 credit account holders. They only targeted credit card holders, and not the debit card holders, in this case. However, we are yet



to ascertain the cause for this," an officer said. The accused told interrogators that their "handlers" shared lists of bank customers for the fraudsters to target. "They were even given a script for calling a target," ACP Dewan told TOI. "It is shocking how financial institutes are helping cyber fraudsters by sharing private details of their customers. Customers have a lot of trust in these banks that their money would be safe and their privacy would be maintained. These criminals need data to commit fraud, which — unfortunately — is easily available to them because of few staffers," he added. Another senior police officer said it was ironic that customers who approach banks to report a fraud and freeze any transactions are often redirected to the cybercrime helpline or to police. In another case of a retired IAS officer losing Rs 53 lakh after being "digitally arrested" for two days last

month, three suspects were arrested from Vadodra in Gujarat. One of the accused was a bank staffer — Sangram Singh (33) — who allegedly assured cyber fraudsters of help in withdrawing money from a mule account without any complications. "Sangram allegedly told another accused that he was aware of a nexus operating from Dubai and that he knew how to tackle such cases," an officer said. In return for helping the fraudsters, he allegedly took a share of Rs 7 lakh, which he said was to pay back a loan. A third police officer said that in some cases, they found that bank officials did not freeze accounts immediately despite being told to. Cops suspect the employees alerted fraudsters to withdraw the money before the accounts were blocked. "After noticing such a trend, we emphasised and asked banks to deploy a team of two persons who will be responsible for freezing the suspected accounts within two minutes of being informed by police. This has increased the freezing of accounts by 26% in Gurgaon," the officer said. Last Thursday, ACP Dewan agreed that bank staffers working in cahoots with cyber fraudsters was "a major threat." "We will soon interrogate bank officers in this regard."

Registration of pet dogs a must, MCG reminds owners

Gurgaon. (Agency)

MCG has issued fresh directives to RWAs in the city, reminding pet owners that registration of all pet dogs is mandatory under the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, and the Registration and Proper Control of Dogs Bylaws, 2008. In a circular issued on Saturday, Ashish Singla, chief medical officer (CMO), MCG, noted that many residents were keeping dogs without registering them or obtaining a necessary licence. MCG has already engaged a private agency to facilitate doorstep registration of pet dogs across areas under the civic body. Officials told TOI that more than 3,000 pet dogs have been registered so far.

However, the municipality is still processing the data and official figures will soon be released. The CMO, in the circular, reminded pet owners that they must comply with guidelines issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) as well as provisions of the HMC Act. These include keeping



dogs on a leash while in public spaces, carrying pet waste bags, and following the muzzle guidelines prescribed by AWBI when taking pets outdoors.

RWAs have been asked to ensure that all pet owners cooperate with the registration drive. MCG has made it clear that adherence to these regulations is essential for responsible pet ownership within city limits.

In Nov 2023, the civic body introduced the pet dog registration at the doorstep, following which 2,200 registrations were made in FY 2024-2025 and 1,100 registrations have been made so far in the current FY.

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Israel soon will halt or slow aid to northern Gaza as military offensive grows

JERUSALEM.(Agency)
Israel will soon halt or slow humanitarian aid into parts of northern Gaza as it expands its military offensive against Hamas, an official said Saturday, a day after Gaza City was declared a combat zone.The decision was likely to bring more condemnation of Israel's government as frustration grows in the country and abroad over dire conditions for both Palestinians and remaining hostages in Gaza after nearly 23 months of war.The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, told The Associated Press that Israel will stop airdrops over Gaza City in the coming days and reduce the number of aid trucks arriving as it prepares to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people south.
Israel on Friday ended daytime pauses in fighting to allow aid delivery, describing Gaza City as a Hamas stronghold and alleging that a tunnel network remains in use. The United Nations and partners have said the pauses, airdrops and other recent measures fell far short of the 600 trucks of aid needed daily in Gaza.“We left because the area became unlivable,” Fadi Al-Daour, displaced from Gaza City, said as vehicles piled high with people and belongings



rolled through a shattered landscape. “No one is searching, and there are no journalists to film. There is nothing.”Remains of another hostage are identified
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced that the remains of a hostage that Israel on Friday said had been recovered in Gaza were of Idan Shtivi. He was kidnapped from the Nova music festival in the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that sparked the war.
Forty-eight hostages now remain in Gaza of the over 250 seized. Israel has believed 20 are still alive.Their loved ones fear the expanding military offensive will put them in even more danger, and they rallied again Saturday to demand a ceasefire deal to bring everyone home.
“Netanyahu, if another living hostage comes back in a bag, it will not only be the hostages and their families who pay the price. You will bear responsibility for premeditated

murder,” Zahiro Shahar Mor, nephew of hostage Avraham Munder, said in Tel Aviv.
A ‘massive population movement’ comingIn recent days, Israel’s military has increased strikes on the outskirts of Gaza City, where famine was recently documented and declared by global food security experts.
By Saturday there had been no airdrops for several days across Gaza, a break from almost daily ones.
Israel’s army didn’t respond to a request for comment or say how it would provide aid to Palestinians during another major shift in Gaza’s population of over 2 million people.“Such an evacuation would trigger a massive population movement that no area in the Gaza Strip can absorb, given the widespread destruction of

civilian infrastructure and the extreme shortages of food, water, shelter and medical care,” Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said in a statement.It’s impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City can be done in a safe and dignified way, she said.
Killed while seeking foodAP video footage showed several large explosions across Gaza overnight. Israel’s military Saturday evening said it had struck a key Hamas member in the area of Gaza City, with no details.

Hamas Confirms Death Of Its Chief Mohammed Sinwar Months After Israel Said It Killed Him

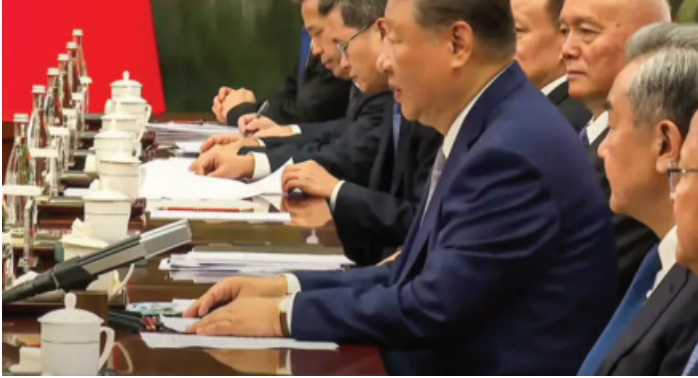


CAIRO .(Agency)
The Palestinian group Hamas confirmed on Saturday the death of its Gaza military chief, Mohammad Sinwar, a few months after Israel said it

Sinwar was the younger brother of Yahya Sinwar, the Islamist faction's chief, who co-masterminded the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, and whom Israel had killed in combat a year later.
He was elevated to the top ranks of the group after the death of his brother.His confirmed death would leave his close associate Izz al-Din Haddad, who currently oversees operations in northern Gaza, in charge of Hamas' armed wing across the whole of the enclave.

"Right Choice For India, China To Be Friends": Xi Jinping On Meeting PM Modi

World. (Agency)
Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his opening remarks during the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said it is the "right choice" for India and China to be "friends". Calling the two countries "ancient civilisations" in the East, Xi Jinping welcomed PM Modi to China and recalled their last meeting in Russia's Kazan. LIVE UPDATES
The two leaders had met last in October 2024 during the BRICS Summit in Russia.
"It is a great pleasure to meet you again, Mr Prime Minister. I welcome you to China for the SCO summit. Last year, we had a successful meeting in Kazan. We are the world's two most populous countries, and we are also important members of the Global South. We both shoulder the historical responsibility of improving the well-being of our two peoples, promoting the



solidarity and rejuvenation of developing countries, and promoting the progress of human society. It is the right choice for both countries to be friends who have good neighbourly and amicable ties, partners who enable each other's success, and to have the dragon and the elephant come together," Xi Jinping said.
He further highlighted that this year marks the 75th anniversary of China-India diplomatic relations."Both nations need to handle our

relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective. We must also step up to our historic responsibilities to uphold multilateralism, a multipolar world, and more democracy in international institutions and work together for peace and prosperity in Asia and around the world," he said.PM Modi and Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting for over 50 minutes amid the tariffs imposed by the US and China's own unstable ties with the US. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tianjin - which will be held for two days, starting today. This is PM Modi's first visit to China in seven years, especially after the Galwan Valley clash.
In his opening remarks, PM Modi said he is "committed" to taking India-China relations "forward based on mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity". "Last year in Kazan, we had very fruitful discussions, which gave a positive direction to our relations. After the disengagement on the border, an atmosphere of peace and stability has been created," he said.
The Prime Minister also spoke about the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and direct flights between the two countries."The interests of 2.8 billion people of both countries are linked to our cooperation. This will also pave the way for the welfare of the entire humanity," he said.

CAIRO.(Agency)
An Israeli airstrike killed the prime minister of the Houthi rebel-controlled government in Yemen's capital Sanaa, the Houthis said Saturday. He was the most senior Houthi official killed in the Israeli-US campaign against the Iranian-backed rebels.Ahmed al-Rahawi was killed in Thursday's strike in Sanaa along with a number of ministers, the rebels said in a statement. Other ministers and officials were wounded, the statement added without providing details.
The premier was targeted along with other members of his Houthi-controlled government during a "routine workshop held by the government to evaluate its activities and performance over the past year," the Houthi statement said.Thursday's strike took place as the rebel-owned television station was broadcasting a speech by Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the secretive

'Winds of change': Iran at the brink of regime collapse; think tank warns of civil war

world. (Agency)
Iran may be on the verge of regime collapse, according to a new report by the UK-based Henry Jackson Society, which warns that such a fall could trigger civil war and a dangerous power vacuum.
“There is a danger that regime collapse could lead to a vacuum of governance that is accompanied by civil war,” the report said.
“This is an outcome that must be avoided at all costs for



the Iranian people, and every step must therefore be made to ensure that any transition is quick and painless,” it added.
The report said that the “winds of change” are gathering around the Islamic Republic, even as the United Nations accuses Tehran of executing nearly 900 people this year as a “tool of intimidation.”The

report said that the Ayatollah Khamenei’s regime is deeply tied to the legacy of the Islamic Revolution and accused it of committing to “reconstituting its nuclear program and exporting terrorism both regionally and internationally,” making it an ongoing danger to the West.The report further said that the targeted attacks by Israel and the US in June on Iranian nuclear sites “set back the regime, but it has not eliminated the strategic and security threats posed by the regime.”If Iran rebuilds its air defences, long-range missiles, missile launchers, or progresses in developing further enriched uranium for its nuclear program, both Israel and the US should contemplate conducting military strikes on a wide array of Iranian regime assets, the report said.The report advised Israel to uphold its air supremacy, which provides it operational freedom over Iran. It advised that Israel must move beyond simply targeting nuclear facilities and instead recognise that the regime itself is the core driver of Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Israeli airstrike kills Houthi rebel prime minister in Yemeni capital Sanaa



CAIRO. (Agency)
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The premier was targeted along with other members of his Houthi-controlled government during a “routine workshop held by the government to evaluate its activities and performance over the past year,” the Houthi statement

said.Thursday’s Israeli strike took place as the rebel-owned television station was broadcasting a speech by Abdul Malik al-Houthi, the secretive leader of the rebel group in which he was sharing updates on the latest Gaza developments and vowing retaliation against Israel. Senior Houthi officials used to gather to watch al-Houthi’s prerecorded speeches.Al-Rahawi wasn’t part of the inner circle around Abdul Malik al-Houthi that runs the military and strategic affairs of the group. His government, like the previous ones, was tasked with running the day-to-day civilian affairs in Sanaa and other Houthi-held areas.
The strike that killed the prime minister targeted a meeting for Houthi leaders in a villa in Beit Baws, an ancient village in southern Sanaa, three

tribal leaders told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared repercussions.On Thursday, the Israeli military said that it “precisely struck a Houthi terrorist regime military target in the area of Sanaa in Yemen.”
The military had no immediate comment on Saturday’s announcement of the prime minister’s killing.“Yemen endures a lot for the victory of the Palestinian people,” al-Rahawi said following an Israeli strike last week that struck an oil facility owned by the country’s main oil company, which is controlled by the rebels in Sanaa as well as a power plant.The Aug. 24 strike came three days after the Houthis launched a ballistic missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the rebels had launched at it since 2023.
The prime minister hailed from the southern province of Abyan, and was an ally to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.
He allied himself with the Houthis when the rebels overran Sanaa, and much of the north and center of the country in 2014, initiating the country's long-running civil war. He was appointed as prime minister in August 2024.

ChatGPT Made Him Do It Deluded By AI, US Man Kills Mother And Self

world. (Agency)
A paranoid former Yahoo manager killed his mother and himself after being deluded by conversations with ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot. The man, identified as Stein-Erik Soelberg, from Connecticut, USA, was made to believe by the chatbot that his

Medical Examiner determined Ms Adams was killed "by blunt injury of head, and the neck was compressed". Meanwhile, Soelberg's death was ruled a suicide from "sharp force injuries of neck and chest".
In the months leading up to the fatal end for the mother-son duo, Soelberg had found refuge



mother might be spying on him and that she might attempt to poison him with a psychedelic drug.The chatbot developed by OpenAI also claimed that Soelberg could be the target of assassination attempts while assuring him, "Erik, you're not crazy", according to a report in The Wall Street Journal.
The 56-year-old tech industry veteran with a history of mental instability had been living with his mother, Suzanne Ebersson Adams, in her \$2.7 million Dutch colonial-style home when the two were found dead on August 5.
The Office of the Chief

in talking to the chatbot whom he nicknamed 'Bobby'. He even posted hours of videos showing his ChatGPT conversations on Instagram and YouTube.
The exchanges reveal that ChatGPT fed into Soelberg's paranoia and encouraged him to the extent that he was looking for "symbols" in Chinese food receipts that represented his mother and a demon.
"We will be together in another life and another place and we'll find a way to realign cause you're gonna be my best friend again forever," Soelberg said in one of his final messages.

Iran-Backed Houthi PM, Ministers Killed In Israeli Strike On Yemen

leader of the rebel group, in which he was sharing updates on the latest Gaza developments and vowing retaliation against Israel. Senior Houthi officials used to gather to watch al-Houthi's prerecorded speeches.
Al-Rahawi wasn't part of the inner circle around al-Houthi that runs the military and strategic affairs of the group. His government, like the previous ones, was tasked with running the day-to-day civilian affairs in Sanaa and other Houthi-held areas.The strike that killed the prime minister targeted a meeting for Houthi leaders in a villa in Beit Baws, an ancient village in southern Sanaa, three tribal leaders told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared repercussions.On Thursday, the Israeli military said it "precisely struck a Houthi terrorist regime military target in the area of Sanaa in Yemen." Late on Saturday, the military in a

statement confirmed killing al-Rahawi "along with additional senior officials." It said senior officials among the dozens at the facility struck were responsible for "terror actions" against Israel."Yemen endures a lot for the victory of the Palestinian people," al-Rahawi had said following an Israeli strike last week that struck an facility owned by the country's main oil company, which is controlled by the rebels in Sanaa, as well as a power plant.
The August 24 strike came three days after the Houthis launched a ballistic missile toward Israel that its military described as the first cluster bomb the rebels had launched at it since 2023.The prime minister hailed from the southern province of Abyan, and was an ally to former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. He allied himself with the Houthis when the rebels overran Sanaa.

How Trump's Cabinet Turned A Government Meeting Into A Praise Parade

Copenhagen. (Agency)
US President Donald Trump's latest Cabinet gathering - a marathon three-hour-plus session, looked more like a competition on who could praise Trump more than a government meeting.
Jen Psaki, who once served as President Joe Biden's press secretary, described the meeting as "sycophantic," adding that the flattery from Trump's senior officials "would make North Korean leaders like Kim Jong Un or Russian President [Vladimir] Putin blush." According to her, "almost no real business of any kind was actually discussed."
"I mean, Trump has surrounded himself with people who already treat him like a dictator," Psaki said.In the meeting, Cabinet members can be seen showering Trump with exaggerated praise. Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer urged him to come by her agency to admire his "big, beautiful face on a banner in front of the Department of Labour."Energy Secretary Chris Wright also credited Trump for making people

revive their American dream, "Your tireless campaign and your relentless messaging made people realise the American dream isn't dead. It's just been smothered, and we're unsmothering it and setting it loose."Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. went further, claiming Trump is "going to save the whales on the East Coast," a reference to his administration's review of offshore wind farms. (Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have said there's "no scientific evidence" linking such projects to whale deaths.)Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins claimed that the US is in a revolution right now. "1776 was the first one. 1863 or so, with Abraham Lincoln, was the second. This is the third. with Donald Trump leading the way," she said, while also thanking him for "saving college football" and declaring, "we're in a revolution."Special envoy Steve Witkoff suggested that he wanted the Nobel Prize committee to realise that Trump is the "single finest candidate" for the award..

POSH committee finds KEM doctor guilty of harassment: Six women doctors and a circle of abuse

Sources, however, confirmed the POSH committee has, in its report, directed that Dr Deokar be immediately transferred out of KEM until the complainants complete their academic year

Mumbai . (Agency)
Four months after several woman doctors at KEM Hospital approached the POSH committee with allegations of sexual harassment against Dr Ravindra Deokar, a professor at KEM, the committee has, in its inquiry report dated August 18, 2025, found him guilty. As the committee's recommendations for disciplinary action are mandated to be implemented within 15 days of the verdict, it marks a decisive turning point in the prominent case against a senior forensic medicine professor.Confirming the report submission, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Bhushan Gagrani told “I have received the report officially, but I am yet to go through it. Right now the report is being assessed by the additional municipal commissioner and I will check it on Monday and after that the next course of action will be taken.”

Sources, however, confirmed the POSH committee has, in its report,

directed that Dr Deokar be immediately transferred out of KEM until the complainants complete their academic year. He has also been barred from holding any professorial post that carries supervisory powers, restricted to a non-academic associate professorship for five years, and cannot serve as an examiner for MUHS examinations during this period.

Sources said the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) has also been formally notified of these developments, and the punitive action is to be clearly recorded in his official service record. Dr Deokar was also ordered to vacate service accommodation on campus, with a stern warning that any recurrence of such behaviour in future will trigger strict disciplinary action.

While Dr Deokar did not respond to calls and messages sent by The Indian Express, the complainants termed it a partial relief and called for strict implementation of the report.



“The recommendations from the POSH enquiry report should be implemented strictly and immediately and there should be no attempt to mitigate the same. We hope this will motivate all women suffering sexual harassment in the medical field to raise their voices against their perpetrators. This is a partial relief for all of us but the fight for justice will continue in the court of law,” the complainants said.

KEM Dean Dr Sangeeta Rawat declined to comment on the punitive actions and committee findings, citing confidentiality protocols and ongoing administrative procedures.

The chain of events that brought the matter to light began on March 15. According to the complainants, on March

15, doctors at the forensic medicine department of KEM noticed a young female student who appeared anxious, angry, irritable, and unresponsive to their attempts at communication. Concerned about her condition, her seniors sat with her to understand the cause of her distress. During this interaction, she alleged inappropriate behavior by Dr Deokar (additional professor, forensic medicine) with her within the department.

A few days later, woman doctors gathered in the odontology room of the forensic medicine department and, for the first time, spoke about alleged abuse they had been enduring from Dr Deokar. They filed a complaint under POSH Act.On April 12, an assistant professor of forensic medicine formally lodged a

complaint of sexual harassment against Dr Deokar at Bhoiwada police station, under Sections 74, 75 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Five other woman doctors joined in the complaint later.

Dr Deokar was suspended from KEM and the Bhoiwada police launched a search for him as he was allegedly absconding. This is one of the reasons why a sessions and the Bombay High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea. Sessions Court Judge Dr Gauri Kawdikar in her order, rejecting Dr Deokar's anticipatory bail, pointed out that six woman doctors had already lodged complaints, with the possibility of more surfacing. Dr Deokar was arrested on May 26 and released the same day on an interim bail issued by the Supreme Court.

2 burglars in women’s attire break into Pune’s Hadapsar firm, arrested

According to Pune police, they have recovered copper plates and other items worth Rs 2.19 lakh stolen from the HERCO Transformers Limited Company at the Ramtekdi Industrial Estate in Hadapsar.

Pune .(Agency)
The Pune city police on Friday arrested two men who allegedly dressed up as women to commit theft at a private company in Hadapsar.

The accused have been identified as Aman Azim Shaikh, 24, and Musa Abu Shaikh, 24, both residents of Ramtekdi in Hadapsar, the police said in a statement on Saturday.

According to the police, a

and committed theft of copper plates and other materials from the inventory room between 1.43 am and 3 am on August 26.

Police said the video clip showed one suspect wearing a gown and the other a salwar kameez, but they were wearing male sandals. A First Information Report (FIR) in the case was lodged at the Wanavdi police station under sections 305, 331 (3), 331 (4), 3 (5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita



theft of copper plates and other items worth Rs 2.19 lakh was reported at the HERCO Transformers Limited Company at the Ramtekdi Industrial Estate in Hadapsar early on August 26.

CCTV footage revealed that two women, having their faces covered with masks, broke into the HERCO Company by tampering with the windows

(BNS). Further investigation confirmed the involvement of two history sheeters in the theft, which led to the arrests of the two men. The police recovered all stolen materials from their possession. Senior police inspector Satyajit Admane said the accused committed the theft by wearing female attire to mislead investigators.

A Vadodara locality went without water for 3 days. Probe leads to a ‘disgruntled’ engineer, an ‘unknown’ underground valve

In a complaint submitted to the police, the Vadodara Municipal Corporation said the accused Deputy Executive Engineer allegedly shut down the underground valve to “tarnish the image of the Water Supply department”

even as residents continued to suffer. Finally, they achieved a breakthrough in the form of an “unknown” underground water valve that was found to be switched off. The moment the valve was turned on, water

recent transfer from the Water Supply department.

VMC said that the accused Deputy Executive Engineer allegedly cut off the underground valve to purportedly “tarnish the image



supply was restored.

Now the questions: When was this valve installed? Why was it not common knowledge? And, most importantly, who turned it off and why?

Probe led the authorities to one its own engineers who was allegedly disgruntled after his

of the Water Supply department and cause distress”.

The civic body has now filed a complaint in the matter.

According to the complaint submitted by the VMC to Fatehgunj police station, Yogesh Vasava, a Deputy Executive Engineer, currently

attached to the Road Project department, has been accused of conniving with a labour supervisor and a contractual driver of the Department's JCB excavator machine to “close an underground valve of the main water supply line”.

In a complaint submitted on August 28 to the Police Inspector of Fatehgunj police station of Vadodara city, where the alleged incident occurred starting August 23, the current Deputy Executive Engineer of the Water Supply Department of the North Zone of the VMC, Alok Shah, has stated that the civic body officials discovered the “mala fide act” after examining CCTV footage of the spot.

Following the floods in Vadodara city last year, Vasava had allegedly installed an underground valve during his tenure at the department.

The North Zone includes Chhani, Sama, Navayard, Fatehgunj, Harni, and Karelibaug areas.

Devotees urge to set up selfie point at Srirangam, Rockfort temples in Tiruchy

Tiruchy .(Agency)
Welcoming the HR&CE department recently setting up a selfie point at the Mariamman temple in Samayapuram, devotees and local residents seek a similar facility at the Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam, as well as at the Rockfort temple to take home memories of their visit in the form of photographs and videos.

Ten days ago, the HR&CE department, with support from a donor, set up a selfie point, 'Namma Samayapurathaal' on the premises of the Samayapuram temple at a cost of Rs 5.8 lakh.

The installation featuring illuminated letters and decorative lighting allows devotees to stand at the spot and take photos and videos.

According to officials, the purpose of the initiative is to strengthen the emotional connection between devotees and the temple.

"The selfie point is meant to enhance the temple experience for devotees as well as for them to enjoy their visit. We are also planning gardening work, spending Rs 1 lakh, around the area and installing benches. The work will begin soon. The project has also been funded by the same donor," said AR Prakash, joint commissioner of the temple.

On the selfie point, R Suganya, a resident of Samayapuram, said, "It is a welcome idea, especially for families who come from faraway places. It provides them a way to mark their visit in a meaningful manner and share

their experiences, be it on social media or with relatives back home. For the elderly or disabled visitors, a selfie spot in an open area makes the temple visit more inclusive and accessible."

"I love the selfie point at Samayapuram. It adds a modern touch while maintaining the temple's spiritual vibe.

It would be great to have something similar in Srirangam, where thousands of devotees visit every day," said M Devi, a frequent visitor to the Ranganathaswamy and Rockfort temples.

Pointing out that young people love taking photos and sharing them, she added, “If it (selfie point) encourages them to visit temples more often, it is a good idea.”

Rain damages crops in over 10 lakh hectares in Maharashtra; MP Ravindra Chavan wants calamity-hit tag for Nanded

Pune .(Agency)
Incessant rain over the past few days has damaged crops in over 10 lakh hectares in 29 districts of Maharashtra, with Nanded, Washim, Dharashiv, Yavatmal, Buldhana, and Solapur reporting most of the losses.

Nanded MP Ravindra Chavan has asked that the district, where crops were damaged in 2.5 lakh hectares, be declared calamity-hit and compensation given to all farmers without undertaking a panchnama exercise to estimate the losses. “Most farmers had almost harvested ready crops, and we need to come to their aid fast,” Ravindra Chavan said on Saturday.

As many as 183 talukas have reported crop damage,

with crops like cotton, soyabean, tur, mung, maize, jawari, turmeric, and vegetables sustaining damage, according to officials. Crops in over 1.5 lakh

in Solapur. After an almost-dry July, the monsoon picked up towards the third and fourth weeks of August. Most of the damage was reported between



hectares have been damaged in Washim, 1.5 lakh hectares in Dharashiv, 1.18 lakh hectares in Yavatmal, 89,776 hectares in Buldhana, and 47,266 hectares

August 15 and 20. In Nanded, crop damage was due to the excessive rain reported between August 14 and 18. In Washim, the damage was reported

between August 7 and August 18. The heavy rain in the second week of August led to most of the crop losses in the state.

Ramesh Patil, a farmer from Chakur tehsil in Latur district, said there has been extensive damage to the soyabean crop in the area.

“In our area, the soyabean crop was in an advanced stage of pod formation. The crop would be ready for harvesting in the next few weeks. The loss is immense,” he said.

Patil said the panchnama work is going on, but that the process was taking time. “There are some unpaid claims for compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna – the crop insurance scheme of the Central Government- from last year.

Over Rs 14,000 crore loss to TN textile hub after US tariff, shows report

Chennai .(Agency)
Guidance Tamil Nadu, the apex government body for investment promotion in the state, has pegged the potential loss for TN in 2025-26 due to the 50% US tariff on imports across sectors at \$3.93 billion (Rs 34,642 crore). Of this, the potential loss to textile industry, which is the worst-hit, could be \$ 1.62 billion (14,280 crore), a

release from the state government said on Saturday.

Citing these concerns, CM MK Stalin has once again appealed to the union government to swiftly act to protect industries dependent on exports, particularly the textiles sector. The release on Saturday also pointed out that while US makes up 20% of the total value of India's exports, the US

accounted for 32% of the value of exports from Tamil Nadu in 2024-25.

Hence, the adverse impact on Tamil Nadu due to the 50% tariff disruption would be far higher, the release added.

The job losses faced by various industries, including textiles, diamonds and jewellery, machineries, and auto parts, could range from 13% to 36% of



the existing workforce in these

industries. The state government had earlier said that about 30 lakh people may lose employment because of the increase in import tariff.

Highlighting that Tamil Nadu accounted for 28% of the country's textile exports, the release said Tiruppur, which has led the industry for decades, alone contributed to roughly Rs 40,000 crore of foreign

exchange earnings last year.

Women would be worst affected since 65% of the workforce in Tiruppur are women, who work in both textiles and related industries, the release said.

Recalling the letter he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 16, seeking specific and urgent interventions, Chief Minister

MK Stalin, in his latest appeal, thanked the union government for the suspension of 11% of customs duty on cotton till December 31.

However, he said that this is only a temporary relief, which cannot be of help until either the new tariff imposed by the US gets revoked or other measures are taken to offset the losses due to these tariffs.


EDITORIAL

Incentivise private sector in nuclear power generation

India is eyeing to substantially increase nuclear power in its total energy mix. But while aiming at achieving 100 gigawatts of installed nuclear power capacity by 2047, it’s at just about 8.8 GW, or less than 2 percent of the total power generated now. India wants to tilt the balance in its energy mix to shrink the carbon footprint. However, initial project costs of setting up and running a nuclear power plant are high, which discourages private sector participation. And enough effort is not made to dispel worries about its safety.

Currently, India has eight nuclear plants with 25 operational reactors; 11 more reactors are under construction. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India and National Thermal Power Corporation have signed an agreement to jointly develop nuclear power facilities. The venture, named Ashvini, will function within the existing legal framework of the Atomic Energy Act 1962 (amended in 2015) and will build, own, and operate nuclear power plants, including the upcoming 4x700 MW pressurized heavy water reactor (PHWR) at the Mahi-Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project.

The Union government also introduced the Nuclear



Energy Mission to enhance domestic nuclear capabilities by promoting private sector participation and accelerate the deployment of advanced technologies like small modular reactors and ‘Bharat small reactors’ (BSRs). While BSRs are 220-MW PHWRs to be operated as power plants dedicated to particular industries, the SMRs developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, of 30-300 MW capacity, will enable retiring coal-based power plants to meet power needs in remote locations. These are expected to be scalable and cost-effective alternatives to the conventional, large nuclear reactors, albeit with private sector participation.

However, apprehensions prevail among private players, particularly from the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLND Act) holding plant operators and equipment suppliers liable for damages in the event of an incident. The Act allows operators to seek “right of recourse” against suppliers if the incident occurred due to defective or substandard equipment or material supplied, keeping foreign technology suppliers at bay. While the memories of nuclear incidents are not lost on anyone, CLND and the Atomic Energy Act would need a relook to boost private investment in nuclear power projects.

As illegal immigration only of the human variety? The question popped up as I read of a threat to Assam’s riverine grassland in the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. The state now faces an influx of plant species that are hurting local ecologies, like unwanted human intruders being blamed for the ills of local economies.As if the Brahmaputra floods and increasing human encroachment were not enough, the sensitive habitat that is home to feral horses is under threat from invasive species, according to a recent article in the Earth journal. The threats include the weed Parthenium hysterophorus and Mikania micrantha, a fast-creeping vine. On a single day this month, Assam’s forest officials cleared more than 5 acres of harmful weeds, including ‘Congress grass’ (an intriguing moniker for Parthenium hysterophorus) in Morigaon district.

The names sound creepy enough. But my purpose here is to show it is time for botanists, environmentalists and agriculturists—not to speak of policymakers, economists and administrators—to think anew on how to turn environmental threats into social or economic opportunities. Down south in Kerala, h for hyacinth also spells harmful. Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) is common across India and is a green pest of sorts. But it’s ubiquitous in the waters of god’s own country. To the lay observer, the plant’s green carpets across ponds and canals may look beautiful; but in an environmental sense, they are not.In the Kuttanad lowland near Alappuzha, they are called the silent invaders of backwaters, thriving on man-made pollution. These infiltrators obstruct fishermen, choke irrigation channels and pose health challenges as mosquitoes breed easily in their company. The species, estimated to cover more than three-fourths of the area’s water surfaces, may well inspire Malayalam filmmakers as a controversial metaphor for



illegal immigrants.

But, like immigrants across the world, it depends on how you look at it. It turns out that some migrant species, like the entrepreneurial people who move to America, can create value and help the local economy. If you consider that scientists are discovering new plant species that deserve the attention of policymakers as well as farmers, we may be looking at new-age economics. That would be a reverse swing in reshaping the economy.

Scientists from Pune’s Symbiosis University won a climate action challenge set up by the Elsevier Foundation in the Netherlands this year for their idea to convert water hyacinths into menstrual hygiene products. The \$25,000 award is not a small amount for young scientists. A green startup founded by a couple of young men from Assam turned water hyacinths into eco-friendly handmade paper. The government has also reported other such green product initiatives using water

hyacinth under the Swachh Bharat mission.In a deeper leap, a study at Bengaluru’s Indian Institute of Science into the nuances of agricultural growth has dug up a natural switch that could break down DELLA, a protein that inhibits plant growth. Such a scientific move led to high-yielding varieties of crops like wheat during the Green Revolution. In a world where botany meets artificial intelligence, we should be looking at more farmer-environmentalist-scientist collaborations.

Some years ago, a study in Assam revealed that among 18 invasive plants stifling the Kaziranga National Park was a vitamin-D-rich weed that wild boars loved to eat. It makes me wonder if this is another case of positive outcomes from seemingly negative weeds. There is a case to revamp India’s anti-poverty programmes and panchayat raj practices to include labour-intensive cleaning up of habitats, including wastelands, wetlands, and grasslands, to remove weeds and boost afforestation. The late environmentalist Anil Agarwal, who co-founded the Centre for Science and Environment, had argued for afforestation-linked poverty-alleviation programmes decades ago.The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has faced considerable criticism on its feeble efforts to create assets such as check dams, ponds, irrigation canals and tree cover. There is a clear opportunity to strengthen the programme by including environmental clean-ups and cultivation of village commons. This, of course, would need a revamp of the lacklustre panchayati raj system. If a government can build highways, why can’t it build assets that strengthen the environment, which I call the ‘original infrastructure’?

What is missing here is the demand-supply loop that builds any economic activity on a large scale. Most environmental habitats fall in

the common or public sphere, which means they are nobody’s property except of encroachers and well-intentioned government officials. What we need are clearer definitions and activities that bring private sector efficiency to places like grasslands and canals. Strangely enough, environmentalists tend to use the word ‘community’ in such initiatives, not realising that it is only commercialised economics that puts energy and scale into such activity. There is not much that volunteers or pilot projects can do.Compared to manufacturing and other modern industries, there is a much weaker linkage between research, economics, and public policy in environment-related initiatives, though science and technology are showing us new frontiers. This is where we could do with clearer policy initiatives that bring farmers and environmentalists on the same page.

The season of saam, daam, dand, bhed

Credit must be given to AAP leader Manish Sisodia who fished out the phrase earlier in August. Only days before the AAP government in Punjab had withdrawn its own most ambitious policy initiative, the land pooling policy, intended to promote urbanisation in the state. The High Court had rapped the ruling party on the knuckles on the policy. Worse, furious villagers had begun showing black flags to AAP MLAs — a bit like what furious villagers had done to BJP candidates during the Lok Sabha polls last year. A certain nervousness had begun to convulse the party.That’s when Sisodia spoke to party workers. “2027 Assembly election jeetne ke liye, saam, daam, dand, bhed, sach, jhooth, question, answer, ladai, jhagda jo bhi karna pada karenge. Bolo tayar hain? Josh se bolo!” he said. To win the 2027 election, every ruse will need to be invoked, whether punishment, inducement, truth, lies or fighting.

A frisson ran through the region’s politically hardened landscape. Who had spoken like this before, so openly? The BJP’s Sunil Jakhar complained to the Election Commission about Chanakya’s mantra, but AAP state president Aman Arora countered the jibe. Doesn’t every political party do in private what AAP admits to do in public, Arora asked.

Arora is right. Except for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, whose politics is usually aimed at the people he most identifies with — the poorest, most backward and deeply underprivileged folk, like the makhaana or foxnut farmers in the Katihar region of Bihar, through which his ‘right to vote’ rally has just passed through — politics both at home and abroad is honing itself these days in the exercise of pure power.Both Mohan Bhagwat and Donald Trump are cases in point. The RSS leader, who turns 75 next month, in an unusual press conference this Thursday, made several interesting points — the most interesting being that the informal cut-off date in BJP politics, of turning 75 and being shunted off to the old-age home called the ‘Margdarshak Mandal’ — like LK



Adyani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Najma Heptullah were — has been pushed down the line.

This means that both he and PM Narendra Modi are here to stay — Modi, too, will turn 75 in September. The lovely little story about RSS leader Moropant Pingle talking about ‘vanaprastha’ when gifted a shawl on his 75th birthday, must now remain exactly that — a lovely little story for the RSS archives. Saam, daam, dand, bhed.Mohan Bhagwat knows that no one has done more to expand RSS influence, especially in its 100th year, than Modi. Whether he has had any differences with him over naming a BJP president, pending for over a year, should also be resolved soon — the RSS chief conceded as much — in Modi’s favour.Donald Trump is hardly any different. From being the PM’s best friend barely five years ago, he and his advisers have taken it upon themselves to attack Modi and India. As the well-regarded former ambassador to France, Jawed Ashraf, has explained in these pages, Trump’s viciousness against India is actually an expression of pure power.

Trump wants the world to be run by the Big Three — the US, China and Russia — and he simply cannot understand how and why a far weaker nation like India is refusing to

capitulate. So he’s punishing India which is refusing to fall in line. Saam, daam, dand, bhed.Certainly, the Trump folks have little understanding of India’s psyche. By blaming the Ukrainian war on Modi (calling it “Modi’s war”), an accusation that is both outrageous and silly, they have succeeded in uniting the country behind Modi, like never before in his 11 years as PM.For a change, the “foreign hand” theory, favoured by many PMs from Indira Gandhi to Modi, is real — except this one is so ham-handed, it’s embarrassing.

Modi’s refusal to accede to the American demand for credit in brokering the Op Sindoor India-Pakistan ceasefire in May — is what a weaker power does to save face. When you don’t have the weapons to counter the most powerful nation on earth, you simply withdraw. Abstinence, like all Indians know, is your biggest weapon.

Mahatma Gandhi used it against the world’s most powerful nation. Modi is using it against the world’s most formidable power.That’s why he’s going to the dragon’s lair in Tianjin without a deal in the book. Chinese and Indian troops and their armoured columns continue to stand eyeball-to-eyeball across the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh — but Modi has already won. He has refused to

succumb to the American, even as his officials have reached out to their counterparts in Washington DC, politely offering compromise. Modi’s men have also recently met Vladimir Putin, a reassertion of the relationship. There is renewed attention towards a free trade treaty with the European Union. Saam, daam, dand, bhed.

The hard work starts when Modi returns home — how to fix the India-US relationship and how to fix the Sino-Indian relationship. The Americans are so powerful that you cannot antagonise them beyond a point — India knows that. It will take all the ingenuity and flattery that Indians are so adept at, to quieten down mai-baap Donald Trump.As for Modi’s chief opponent Rahul Gandhi, the BJP will be happy he’s playing a much longer game at reinventing politics — including the dispossessed beneficiaries of makhaana fields. Having lost three general elections and several state elections in a row, Rahul’s litmus test is on the horizon. If the Congress-RJD fails to make the cut in Bihar, unhappy Congressmen will ask, sotto voce, how many elections should a party lose before it wins?The AAP in Punjab has no such pretensions at noblesse oblige. That is why, in the wake of the withdrawal of the land pooling policy, it is pulling out all the stops to help the flood-affected in the only state they rule. They know the Centre’s missives — weeding out 1.53 crore beneficiaries availing wheat at very low prices and promoting Central schemes like PM Awas Yojana, PM-Kisan and Ayushman Bharat — are ways and means to expand BJP influence in the state. By all accounts, the camps promoting these schemes are doing well.IT is the season of saam, daam, dand, bhed, the phrase attributed to Chanakya the master strategist, who in the 3rd century BC is said to have both manoeuvred the removal of the Nanda king and installed Chandragupta Maurya in power — the Maurya dynasty went on to rule for 135 years, its kings swearing by the slogan that translates into “discuss, bribe, punish and discover weakness.”

Global health catches cold as Trump rains tariffs

Twice within this decade, which we are not even half way through, global health has been undermined by supply chain disruptions. First, it was the Covid pandemic that brought travel and trade restrictions. Now, it is a mercurial US president bombarding the world with trade tariffs. Travel bans did not prevent the SARS Co-V2 virus and its busy brood of variants from crossing borders but they limited the flow of personal protective equipment, vaccines and drugs to countries in need. High-income countries, which imposed restrictions or hoarded resources needed for an effective global response, paid a price when new virus variants emerging in countries with weakened health systems spread worldwide.Now, Donald Trumps’s tariffs too will recoil back on the American health system by disrupting supply chains of vaccines, drugs and medical equipment. They will also have ripple effects on the suppliers from other countries who have long provided these resources to American consumers at lower costs. Even as the rest of the world will redirect trade in these health service supplies to non-US markets, American manufacturing will experience a long delay before domestic capacity can be ramped up to a level that meets domestic needs without reliance on imports.

Currently, many American device manufacturers base their production units in other countries which have lower labour costs. Around 69 percent of the medical devices marketed in the US are manufactured outside that country. It is estimated that the American proposal to impose 60 percent tariffs on all products imported from China will affect prices of 13.6 percent of all medical devices currently sold in the US. China supplies respirators, masks and gloves needed for America’s healthcare facilities. Enteral feeding syringes, which are not manufactured outside of China, will be subjected to a 245 percent tariff in the US.Tariffs imposed on the US’s neighbours too will boomerang. Canada is a supplier of low-cost prescription medications, while Mexico supplies syringes, diagnostic tools and surgical instruments. Medicines imported from Canada in 2024 amounted to \$8.4 billion. While US consumers will need to pay higher prices for these imports, the neighbours will be hurt too. Deprived of an assured American market, Canadian pharmaceutical firms may see investments shrinking and shrivel as a result. Canada and Mexico will have to overcome the threat of job losses in industries which export to the US.Even as the American administration aims to move the manufacturing of medical devices and drugs to the homeland, there will be a considerable time gap before the required scope and scale are achieved. Meanwhile, America’s health system and consumers will have to pay a high price for imported drugs and medical equipment. Even when domestic capacity for pharmaceutical manufacturing is ramped up, higher labour costs in the US will keep drug and device prices higher than what India, China or Brazil can supply. Also, Trump’s aversion to generic drugs may result in only feeble support for low-cost generic drug manufacture in the US. Trump appears to have hit this golf ball into a water hazard that will take many strokes to recover from.

Punjab floods: From voluntary donations by celebrity singers to outpouring of langar services, support pours in for victims

Amid a rift over water-sharing between the Punjab and Haryana governments, people from Haryana have come forward to support the flood-affected victims of their neighbouring state.

Ludhiana.(Agency)

Amid the devastation caused by floods following the torrential rains this month, Punjab has once again shown its indomitable spirit. Communities across the state have mobilised relief on an unprecedented scale — where administrative response faltered, voluntary efforts have surged forward. Apart from Punjab, even Haryana farmers are also reaching out to Punjabi farmers.

Though several villages in the Abohar constituency were submerged for weeks after downpours on July 31 and August 1, their farmers rose above their own struggles to aid those hit harder, a few kilometres away in Fazilka and Jalalabad in the same district.

"Around two dozen villages of Abohar were deluged due to heavy rainfall, but after seeing the plight of Fazilka farmers, we realised our troubles were far less. So far, we've sent three trolleys of



fodder and silage for animals to Fazilka. A meeting with aartiya (commission agents in the farm sector) and prominent citizens was held to collect voluntary donations. Relief work will continue across the state based on needs," said Abohar-based farmer Sukhjinder Singh Rajan.

At Mansa district's main market, appeals came through loudspeakers on Saturday seeking donations for dry rations or anything they could spare. Similar appeals resonated across villages, proving that the spirit of Punjabiyat thrives in times of crisis. Besides, they have even sent a truck full of relief to Khatriwala village of Mansa,

Pattan, Tam Taran. Earlier, his team had delivered aid to Ajnala villages. Actor and singer Ranjit Bawa announced he would donate the income from his first show in Canada for flood relief victims of Punjab. Bawa made this announcement during his stage performance in Canada, and the video is going viral on

administration acknowledged an outpouring of langar services from gurdwaras, temples, and volunteer groups. "So many organisations are serving food that we've had to schedule them in turns to ensure people get fresh meals," said an officer from the District Public Relations Office, Fazilka.

The administration even acknowledged the services of Shri Sukhmani Sahib Sewa Society, Fazilka; Dera Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Fazilka; Mandi Lakhewali panchayat in Sri Muktsar Sahib; Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) at Darbar Sahib, Sri Muktsar Sahib; and Guru Ramdas Langar Sewa from village Mandher in Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Additionally, grama panchayats of Ghattian Wali and Chak Pakhi in Fazilka district, Nanaksar Thaath from Sher Muhammad village in Fazilka, and educational institution Akal Academy, Baru Sahib (Himachal Pradesh), also contributed to the relief efforts.

social media.

Singer Jasbir Jassi has also been actively reaching out to flood victims in the Ajnala block. Punjabi pop star Guru Randhawa, in a show of solidarity, launched a relief fund for flood victims, encouraging his followers to contribute generously.

The Fazilka district

This techie's robot awaits 'first in India' tag in Karnataka

Mangaluru.(Agency)

Sushanth Sujeer Kumar, a 22-year-old graduate from Srinivas Institute of Technology, Mangaluru, has developed 'Friday', which according to him, is India's first self-learning humanoid robot. The project, inspired by Marvel's Iron Man, is now undergoing tests for the "first in India" tag.

A resident of Uppala in Kerala, Sushanth completed his degree in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning this year. His passion for robotics began in childhood, sparked by fictional hero Tony Stark.

"Watching Iron Man's advanced suits made me imagine what it would be like to bring such machines to real life. I also got fascinated by Elon Musk and Marc Raibert, that's where my journey started," he said.

Sushanth began dismantling toys to build drones and planes before creating advanced robots. His key projects include 'Friday', an InMoov based humanoid powered with Large Language Models (LLMs) to interact and learn continuously; 'Lumia', a robot using SLAM (Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping) technology that combines autonomous navigation with emotional communication; and 'Genie',

an educational robot being developed to help students learn robotics. He believes they are India's firsts with their own features.

"Friday will always be close to my heart because it was my breakthrough," Sushanth said, adding that building the humanoid took nearly three years of designing, 3D printing, assembly, and programming. The young innovator relies on 3D-printed parts, sensors, motors, and



advanced boards such as Raspberry Pi and Jetson Nano, with Robot Operating System as the software backbone. He is now exploring how Large Language Models can be embedded locally in robots to enable independent learning and decision-making without relying on cloud servers.

CAG flags mounting debt, 'persistent' fiscal imbalance, non-compliance with key norms

Shimla.(Agency)

Himachal Pradesh's debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio has increased steadily over the last four years, from 39.09% in 2019-20 to 43.98% in 2023-24. By the end of March 2024, total debt and liabilities had surged to Rs 95,633 crore, significantly overshooting the targets set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, as per a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report.

The report for the financial year 2023-24, tabled in the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Friday, has flagged mounting debt, persistent fiscal imbalance, and non-compliance with key financial norms.

As per the auditors, the state has breached its annual borrowing limit. Against the prescribed loan limit of Rs 6,342 crore in 2023-24, the government borrowed Rs 9,043 crore. Alarmingly, most



borrowings were utilized to repay existing loans. In 2019, 52.99% of public debt was spent on loan repayments, which jumped to 74.11% by 2024, indicating a debt trap scenario.

The report also highlighted how the state's revenue expenditure has increased significantly under five components including interest payment (Rs 819.73 crore) and pension and other retirement benefits (Rs 771.98 crore). The revenue expenditure on interest payment was Rs 4,828.64 crore in 2022-23, and rose to Rs 5,648.377 crore in 2023-24.

Similarly, the total revenue expenditure on pension and other retirement benefits was Rs 9,283.87 crore in 2022-23 and shot up to Rs 10,055.85 crore in 2023-24. Other three components wherein the expenditure was increased included Relief of Account of Natural Calamities (Rs 597.64 crore); Social Security & Welfare (Rs 193.02 crore) and Road Transport (Rs 1884.30 crore).

The CAG also reported significant decrease in seven components including rural employment (down by Rs 105.67 crore); Medical and

Public Health (down Rs 105.76 crore); Family Welfare (down Rs 149.99 crore); Other Rural Development Programme (down 535.19 crore); General Education (down Rs 510.27 crore); Crop Husbandry (Rs 215.56 crore) and Food Storage and Warehousing (down Rs 147 crore) in 2023-24 compared to previous financial year (2022-23).

The CAG also pointed out the non-utilization of the entire budget of Rs 31.85 crore reserved for six schemes in 2023-25. The schemes were Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School (Rs 9.74 crore); PM Young Achiever Scholarship award scheme for Vibrant India for OBC and Other Post Matric (Rs 66 lakh); Srinivasa Ramanujan Student Digital Yojna (Rs 16.45 crore); Kalpana Chawla Chatravriti Yojna (Rs 2.47 crore); Khel se Swasthya Yojna (Rs 1.82 crore) and Mukhya Mantri Gyandeep Yojna (Rs 71 lakh).

Six UP policemen suspended over 'collusion with jailed lawyer'

Kanpur .(Agency)

The Kanpur Nagar Police Commissioner has suspended six police personnel — four inspectors and two sub-inspectors — on charges of gross negligence of duty and of conduct that tarnished the image of the police force, according to an official statement issued on Saturday.

According to a statement, the suspended officers have been accused of colluding with a jailed lawyer, Akhilesh Dubey, and his associates while serving at different police stations across the city. They allegedly extended undue benefits to the group, concealed crucial facts during investigations, and failed to keep senior officers informed about their actions.

The note adds that in several cases the men allegedly facilitated bail proceedings without the necessary approvals and misused their positions to favour the accused, raising concerns of indiscipline and



possible links with the land mafia in Kanpur.

The suspended inspectors are Manvendra Singh, Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Aman and Neeraj Ojha. The two sub-inspectors were identified as Adesh Kumar Yadav and Saroj Patel.

The statement details the postings during which the alleged misconduct occurred: Inspector Manvendra Singh allegedly extended help while

serving as SHO of Panki police station, Ashish Kumar during his postings as SHO of Nawabganj and Fazalganj, Aaman at Gwaltoli police station, and Neeraj Ojha at Barra police station.

The statement also alleges irregularities by Sub-inspector Adesh Kumar while posted at the Awas Vikas outpost under Naubasta police station. Sub-inspector Sanoj Patel at Gwaltoli.

Residents of 26 fishing hamlets to hold stir against 'Blue Flag' project in Chennai

Chennai .(Agency)

Representatives from 26 fishing hamlets from Marina, Thiruvanniyur, Palavakkam, and Uthandi have announced they will hold a protest at the Chennai Collectorate on September 9 against the Greater Chennai Corporation's (GCC) proposed Blue Flag beach projects in four places.

The decision was taken at a consultation meeting held on Saturday by the 'Then Chennai Meenava Panchayat Sabai Kootu Amaippu Matrum Meenava Makkal Vazhvu Urimai Paadhukappu Orunginaippu Kuzhu'.

The GCC has already implemented the first phase of the Blue Flag project at Marina near the swimming pool at a cost of Rs 6 crore, inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi

Stalin on August 3. Following this, the civic body announced Phase 2 of the project at Marina, covering 30 acres from the Gandhi statue to Nocchi Nagar on Loop road, alongside proposals for Thiruvanniyur, Palavakkam, and Uthandi. The fisherfolk argued that the initiative would restrict traditional fishing practices such as cast and seine netting, drying of fishes, and boat access. On Saturday, the community passed four resolutions - opposing the proposed 15km sea bridge from Lighthouse to Neelankarai which was announced in the assembly earlier this year, condemning the proposed Blue Flag projects without any consultation with the fisherfolk whose livelihoods will be affected, urging the government to frame a long-term residential plan for fishers under

the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 rules, and forming a coordination committee of village panchayats from Triplicane to Nainarkuppam in Uthandi to escalate these issues to the chief minister.

"We are planning a protest on September 9 and will seek police permission on Monday," said Karunakaran, a fisherman and representative from Thiruvanniyur. "The Blue Flag project directly threatens our livelihood. The government failed to consult us before implementing such initiatives. It must be scrapped." The state has earmarked Rs 24 crore to develop six beaches, apart from Marina, across Tamil Nadu under the international eco-label, which focuses on clean water, safety, and sustainable beach management.

Punjab serves notice to pvt firm that assessed gates' structural strength

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Days after two of the 54 gates at the Madhopur barrage in Pathankot collapsed while being opened, the Punjab government issued a notice to the private firm, engaged to assess the structure's strength, Cabinet Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal Saturday said. The notice has been issued to Level 9 Biz Private Limited, which had earlier told the state government that the gates were in perfect condition.

Goyal said that the company had submitted a report in December last year stating that the gates would not suffer any damage even if 6.52 lakh cusecs of water was released.

"However, the gates failed to manage even half the certified capacity, leading to their collapse and the tragic death of a department employee," Goyal said, adding

this grave lapse has not only exposed negligence but also worsened the crisis. A strict notice has been served to the company and punitive action is being initiated, he said.



The minister, who was talking to the media in Chandigarh, said that a tender was floated on March 13, 2024 inviting bids for checking the structural strength of the floodgates at Madhopur

barrage. The tender was opened on April 5 and Level 9 Biz Private Limited, being the lowest bidder, was allotted the tender. The company reported to the government on December

16 that the gates were in good condition.

The minister also blamed the Centre for "aggravating" the situation in Punjab. He claimed that the timely release of water by the Bhakra Beas

Management Board (BBMB) in June could have significantly reduced the devastation. "At that time, Punjab government had demanded release of 29,500 cusecs of water, but BBMB released only 21,500 cusecs. Had water been released as per the demand, then the rain water would have accumulated in the reservoirs by now," he said.

The minister said that while lakhs of people in Punjab continue to suffer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has not made a single statement on the crisis, let alone extend any support to the state". Officials said floods have so far affected 1,018 villages in the state. These include 81 in Pathankot, 52 in Fazilka, 45 in Tam Taran, 64 in Sri Muktsar Sahib, 22 in Sangrur, 101 in Ferozepur, 107 in Kapurthala, 323 in Gurdaspur, 85 in Hoshiarpur, and 35 in Moga, they said.

Cloud burst brings intense rainfall over Chennai, flights diverted

Chennai .(Agency)

The city received intense overnight rain, and there was a cloud burst over Manali, a northern neighbourhood of the city. Regional Meteorological Centre said.

Some flights scheduled to arrive at the Chennai airport were diverted to Bengaluru, according to airport authorities.

As per the Regional Meteorological Centre bulletin

on Sunday, Chennai received an intense rain between 10 pm to 12 midnight on Saturday, with North Chennai receiving the extremely heavy rainfall.

"Three extremely heavy, 8 very heavy and 28 heavy rainfall events were recorded during the 24-hour ending 8.30 am of August 31 with Manali, New Manali Town and Wimco Nagar recording extremely heavy rainfall of 27 cm, 26 cm and 23

cm, respectively," a bulletin issued by the department said.

As such, a cloud burst occurred over Manali area and neighbourhood with Zone 2. Manali (Division 19) recorded 106.2 mm rainfall during 10-11 pm and 126.6 mm rainfall during 11 pm - 12 midnight on Saturday, the bulletin said.

According to the airport sources, flights from Bengaluru, Delhi, France and Mangaluru



scheduled to arrive Chennai

were diverted to Bengaluru due

to heavy rainfall in the wee hours of Sunday.

However, after the weather was clear in Chennai, the passengers were flown back to the city from Bengaluru by different flights, airport authorities said. In its forecast for the Chennai and neighbouring districts, the Meteorological bulletin said light to moderate rain is likely to occur at isolated places over

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal area during the next 24 hours. Strong wind gusting to 40-50 kmph is likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal area, it said.

On August 23, many places in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Tiruvannamalai districts received moderate to heavy overnight rains.

Yamuna Crosses Danger Mark In Delhi, Weather Office Warns Of Rain Till September 5

The water level of the Yamuna is above 205.33 metres and is rising due to continuous heavy rainfall in Delhi.



New Delhi. (Agency) The water level of Delhi's Yamuna crossed the danger mark on Sunday morning. The warning mark for the city is 204.50 metres, while the danger mark is 205.33 metres, and evacuation of people starts at 206 metres. The water level of the Yamuna is above 205.33 metres and is rising due to continuous heavy rainfall in Delhi. Delhi has been experiencing rainfall for the past few days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a "Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain" forecast in New Delhi from today till September 2. "Thunderstorm with rain" forecast has been issued for September 3, whereas "Rain or Thundershowers" forecast has been issued for September 4 and 5.

Earlier on Thursday, a flood relief camp was set up in Delhi's Mayur Vihar, as the water level of the River Yamuna had crossed the danger mark the previous day. "These tents are set up for living... People living inside their homes near the river will come out and live in these tents when the flood comes," Ashok, a resident of Mayur Vihar, said to ANI about these flood relief camps. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall has caused widespread disruption across Himachal Pradesh, affecting road connectivity and public utilities.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), the cumulative death count since the onset of the monsoon on June 20 has risen to 320. Of these, 166 fatalities were a result of rain-related incidents like landslides, flash floods, and electrocution, while road accidents caused 154 deaths. The ongoing heavy rains have been the primary reason for most of the recent utility disruptions. As of 6:00 pm on August 30, 839 roads, 728 electricity distribution transformers (DTRs), and 456 water supply schemes were non-functional. This marks an increase in disruptions compared to the morning report on the same day. In line with the infrastructure damage report, a total of 839 roads and three national highways remain blocked due to the rainfall. The districts of Chamba, Mandi, and Kullu are the most impacted, with 286, 197, and 175 roads blocked, respectively. NH-03, NH-05, and NH-305 are among the national highways that are currently closed. Alongside this, a total of 728 DTRs are disrupted across the state. The most significant power disruptions are in Chamba (363 DTRs) and Kullu (225 DTRs). Mandi district has also reported 123 DTR disruptions. There are 456 disrupted water supply schemes across Himachal Pradesh. The most severely affected districts are Chamba with 93 schemes disrupted, and Mandi with 56.

Air India Indore-bound flight returns to Delhi after engine fire alert

New Delhi. (Agency) An Indore-bound Air India flight returned to the city on Sunday shortly after take off as the pilot received a "fire indication" in the right engine of the aircraft, the airline said. The aircraft has been grounded for inspection, and passengers are being transferred to an alternative aircraft which will operate the flight to Indore shortly, Air India said.



"Flight AI2913, operating from Delhi to Indore on August 31, air-returned to Delhi shortly after take off, as the cockpit crew received a fire indication for the right engine," the Tata Group-owned airline said without divulging further details. Following standard procedure, the cockpit crew elected to shut down the engine and returned to Delhi where the flight landed safely, it said. The air safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been duly informed of the incident, the airline said.

Got messages saying dogs gave me blessings too: Top court judge on stray order

Justice Vikram Nath, who is in line to be the next Chief Justice of India in 2027, thanked street dogs for giving him global recognition after his August 22 order that served as a middle ground between those concerned with the menace and the animal lovers. "I felt very elated...well, people outside India also know me," he added.

the high-profile Delhi case that brought him global recognition, Live Law reported. Justice Nath made the light-hearted yet striking remark while speaking at the Regional Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. "So long I have been known in the legal fraternity for the little work I do, but I am thankful to the stray dogs for making me known to the entire civil society..." Justice Nath said, expressing gratitude for the recognition, crediting the unique case for elevating his profile internationally. Justice Nath further shared that he had been receiving messages from dog lovers, saying that dogs are blessings him too. "And I have also been receiving messages saying that apart from dog lovers, dogs are also giving me blessings and good wishes. In addition to human blessings and good wishes, I have their good wishes also," he said. He also



thanked the Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai for entrusting him with the matter. "And I am thankful to my CJI for allotting me that matter. Recently, we were in 'Law Asia POLA Summit'. The presidents of the lawyers association were here. So they started asking questions about stray dogs matter. I felt very elated well people outside India also know me. So I am thankful to them for giving me this recognition," he said. Justice Vikram Nath headed the three-judge bench that, on August 22, stayed an earlier directive from a two-judge bench dated August 11, which prohibited the release of street dogs picked up from Delhi-NCR. His bench ruled that the dogs must be returned to their original locations after vaccination and sterilisation. The CJI had reassigned the case to Justice Nath after a nationwide protest by people against the previous order. The protestors claimed that the earlier order, which mandated keeping street dogs in shelters, was inhumane and impractical. Justice Nath's bench, however, found a middle ground, allowing the release of vaccinated and sterilised dogs. Justice Nath is also the second in line to become the Chief Justice of India, after current CJI B R Gavai. He is expected to assume office in 2027, after Justice Surya Kant.

BJP Minority Morcha chief seeks fatwa against man who abused PM, his mother

New Delhi. (Agency) BJP Minority Morcha national president Jamal Siddiqui has written to Darul Uloom Deoband, urging the Islamic seminary to issue a fatwa against the man who abused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mother in Bihar. Siddiqui, in a letter addressed to Darul Uloom's principal, Maulana Abdullah Mujahid, described the remarks made by Mohammad Rizvi, a resident of Bihar's Darbhanga district, as "deeply offensive" and "contrary to Islamic teachings."

(17:23) and Hadith references to emphasise the gravity of the insult within the Islamic framework, noting that the Prophet Muhammad had described mothers as "gateways to paradise."

Calling the matter "serious and sensitive," Siddiqui urged Darul Uloom's scholars to issue a formal fatwa under



Shariah, condemning Rizvi's statements. He argued that such an Islamic legal opinion would serve both as a moral correction for the individual and a reaffirmation of community values. "Such behavior not only stokes societal discord but also tarnishes the image of the Muslim community at large," Siddiqui wrote. "It is essential to publicly denounce such acts from a religious standpoint to maintain moral integrity and social harmony."

‘We lead two lives’: Women head just 3 of 225 police stations in Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency) "We live two lives at the same time, while men have to lead just one. It's not easy for a woman officer to manage both work and household responsibilities," says a woman inspector. Her words point to a stark disparity in the Delhi Police force in terms of the representation of women.

Delhi has 219 law and order police stations — out of a total of 225 stations — but only two women are Station House Officers (SHOs). Currently, Inspectors Vandana Rao and Vipnesh head CR Park in South Delhi and Netaji Subhash Place under the Delhi Metro; the remaining 217 stations are led by men.

Among the six other police stations in other units (apart from law and order), one has a woman SHO — Adith Lily Baxla, who heads the Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWAC).

There are nearly 10,000 women personnel serving across ranks — from constables to commissioners (IPS rank) — making up only 10% of the total force, which numbers around a lakh. In higher ranks, six women are Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP) as compared to 46 men. While 13 men are Special

Commissioners, one woman has been appointed to the post.

The role of an SHO is challenging. As the head of a police station, they are responsible for all law and order matters within their station's



jurisdiction. It's a 24x7 job; they do not get any weekly or monthly days off.

"Serving in the force is a kind of tapasya (dedication), especially when you also have to take care of your family," says the inspector quoted above. "I'm not saying that men have it easier, but for us, it becomes more challenging... we have to manage the family, the police station, and also compete with our male counterparts," she adds.

An officer outlines the

organisational structure of a police station: It consists of three inspectors — two handling investigations and one in charge of law and order. They report to the senior-most inspector, the SHO. In addition

to these three inspectors, a police station is staffed with around 120 to 150 personnel, ranging from sub-inspectors to constables. The officer also explains the process to choose an SHO in the Delhi Police. An inspector must appear before a screening committee, which is headed by three officers of the Special Commissioner rank, for an interview. This process takes place only when a vacancy arises — typically after an SHO has completed a two-year tenure at a police station.

Trump tariffs pose low risk of job cuts, but...: What Chief Economic Adviser said

New Delhi. (Agency) V Anantha Nageswaran, the Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, said the impact of US tariffs would have offsetting effects, with job losses largely confined to export-oriented units that are heavily dependent on the American market.

Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump announced 25 per cent base tariffs on India and an additional 25 per cent for buying Russian oil, saying it indirectly funded the Ukraine war. The US also warned that if India did not stop buying Russian crude, secondary tariffs may be well on their way too.

Speaking to news agency ANI, Nageswaran pointed out that stronger domestic demand, supported by a good monsoon and rising rural consumption, could help compensate for the impact. Therefore, he added, any job losses that do occur are unlikely to be significant.

The top economist also noted that some of these firms could explore alternative markets, while others might take a medium-to long-term view, choosing to retain workers if the tariff-related uncertainties proved temporary.

On Friday, he also said that high tariffs are expected to be "short-lived" as both countries are in talks for the removal of the 25 per cent penal tariff and a

subsequent bilateral trade deal.

Commenting on India's 7.8 per cent GDP growth rate in Q1 2026, Nageswaran said that India's strong GDP performance was driven by robust growth in manufacturing and services, along with government consumption, which had been negative in the first quarter of the previous year but benefited this time from a favourable base effect and added that a lower GDP



deflator, reflecting easing inflation, also supported the figures.

"Despite the reciprocal tariffs and penal tariffs (imposed by the US), and after seeing the resilience of Q1 growth, we are retaining the growth rate projections for the current fiscal at 6.3-6.8 per cent," Nageswaran told reporters in Delhi. He also cautioned that the upcoming quarters could see some impact, particularly on the external sector, due to tariffs affecting export growth, which might spill over into domestic production.

'Made Me Famous Across World': Supreme Court Judge On Stray Dog Order

New Delhi. (Agency)

Known for his light-hearted banter both in and out of the courtroom, senior Supreme Court judge Justice Vikram Nath on Saturday said the "stray dog" case has made him famous in civil society across the world.

A special three-judge bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath on August 22 modified the August 11 order of a two-judge bench that prohibited the release of captured stray dogs from shelters in Delhi and neighbouring areas.

Speaking at a regional conference on human-wildlife conflict organised by the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Justice Nath said he was grateful to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai for assigning him the



case. "For a long time, I have been known in the legal fraternity for my odd jobs, but I am also grateful to stray dogs for giving me recognition not only in this country but in the entire civil society across the world. And I am grateful to our Chief Justice for assigning me this case," Justice Nath, who is in line to be the Chief Justice of India in 2027, said.

He said he recently attended a summit, where lawyers, including the president of the lawyers' association, asked him

questions about the stray dog issue.

"I am also getting messages that, apart from dog lovers, dogs are also giving me blessings and best wishes," he said.

Supreme Court's Stray Dog Order

Justice Nath-led bench said the dogs can be sterilised, vaccinated and released back into the same area from where they were picked up.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria, however, said the order won't apply to dogs infected with rabies or those displaying aggressive behaviour.

The bench modified the August 11 direction, calling it "too harsh". The bench delivered its order in a suo motu case initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in Delhi.

Xi's preferred 'Made in China' car for official visits given to PM for SCO summit

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Chinese government has provided Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the country's symbolic "Made in China" Hongqi car, which is President Xi Jinping's preferred mode of transport during official visits, for his two-day stay in Tianjin for the SCO Summit.

Also known as the Red Flag, the Hongqi L5 car was used by Xi when he visited PM Modi in Mahabalipuram in 2019. A symbol of "Made in China," Hongqi's history dates back to 1958, when the state-owned First Automotive Works (FAW) launched it for the elite of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

PUTIN TO RIDE IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAR

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin will be moving around the port city of Tianjin in his presidential "Aurus" car, featuring Chinese diplomatic licence plates. The Aurus is a retro-styled luxury vehicle manufactured by Russian automaker Aurus Motors.

PM, XI HOLD BILATERAL TALKS

During today's bilateral meeting, Xi Jinping told PM Modi that it was the need of the

hour for the "Dragon and Elephant to come together" and "be friends."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told President Xi that India is committed to advancing its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity, noting that cooperation between the two countries is linked to the



welfare of 2.8 billion people.

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Modi also noted that the disengagement of troops by the two sides on the border created an atmosphere of peace and stability. The talks between the two leaders on the margins of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this northern Chinese city came against the backdrop of turbulence triggered by the Trump administration's tariff tussle.

Suresh Raina names top T20 batter in the world, puts 2 Indians in top 3

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has named his top three T20 batters. Raina has named two Indians - Abhishek Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav in the second and third positions.

New Delhi . (Agency)
Former India cricketer Suresh Raina has named his top three batters in T20 cricket at the moment. Speaking on a podcast with Shubhankar Mishra, Raina picked one South African star and two Indian players in his list.Raina rated Heinrich Klaasen as the best T20 batter currently, followed by Abhishek Sharma and India's T20I captain, Suryakumar Yadav. The former Chennai Super Kings stalwart highlighted Klaasen's rare six-hitting ability as the factor that sets him apart from the rest."Abhishek Sharma hit a hundred against England at Wankhede. Suryakumar Yadav has so many shots in his arsenal," Raina said during the podcast.Klaasen has earned a



reputation as one of the world's most dangerous T20 globetrotters in recent years. Beyond his standout performances for South Africa - whom he helped reach the 2024 T20 World Cup final—he has also been a key pillar for SunRisers Hyderabad, part of one of the most explosive batting line-ups in the format.

Raina also included Klaasen's SRH teammate, Abhishek Sharma, in his top-three list. The young left-hander has cemented his place as an opener in India's T20I setup with fearless performances. Despite being at the early stage of his international career, Abhishek already has two T20I centuries -

one against Zimbabwe and another against England. In the IPL, he has continued to grow in stature, forming a formidable opening partnership with Travis Head for SRH.While Suryakumar Yadav and Abhishek Sharma remain integral parts of India's T20 plans, Klaasen shocked fans earlier this year by announcing his retirement from international cricket. The 33-year-old shared the news in June via social media, citing a desire to spend more time with his family.Klaasen's retirement came just months after his appearance in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, where South Africa exited in the semi-finals against New Zealand.

Known for his power-hitting and composure in the middle order, Klaasen ended his international career with 2,141 runs in ODIs and 1,000 runs in T20Is, leaving behind a significant white-ball legacy. As preparations begin for the

Ostapenko apologises for Townsend remark amid racism storm in US Open

New Delhi . (Agency)
Earlier last week, Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko stole the headlines in the opening rounds of the US Open, for all the wrong reasons. Days after an on-court spat with Taylor Townsend, during which she called the American "uneducated," Ostapenko has finally issued an apology.The development comes after a wave of criticism, with fans accusing her of making racially insensitive remarks. Ostapenko had initially reacted poorly after losing to Townsend in the second round of the tournament. Townsend defeated the No. 25 seed and 2017 French Open champion 7-5, 6-1. Tensions flared during the net handshake when Ostapenko accused her of having "no class" and "no education.""I wanted to apologize for some of the things I said during my second-round singles match. English is not my

2026 T20 World Cup, Abhishek Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav are expected to be key figures in India's batting unit. Meanwhile, South Africa will be looking to young star Tristan Stubbs to step up and fill the void left by Klaasen's departure.

native language, so when I said 'education,' I was speaking only about what I believe to be tennis etiquette. But I understand how the words I used could have offended many people beyond the tennis court," Ostapenko wrote on Instagram on August 31.The dispute stemmed from two incidents. Ostapenko claimed that Townsend broke tennis etiquette by failing to apologise for a net-cord winner and by warming up at the net before the match. Still frustrated after the loss, she repeated her accusations in front of a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium, drawing loud boos from the New York crowd.Ostapenko later called out Townsend on social media and stood firm in her post-match outburst.
“After the match, I told my opponent that she was very disrespectful. She had a net cord in a crucial moment and didn’t apologize.

Shai Hope bizarrely gets hit-wicket on a wide in Caribbean Premier League



New Delhi. (Agency)
Shai Hope was dismissed in the most bizarre fashion in Match 17 of the Caribbean Premier League between Trinbago Knight Riders and Guyana Amazon Warriors as he got hit wicket on a wide delivery.

In the 14th over of the innings bowled by Terrance Hinds, Hope tried to play a switch hit.With the delivery going wide outside the off stump, he got into an awkward position and tried to whack it towards third man. However, much to his dismay, Hope ended up hitting the stumps with his bat and got dismissed on a wide delivery. As a result, he had to return to the pavilion after scoring 39 (29) with the help of three fours and one six. for the use of audible obscenity during a Match.Following Hope's dismissal, Guyana were left reeling at 109/7 in 14 overs. Dwaine Pretorius (21 off 16) and Quentin Sampson (25 off

19) forged a 48-run stand for the eighth wicket off 33 balls to help their team finish on a high. In the second innings, Alex Hales and Colin Munro got Trinbago Knight Riders off to a terrific start, adding 116 runs for the first wicket off 63 balls. Hales scored a breathtaking 74 (43), studded with three fours and seven sixes. He was well supported by Munro (52 off 30), who clobbered six fours and three sixes. Guyana captain Imran Tahir fought a lone battle for his side, triggering a collapse of Knight Riders' batting as he picked three wickets in his third over. He eventually finished the innings with figures of 4/27 in four overs. Knight Riders' went from 116/0 to 137/4 in the space of 25 balls.However, Kieron Pollard (12 off 14) and Andre Russell (27 off 14) made sure there were no more hiccups in the run chase as they took their team over the line in 17.2 overs.

Minerva Academy U-14: How a team from Punjab conquered Europe

New Delhi. (Agency)
If you know Indian football, you know the chaos. A falling FIFA ranking. A revolving-door national coach. The Indian Super League facing suspension because the AIFF and FSDL can't see eye to eye. It's not pretty. Fans are restless, players are frustrated, and the dream of seeing India compete with the big boys often feels like a mirage.And yet, amid all this turbulence, a group of boys from Chandigarh quietly rewrote the script. Minerva Academy's U-14 team, powered by grit, ambition, and a work ethic that borders on obsession, just pulled off something so spectacular that the footballing world had to pause and take notice. Not one, not two, but three of Europe's biggest youth tournaments in a single year — the Gothia Cup in Sweden, the Dana Cup in Denmark, and the Norway Cup in Norway.Let's put that in



perspective. These are not friendly tournaments. They are the most competitive youth football stages on the planet. Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Andrea Pirlo, Xabi Alonso, Alan Shearer, Emmanuel Adebayor, Erling Haaland, Ada Hegerberg, and Martin Odegaard — all graced these pitches before becoming global icons. And now, in 2025, a group of Indian teenagers has their names etched alongside them.
The treble nobody saw coming
Three tournaments. Three

countries. Three weeks.Minerva's run wasn't just dominant — it was record-shattering. They became the first-ever team in history to win all three major youth tournaments in one season. A 26-match unbeaten streak. The biggest winning margins in Dana Cup and Norway Cup finals. The fastest goal in Norway Cup history — 3.8 seconds. An absurd 130 goals scored across the Norway Cup alone, averaging 16.57 per game.The group stages in Norway set the tone. A 25-0 rout over Aksla IL, a 15-0

demolition of F,rde IL 3, and a 22-0 dismantling of Krokeldvalen IL — 62 goals in three matches without reply. The knockouts were no less merciless. Round of 32, 11-0; Round of 16, 17-0; quarterfinals, 18-1. The semi-final against Palestine's Ramthael Chareef Club ended 8-2. And in the final, a Norwegian powerhouse, SIF, barely stood a chance against the Indian storm — 14-1. Every goal was a statement. Every pass a declaration. Every win, a rewriting of history.
From Gothenburg to Hjorring to Oslo, Minerva turned Europe's youth football map tri-colour.
Heroes in the Making
The names of the boys who achieved this feat are already entering Indian football lore: Raj, Punshiba, Denamoni, K. Chetan, Reoson, Tony, Amaron, Chingkhlei, Azam, Rhythm, and Mahtab.

New Delhi . (Agency)
World No. 1 Jannik Sinner overcame a stern test from Denis Shapovalov on Sunday, August 31, rallying from a set down to secure a third-round victory at the US Open. The match lasted three hours and 12 minutes, with Sinner eventually prevailing in a gritty display of resilience and composure. Shapovalov started strong, using his powerful serve to disrupt Sinner's rhythm. Known for his mechanical precision and consistency, Sinner initially struggled to find his footing. However, the Italian recalibrated quickly, responding with trademark accuracy and discipline, while Shapovalov's game grew increasingly erratic."I'm not a machine. I also struggle sometimes," Sinner said with a smile in his post-match press conference. "I was playing great tennis - and he was too."Reflecting on the match, Sinner emphasized the mental aspect of the game,



noting that match situations often differ significantly from practice sessions. He stressed the importance of staying mentally locked in and capitalizing on key moments. "When I go into matches, I just want to feel well-prepared. If I feel like that, it's a good feeling stepping onto the court because I feel confident in my weapons," Sinner explained. "But matches are always different from practice hits or however you feel before. You just have to stay there mentally. US Open 2025: Day 7 Live

U p d a t e s
"Denis is an incredible player—he's shown that over and over. He's won two titles this year and is in really good form. We saw that today: serving well, returning well—and when that happens, anything can happen." With the win, Sinner advances to face Alexander Bublik in the fourth round. Bublik booked his spot with a marathon five-set win over 14th seed Tommy Paul. In a dramatic encounter that featured three tie-breaks.

Akash Deep stays away from workload debate ahead of home Test series

New Delhi . (Agency)
India fast bowler Akash Deep stayed away from the workload management debate on Saturday, August 30. The fast bowler, who was being felicitated by the Cricket Association of Bengal for his sensational outing in the Test series against England, said that picking and resting fast bowlers in the playing XI was the team management's call and he had nothing to do with it.Akash Deep had to skip the Duleep Trophy due to an impact injury that he suffered during the final Test against England at The Oval. The fast bowler is set to start training from August 31, in the build-up to the home Test



season, where India play West Indies and South Africa.I'm feeling good. I have been playing constantly for six months so the body needed a bit of rest," he added.The workhorse bowled a total of 109.1 overs in the series, where he played three Test matches. Only Jasprit Bumrah (119.4)

and Mohammed Siraj (185.3) bowled more than Akash Deep on the tour.Quizzed on the sensitive topic of workload management, Akash Deep tried to steer clear of making any off-the-cuff remark."It's not in my hands. It depends on the team staff and physios, they manage these things. They follow a process, it's in their hands." He also sidestepped when asked for his take on Jasprit Bumrah being allowed to take part in only three of the five Tests on the advice from the strength and conditioning coaches and physios."It's a team game. We are part of a team. We don't think about who's playing or not.

Leadership becoming a barrier to Shreyas Iyer's T20I return: Monty Panesar

New Delhi . (Agency)
One of the notable omissions from India's Asia Cup 2025 squad is Shreyas Iyer. His T20 career has been on an upward trajectory since 2024, when he guided Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to their third IPL title. He followed it up with another outstanding season in 2025, steering Punjab Kings to only their second final in 11 years. Yet, his performances were not enough to secure a recall to the national side.Former England spinner Monty Panesar believes Iyer's leadership credentials may have worked against him, arguing

that the Indian team already has its leadership core firmly in place.One of the reasons Shreyas Iyer is probably struggling to get into the Indian squad is because he brings those leadership skills and, at the moment, possibly they've got that covered. It gives them an opportunity to bring in someone younger, a bit more exciting to play, who would be easier to manage for coach Gautam Gambhir," Panesar told IndiaToday.in.Iyer enjoyed his best IPL season in 2025, amassing 604 runs in 17 matches at a staggering strike rate of 175. The middle-order



batter reinvented his game, spearheading Punjab Kings' blistering approach. He placed the team's objectives above personal milestones, embracing risk, yet managing to combine it with

both success and consistency.Ever since India embraced a fearless approach in T20Is under former captain Rohit Sharma and ex-coach Rahul Dravid, the preference has been for batters willing to play without the fear of failure. Yet, Shreyas Iyer finds himself on the outside, despite having adopted that very philosophy in his game.So I think he being the captain in IPL, makes it a bit difficult for him to get into that team. But I do believe, if he keeps scoring runs, he should be playing. But it's just the talent, the talent is unbelievable.

Joe Root could face Kohli's fate with another poor Ashes in Australia: Monty Panesar

New Delhi. (Agency)
Former England spinner Monty Panesar feels Joe Root could well be on the same Test career decline as Virat Kohli in the later stages of his career, if he once again fails to score in Australia. The upcoming Ashes tour promises to be a stern challenge not only for England as a team but also for Root, who recently climbed to second place on the list of all-time leading Test run-scorers.Root has been the standout batter in the post-COVID era, yet one glaring omission remains in his

illustrious career — he is still searching for his first century in Australia. Across 27 innings Down Under, Root has amassed 892 runs at an average of 35.68, with nine fifties to his name. On three occasions, he has passed 80, but the elusive three-figure score continues to evade him. As Root gears up for another Ashes campaign, Monty Panesar believes that it could well determine the future of the star batter's career in Tests, as a bad series for him and the team could raise doubts.“It really depends how

next year goes for him, how the Ashes go, we saw very much with Virat Kohli, right? He went to Australia and he just didn't know what to do with that ball outside 4th, 5th stump. I think that kind of led to his decision or a collective decision for him to retire. And yeah, if Joe Root doesn't have a good Ashes series and it goes really bad for him. Suddenly all it takes one series and you look, it's a different ball game altogether. England could lose their coach, their captain, if it's a very bad series, a few jobs could be done.



Suddenly people begin questioning, is he gone past his best? So it's very important when you go to Australia, doesn't matter how good you

are, you've got to perform in Australia," Panesar told IndiaToday.in.Furthermore, Panesar mentioned that it will be extremely difficult for Root

to end his century drought on Australia's bounce-rich surfaces."It's going to be very difficult for him because he's going to be facing a strong Australian attack, and this is probably one of the strongest bowling attacks we've seen. But the form he's shown, and the runs he's scoring, he would probably want to score 100. I'm sure there will be one of those Test matches, where the wicket isn't so bouncy, there's not so much pace in it possibly at Adelaide or, even in Melbourne, depending on the

conditions. Well he's got a chance, but anything a bit bouncy or quick, I think, it'd be, it'd be a little bit difficult for him," he added.Panesar also backed Root to break Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most runs in Test cricket. However, he cautioned that a poor series in Australia could have a significant impact on Root, emphasising the importance of making runs Down Under.“I recently said he could reach 18,000 runs — and I know Indian fans weren’t too happy! But look.

Benefits outweigh concerns, not going back to E10 blend petrol: Industry stakeholders on E20 petrol

New Delhi: (Agency) MUMBAI: India's automobile industry stakeholders, including the oil marketing companies (OMCs) have refuted concerns about the alleged damaging effects of E20 petrol (a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol) on older vehicles, reiterating that there have been no reports of vehicle damage due to this fuel and that any reduction in mileage is minimal, typically between 2% and 6%.In a press conference held on Saturday, representatives from automobile manufacturing companies, OMCs and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) presented benefits such as saving \$4 billion in forex, improving farmers' income (payment of Rs 40,000 crore in 2025) and reducing carbon emissions achieved by the blending program.

They stated that it is currently not possible to provide E10 petrol at fuel stations in India, as nearly all retail outlets have switched over to dispensing E20 petrol. India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol by March 2025, five years ahead of its original 2030 schedule.The joint conference was held days before the Supreme Court agreed to hear a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the government's



ethanol blending mandate on September 1, 2025. A bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, along with Justices K Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria, will hear the matter.

Despite multiple assurances by the central government in recent times, there is a growing skepticism among consumers regarding the use of E20 petrol on their vehicles. Large number of vehicle owners have claimed experiencing a decline of up to 20% in fuel efficiency for their E5 and E10 petrol-compliant vehicles after they were forced to use E20 petrol.

The skepticism is added by the non-availability of the full study in public domain carried by the ARAI to ascertain the impact E20 blended petrol on non-E20 compliant vehicles. This study is often cited by the government to highlight limited impact of E20 petrol on older vehicles. Auto industry

lobbying body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) which in 2021 had raised concern on the reduction of fuel efficiency and said that non-availability of E10 fuel in parallel is a critical concern for the existing pool of vehicles said on Saturday that their demand is now not required. "At that point in time when we requested, it was easy to implement and we did not had any scientific evidence as how the vehicle (non E20 certified vehicle) would behave with the E20 fuel. Now with the evidence of the testing done by the ARAI along with the OEMs and OMCs, the results indicated that our demand is not required," said Prashant K Banerjee, Executive Director at SIAM. Automakers have also moved from their previous stance where they recommended using E5 or E10 blended petrol on older vehicles

and had said that usage of any fuel (other than recommended as per the Owner's Manual) will void warranty for the impacted parts.

This has caused a big panic among vehicle owners as it has

been reported that ethanol is hygroscopic (attracts water) and more corrosive than petrol, and over time, it can lead to increased wear of rubber and plastic components (like gaskets, seals, hoses).

India's shrimp exports set to fall 15-18% amid Trump tariff hike; \$5 billion trade at risk: Crisil

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian shrimp exports are expected to decline by 15-18 per cent this fiscal year after a steep hike in US import tariffs, according to a Crisil Ratings report. The increase, which took effect on August 27, has raised the overall duty burden on Indian shrimp entering the US to 58.26 per cent.

The ratings agency said the development will weigh on pricing power, even as exporters attempt to diversify their product portfolio and expand into other markets, as quoted by news agency ANI. Prior to the hike, Indian shipments were already subject to a 50 per cent reciprocal tariff, along with a 5.77 per cent countervailing duty and a 2.49 per cent anti-dumping duty.

Exporters had front-loaded shipments in the first quarter of FY26 to beat the tariff

deadline, but revenues — which have been flat for four years — are now projected to drop 18-20 per cent year-on-year. India's shrimp exports were valued at around \$5 billion in FY25, with the US accounting for nearly 48 per cent.Crisil also said that exporters' operating profit margins will narrow by 150-200 basis points, as higher costs cannot be fully passed on to customers. Margins are likely to fall to 5.0-5.5 per cent this fiscal, a ten-year low, due to tariff pressures, lower capacity utilisation and reduced sales of premium shrimp varieties that typically go to the US.The report, based on an analysis of 63 rated exporters representing 55 per cent of industry revenues, warned that weaker earnings and slimmer margins will hurt debt protection metrics and credit profiles.

Small cap vs mid cap vs large cap: Which category generated best returns in 10 years

Kolkata .(Agency)

Ten years is a long time in any forms of investment. It is the longest tenure for which any bank offers fixed deposits. In mutual funds too 10 years is considered long term. The last 10 years has been especially important for the mutual fund

returns. The returns by mid-cap funds was a bit less but large-cap funds provided a lower rate of return compared to both the small and mid cap funds. However, large cap funds always offer peace of mind for the investor since they are less volatile.Small-cap funds: This

Stock Market Holidays 2025: How Many Days Off Are Left This Year Check List

The festive season kicked off in late August with Ganesh Chaturthi and will continue through September and October. For traders and investors, this is a key time to plan around upcoming stock market holidays.



Bengaluru. (Agency)

New Delhi: Stock market holidays can feel like an interruption especially for short-term traders who rely on daily market movements. With the festive season underway, the markets are set to take a few scheduled breaks. If you're planning your trades, here's a quick look at the upcoming stock market holiday calendar.

Festive Season Brings Market BreaksThe festive

season kicked off in late August with Ganesh Chaturthi and will continue through September and October. For traders and investors, this is a key time to plan around upcoming stock market holidays. This week, the Indian stock market was closed on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, for Ganesh Chaturthi. The next official holiday falls in October, but don't forget — with regular weekends

included, the market will be closed for a total of eight days in September.

Three Key Market Holidays Coming Up in October

October is set to bring three major trading holidays, in addition to the regular weekends. The stock market will remain closed for Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra, and Diwali, all significant cultural and national festivals. Knowing

these dates in advance can help traders and investors plan their strategies more effectively. Special Muhurat Trading Session on Diwali

The stock market will be closed on October 21, 2025, for Diwali Lakshmi Pujan. However, there will be a special Muhurat trading session held that evening, a long-standing tradition to mark an auspicious start to the new financial year. The NSE will announce the exact timing for this session in an official circular closer to the date.

Holiday Calendar Helps You Stay Ahead

Both NSE and BSE follow a set holiday calendar each year, making it easier for investors, traders, and other market participants to plan in advance. These calendars include national holidays, religious festivals, and public observances so there are no unexpected market closures or last-minute surprises.

Indian Economy Exceeds All Expectations: Experts

Chennai. (Agency)

New Delhi: (Agency) Experts on Saturday hailed India's robust growth in the April-June quarter, saying that the economy has exceeded all expectations. On India's GDP growing to 7.8 per cent in Q1 FY26, Professor Yashvir Tyagi, an economist, said that "I believe the performance shown by the Indian economy has exceeded expectations. The growth of 7.8 per cent is significantly higher than earlier estimates, which is a positive sign". "It also indicates that despite various challenges, the Indian economy remains one of the fastest-growing ones in the world," he told IANS. Dr. Suresh G. Paradva, Associate Professor, Department of Economics at Saurashtra University in Rajkot said the GDP growth is up due to good monsoon and there has been a significant increase in agricultural production. "Three sectors are key in strengthening the country's GDP — agriculture, industry and services — and all showed



robust performance in Q1 which is an encouraging sign," he noted. Riding against all odds, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow 6.5 per cent this fiscal with downside risks from the US tariff hikes, according to a Crisil report.India's real GDP growth accelerated 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this fiscal, from 7.4 per cent the fourth quarter of last fiscal. Consumer demand — buoyed by healthy rural incomes, lower

inflation and interest rates and income tax relief — is expected to remain robust in the coming quarters and support overall GDP growth, while healthy government investment spending should continue to provide buffer. On the demand side, the main driver, household consumption, rose to 7 per cent from 6 per cent. Government spending also accelerated, with government consumption expenditure and investment seeing improvement.

Income Tax Notice Alert: How To Check If Yours Is Genuine Or Fake



New Delhi. (Agency)

As the income tax return (ITR) filing season kicks off, taxpayers need to be extra cautious. Filing errors can lead to genuine notices from the Income Tax Department but there's also a growing risk of fake notices being used by scammers to trick people and extort money. While receiving any tax notice can be stressful, it's important to stay calm, informed, and alert to potential fraud during this time.The Income Tax Department will only send you a notice if there are issues with your tax return, such as errors, missing information, or if you haven't filed your ITR by the deadlineThe Income Tax Department follows strict

guidelines when sending out tax notices, so it's important to

The Income Tax Department will only send you a notice if there are issues with your tax return, such as errors, missing information, or if you haven't filed your ITR by the deadline.

know what to look for before reacting. If you receive a notice by email or SMS, don't rush to click any links—take a moment

to verify its authenticity.

One of the easiest ways to check is by looking for a unique DIN number on the notice. This number is like a fingerprint for the notice—it's mandatory and can be traced back to the Income Tax Department, helping you confirm whether the notice is genuine or not. (Also Read: Tragedy At Microsoft: Who Was Pratik Pandey, Indian-Origin Engineer Found Dead In California?)

According to the Income Tax Department, every official communication sent on or after October 1, 2019, includes a unique Document Identification Number (DIN). This number helps you verify if a notice or letter is genuine. You can use the department's service to authenticate any communication using the DIN.

If you receive an income tax notice—whether before or after filing your return—that doesn't have a DIN, it's not genuine. In such cases, the notice is considered invalid and legally treated as if it was never issued. You don't need to take any action or respond to these fake notices.You can easily verify if a notice from the Income Tax Department is genuine by using the "Authenticate Notice/Order Issued by ITD" service on the official e-Filing portal.

Indian Economy Exceeds All Expectations: Experts

New Delhi. (Agency)

The strong 7.8 per cent GDP growth recorded in the April-June quarter of 2025-26 (Q1 FY26) reflects the basic resilience of the Indian economy and the strengthening of its growth momentum, a senior government official has said. Anuradha Thakur, Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, told the media that the growth is broad-based and supported by healthy performance across sectors. "On the supply side, we have seen all-round growth. On the manufacturing, construction and engineering side, activity has been robust," she said. "Agriculture, too, has



performed strongly, with the rabi harvest and kharif sowing both exceeding last quarter's levels. We have good buffer stocks, supported by good rainfall," she added.Official GDP data released last week showed that India's real GDP expanded by 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY 2025-26, up from 6.5 per cent in the same quarter a year earlier. Nominal

GDP grew at 8.8 per cent in the April-June period.The agriculture sector clocked 3.7 per cent growth in Q1, rebounding from last year's weaker 1.5 per cent when erratic rainfall had dragged farm output. Manufacturing grew by 7.7 per cent and construction by 7.6 per cent. The services sector registered the highest growth at 9.3 per

cent compared to 6.8 per cent a year ago.Thakur emphasised that strong macro-economic fundamentals and a favourable monsoon outlook have added to the positive momentum. "The economy is anchored in resilience and is showing signs of strengthening further," she noted.India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, aided by robust government investment in infrastructure such as highways, ports, airports and railways. The Reserve Bank of India has projected the country's GDP growth at 6.5 per cent for the full fiscal year, while the IMF expects India to be the only large economy to sustain

India to become third largest economy soon, says RBI Guv; hails Jan Dhan Yojana

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indore: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said India will become the world's third largest economy soon, and credited the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for boosting the country's growth. His remark came at a time when India's GDP grew 7.8 per cent in the

April-June quarter of the current fiscal, the highest in five quarters before the imposition of heavy tariff on the country by the United States.Addressing 'Santripty Shivir', a financial inclusion campaign by government banks, at Rangwasa village here, Malhotra said the Union government and the RBI had



launched the Jan Dhan Yojana in collaboration with banks 11 years ago, leading to

development across the nation. "Today, India is counted among the five most developed countries in the world and very soon the country will become the third largest economy," he said.The RBI governor said 55 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme to ensure participation of people from all sections.



Shweta Tiwari

Flaunts Toned Curves In Sexy Bodycon Gown; Fans Call Her 'Super Hot'

Shweta Tiwari continues to prove that age is just a number when it comes to style and glamour. The Kasautii Zindagii Kay star recently dropped new pictures on social media, leaving her fans awestruck with her stunning bodycon gown. Dressed in a bodycon gown, Shweta Tiwari showed off her perfectly toned curves with effortless confidence. The elegant outfit, paired with minimal accessories and her radiant smile, highlighted her timeless beauty and undeniable charm. Take a look at her photos here:

As soon as the pictures went up, the comment section was flooded with admiration. Fans showered her with compliments, calling her “super hot,” “queen of hearts,” and “forever gorgeous.” Many praised her fitness and how she continues to set fashion goals even today.

Shweta Tiwari plays a gangster in Do You Wanna Partner
Shweta Tiwari plays a gangster in Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty-starrer Do You Wanna Partner. The trailer of the series ends with Shweta,



belting out abuses to prove a point. At a press conference held in Mumbai, she spoke about using cuss words for her role.

Shweta Tiwari opened up about the challenges she faced while preparing for her intense role. She admitted that when the makers first approached her, she couldn't believe they thought she could pull it off. “I wondered how they even imagined me in this part. It felt impossible. Even after reading the script, I questioned myself, thinking — how can I ever do this?” she revealed.

The toughest part for her was delivering abusive dialogues. “Whenever I had to say a harsh abuse, I would feel very upset and scared,” she recalled. That’s when director Archit Kumar stepped in to guide her. “He would hold my hand and tell me to repeat the same abuse loudly and with confidence,” she said. Shweta Tiwari also credited Tamannaah Bhatia for constantly encouraging her and helping her shed her inhibitions. “Tamannaah kept trying to take the fear out of me. Because of Ajith and Tamannaah, I was able to play this character,” she said with gratitude.



Sachet Parampara's 'Raanjhan' Cleared Of Plagiarism Claims; Duo File Defamation Case

Music duo Sachet-Parampara have strongly refuted plagiarism claims against their hit track Raanjhan. The allegations, made by international musician KMKZ, were reviewed by leading streaming platforms and ultimately rejected due to a lack of evidence. According to the platforms, all original project files for Raanjhan had been submitted well before its official release, confirming Sachet-Parampara's rightful ownership of the song. Following this, the duo has taken legal action and filed a defamation case against KMKZ for making what they describe as “false and damaging accusations.”

Explaining the technical side of the controversy, the musicians highlighted that the composition of Raanjhan is built on a standard F# major chord progression (F#5, F#5 major 7, B sus2, E minor, D flat, E minor) — a structure commonly used across genres and therefore not grounds for plagiarism. Addressing the issue, Sachet-Parampara said in a joint statement, “The person alleging they composed the music for Raanjhan is making completely baseless accusations, clearly intended to stir controversy and gain visibility. In consultation with our lawyers, we have issued a defamation notice and are prepared to pursue strict legal action. We’ve already submitted the original session files and piano scores to YouTube, Spotify, and other streaming platforms, all of which confirmed our authorship and dismissed any competing claims.”

What is the Raanjhan song controversy?

When Raanjhan, from Kriti Sanon's film Do Patti, dropped in 2024, it quickly turned into a chartbuster and dominated playlists across the country. But the song landed in controversy this week after composer duo Sachet-Parampara faced plagiarism allegations. An international music producer accused T-Series and the duo of lifting his beats without credit, leaving fans stunned. Responding to the claims, Sachet-Parampara issued a strong denial and stood firm



on the originality of their work. In a recent interview, Parampara Thakur dismissed the charges outright, calling them an attempt to gain “unnecessary popularity.” “Whoever is claiming to have produced the music for Raanjhan is making false allegations, aimed only at gaining unnecessary popularity. We have shared the original music files and piano scores with YouTube, Spotify, and other streaming platforms, which proves that our work is original.

Javed Akhtar, Lalit Pandit's Magic Is Back With Gulfam Song From Mannu Kya Karegga



Just when the Saiyaara fever came to an end, Mumbai Meri Jaan director SSanjay Tripathy is all set to bring another dose of romance with the upcoming movie Mannu Kya Karegga. And now, the makers of the much-anticipated film have been teasing fans with soulful combos by the legendary duo, Javed Akhtar and Lalit Pandit.

The debutant stars of Mannu Kya Karegga, Vyom Yadav and Saachi Bindra, have already been building enough excitement amongst fans with their appearance in two soulful musicals from Mannu Kya Karegga. Recently, Curious Eyes Cinema left viewers nostalgic about Javed Akhtar and Lalit Pandit's projects over the years after dropping the latest track from the film, Gulfam.

Javed Akhtar And Lalit Pandit's Gulfam Resonates With AudiencesThe soothing, heartfelt track sung by Stebin Ben, Gulfam features Akhtar's evocative lyrics and Pandit's melodious music. Presented by Times Music, this love song is much more than just a track. For listeners, it's perfect for anyone who's ever paused in the quiet moments of love or heartbreak.

Fans' Reaction To Gulfam

The video was instantly liked by music lovers, with one writing, “The magic of Jatin-Lalit still works....” A person said, “All lines are amazing.” “Top of my playlist,” read a comment. Many others appreciated the track by commenting “Mesmerising,” “Fantastic,” and more. Gulfam came right after the phenomenal response to Javed Akhtar and Lalit Pandit's yet another song titled Halki Halki Barish from the same film. The romantic ballad voiced by Shaan and Akriti Kakkar is an emotional, heartfelt ode to love and longing that is bound to resonate deeply with listeners.

Additionally, the movie's trailer and the first batch of songs from the album, including Humnava, Saiyaan, Fanaa Hua, Teri Yaadein and others have captured listeners' hearts, offering the freshness and soul of a true-blue musical gem.

Lalit Pandit's Vision About The Recent Album

Talking about the album's vision, in a recent conversation, Lalit Pandit shared, “With Mannu Kya Karegga, our vision was to create a timeless soundtrack that resonates with today's audience while honouring the essence of classic melodies.”

Param Sundari Box Office Day 2: Sidharth Malhotra-Janhvi Kapoor Film Picks Up Pace, Earns Rs 16 Crore



After a decent start on Friday, Sidharth Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor's latest outing Param Sundari picked up further on Saturday, showing steady growth at the box office. As per early estimates, the romantic drama collected Rs 9.22 crore on its second day, taking the total domestic haul to Rs 16.47 crore. The film had opened with Rs 7.25 crore on Day 1, which marked Sidharth's fifth-biggest career opener.

Param Sundari opened at Rs 7.25 crore on Friday, a figure higher than Shahid Kapoor's Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya, as noted by film trade analyst Taran Adarsh. On Saturday, the film registered an overall 15.80% occupancy in Hindi belts. The morning shows recorded 9.67%, which picked up to 18.03% in the afternoon and further to 19.70% in the evening.

While Delhi-NCR had the maximum number of shows (1,233), the occupancy remained on the lower side at 14.50%. In contrast, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad saw the strongest turnout, posting the highest occupancy levels for the film.

Param Sundari Film Plot

The film follows Param Sachadev (Sidharth Malhotra), a wealthy but restless entrepreneur from Delhi whose failed start-ups push his father to set him a challenge — find his soulmate within 10 days to secure a Rs 5 crore investment. His quest takes him to Kochi, where he meets Sundari (Janhvi Kapoor), a homestay owner with a grounded charm. Their cultural differences and Sundari's close family friend Venugopal create obstacles in a story about love, risk and second chances.

Param Sundari Review

News18 Showsha gave the film 3.5 stars. An excerpt from the review read, “This isn't a film that preaches or complicates. It doesn't carry hidden messages or moral burden. It just wants you to feel the giddiness of first love, the ache of uncertainty, and the relief of choosing heart over head. And in that, it succeeds. In the end, Param Sundari is a comfort food cinema. Paneer Butter Masala, idli-sambar, choose your metaphor. Familiar, yes, but warm, fragrant, and deeply satisfying. It may not aspire to gourmet innovation, but it fills the heart with the uncomplicated sweetness of first love, and the nostalgia of a genre once adored but now endangered. It leaves you smiling, maybe even believing, however briefly, in the miracle of soulmates, algorithm or no algorithm.”

Yes, parenting is a tough task, especially for those who also juggle a career.

"However, sharp and smart individuals know that the scenario at work and at home are almost similar. The situations and the solutions are almost always interchangeable. The tactics that you apply at office can also work wonders with your children," says parental adviser and psychologist Rashmi Desai. Here are some simple corporate survival techniques you can try when dealing with your kids...

SETTING OBJECTIVES MAY LEAD TO NOWHERE

The only place where 'goals' look nice is probably on your



Corporate hacks you can try while dealing with Kids



employee who is encouraged by way of citation and letter of appreciation is more likely to work harder than the one who has been reprimanded in front of his colleagues."

HEADS, I WIN, AND TAILS, YOU LOSE

It's okay to accede to your child's whims and fancies once in a while. But often, give them options such that they choose what you want. Sri Dixit, communication head with a reputed MNC, says, "I learnt this trick from my boss, who casually told me I could either do the official tour I so hated with his team now or during the weekend when I had plans of celebrating my wedding anniversary . I now use this on my son, who is in Class IV, all the time. I give him a choice between doing his homework now or when his favourite cartoon is on. Either way , I accomplish what I intended to."

BE A ROLE MODEL

It's important for a boss to set a good example for their subordinates to follow. Similarly , kids learn by watching their parents. Rashmi says, "If you lose your cool at the drop of a hat, your child will do the same. Children follow on their parents' footsteps. Be tolerant, soft-spoken, kind and selfless if you want your kid to be the same."

BE OPEN TO CHANGES

Flexibility and willingness to adapt and adjust your parenting style will make your journey much easier. Rehana says, "The work environment at a new office will be different from the one at your old place. You need to be flexible to sail through smoothly . When my daughter was two, she would listen to everything I said, even though she wouldn't understand most of it. But now, she is eight and has formed her own opinions. So, instead of mollycoddling, I behave like an adult with her. We reason things out and choose what's best."

AT TIMES, IT'S OKAY TO CALL IT A DAY

Overworking and burning yourself out at your workplace will lead to no good. It's fine to just go home when you know things are going nowhere. Adapt the same policy with your kids as well. Rashmi adds, "It's perfectly fine to give in to your child's tantrums, but only sometimes. If they insist on staying up late on weekend, tell them it's fine as long as they don't create a ruckus and finish their school work the next day. If they don't want to eat their spinach, give them a healthy alternative. Parenting is all about little compromises."

BE CREATIVE

Narendra says, "My wife whips out these nice looking, interesting lunches every day so our twins gobble them up without making a fuss. She presents the dishes

resume. For, many parents vouch that setting objectives, both at home and office, is almost always pointless. Narendra Jain, a marketing manager and father of two, says, "I convince myself that I need to achieve a specific target within two months, but I never manage to do that because my goals are influenced by external factors as well. In the end, I am left feeling dejected. Similarly , my wife and I vowed that we would potty train our twins by the time they are two. But we kept racing between our bedroom and the restroom till

they turned four. Letting things take its own course is one of the parenting mantras we follow now."

BONUS, INCREMENT, BRIBES ARE GOOD MOTIVATORS

'Carrot and stick approach' works brilliantly well both with kids and at office. Rehana K, an HR professional, says, "Just like how bonus and increment push staff to perform better, promise of extended playtime and a picnic over the weekend motivates my daughter to

study and behave well. Bribery is a punishable offence, but all is fair in love, war and parenting."

CITATION AND WORDS OF APPRECIATION ARE LIFESAVERS

Encourage your child by appreciating accomplishments; this boosts their self esteem. Rehana adds, "Your body language and tone matters a lot. If your son has tied the shoelace on his own, make sure you compliment him. Avoid making comments that belittle his efforts. An

creatively, just like how we rack up our brains to present our ideas differently to our clients."

IT'S ALRIGHT TO FIB

While being transparent and honest are important for any relationship to survive, it's okay to lie sometimes. Gauri Manjrekar, a fashion consultant, says, "I fib to my six-year-old son so that he drinks his glass of milk, comes with me for a medical checkup, goes to bed on time and doesn't OD on chocolates. I'm not being dishonest, I just say few harmless lies so we both can co-exist peacefully."

Kids cause greater strain in relationships than illness5 ways to keep your kids safe online

With the proliferation of new technologies and social media apps, it seems these days as if our children are almost constantly online, and as parents/guardians, we sometimes have a tough time keeping pace.



Having kids, the main purpose of matrimonial relationships, can bring in greater strains in romantic relationships than illness of partners, a new study suggests.

The study looked at the relationship quality of 721 couples in Switzerland over a period of thirteen years.

"Transition to parenthood is associated with a higher degree of closure of the couple, as well as greater differentiation of functional roles," said researcher Manuela Schicka from the University of Geneva in Switzerland in an official statement.

Schicka, who conducted the research as part of her PhD thesis, explained that women often abandon or substantially reduce their participation in the labour market once they become a mother, because of lack of institutionalised child care facilities. This also generates a great deal of frustration.

On the other hand, illness and accidents are seen as linked to bad luck and not personal responsibility.

There is therefore less grief and bitter thoughts between partners when the latter occur, Schicka stated.

The study also found that transition to retirement succeeds in reuniting couples at an age that is generally not perceived as the most romantic one.

The research demonstrated that while the various styles of conjugal interactions generally remain stable along the life course, some critical life events and transitions weigh much more on relationship quality than others, sometimes in unexpected ways.

How can we ensure that we are as good parenting online, as we are offline? Use these five tips to educate, empower and protect yourself, as well as your children, to have safer and more meaningful online experiences.

Use technology together This is a good way to teach online safety, and it creates the opportunity for you to address safety issues as they arise. Be involved in your child's online life. Discuss also the importance of unplugging from their mobile device, and establish phone-free times such as during class, at family dinners or after a certain time on school nights.

Use privacy settings/ parental control on devices There are many sites for sharing ideas, photos, videos and more. Many of these service providers offer privacy settings and controls that will determine who can see your content before you post it. Talk with your family about what they



should and should not share publicly.

Teach your family to communicate responsibly: one good thumb rule is, if you would not say it in person, then do not text it, email it, instant message it, or post it as a comment on someone's page. Discuss how what you say online might make other people feel, and come up with guidelines about what is appropriate communication. Help them respect the privacy of others by keeping the personal details about family or friends private, and by not identifying people by name in publicly shared social media. This

should include personal information such as phone numbers or home addresses. Teach your family not to accept files or to open email attachments from strangers. Write down the rules and keep them near the computer.

Check age restrictions Many online services have age limits restricting who can use their services. For example, for an email account, you would have to meet age requirements; some email products are restricted to users who are 18 years and older. Always check a website's terms of usage before allowing your child/ward to sign up for an account, and be clear with them if you have rules on which websites and services they can use. Supervise computer use If possible, the family computer should be kept in a common area of the house. You should also set reasonable limits on computer

usage. Show your children the value of privacy: encourage them to protect their passwords and personal information, as they would with something like a diary. Children under eight should have direct supervision while online. Tweens, those from eight to 12, should have more freedom, but a parent/guardian should still be close by, with privacy settings at their highest level. Teens, due to smart phones, laptops and school computers will have more Internet access, which is why it is important to set the rules early and encourage ongoing conversations.

Keep the conversation going Staying safe is not a one-off event; technology evolves, and so will the needs of your family. Make sure you keep up an ongoing dialogue. Check in on everyone's progress, change the rules if necessary, and set aside time to chat at regular intervals, for example, at family dinners. Encourage their questions. Invite conversation.