

## Meghalaya Chief Minister Meets Amit Shah, Presses For Inner Line Permit

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**New Delhi. (Agency)**  
In a significant development, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Thursday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi to discuss several key issues concerning the state's governance, identity and aspirations. In the meeting, Mr Sangma discussed

four critical issues concerning the state, ranging from administrative reforms to cultural recognition. He also demanded a separate cadre for Meghalaya, which is currently under a joint cadre with Assam.

Mr Sangma pressed for inclusion of Khasi and Garo languages in the 8th schedule to the Constitution. He has also demanded for the implementation of Inner Line Permit in Meghalaya, a long standing demand of the the civil society groups of the state. Inner line permit is a special document that non-domicile of few northeastern states needs before entering the states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

### Separate Cadre for Meghalaya

Mr Sangma reiterated his long-standing demand for the creation of a separate All India Services cadre for Meghalaya. Currently, the state shares a joint Assam-Meghalaya cadre, a situation unique in the country. He argued that segregating the cadre would allow

Meghalaya to have dedicated officials, improving governance and administration.

### Inclusion of Khasi and Garo Languages

The Chief Minister also pressed for the

inclusion of Khasi and Garo languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. He reminded Mr Shah that the Meghalaya Assembly had passed a resolution in this regard, and multiple memoranda had been submitted to the Centre. Recognition of

these languages, he said, would be a major boost to cultural identity and preservation.

### Implementation of Inner Line Permit

On the issue of the Inner Line Permit (ILP), Mr Sangma once again urged the Union Government to implement the system in Meghalaya. He highlighted the Assembly resolution already passed in its favor and pointed to growing concerns about illegal immigration and infiltration, particularly given the state's proximity to international borders. He stressed that ILP was the most viable mechanism to safeguard the state's interests under current laws.

### Tribute to PA Sangma

Finally, the Chief Minister proposed naming a road in New Delhi after late Purno Agitok Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker and one of the tallest leaders from the Northeast. Describing PA Sangma as a national figure who consistently raised the voice of tribals, minorities, and the people of the Northeast, he said the gesture would be a fitting tribute.

**"No Need To Panic,  
Negotiations Underway":  
Piyush Goyal On Trump Tariffs**

### Agency New Delhi.

Stressing that negotiations are underway with the United States over 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said that there is no need to "panic" as India and US will come to an equitable, balanced and fair agreement.

In an interview with ANI on Thursday, Piyush Goyal assured that India and the US continue to have good relations. He said, "I do not think there is any need to panic. We should allow the negotiations to happen. We continue to have good relations with the United States, and I am sure we will be able to resolve some of these issues and come to an equitable, balanced and fair agreement."

When asked about the timeline of the negotiations, he said, "There is never a timeline in negotiations. You should do it patiently, as you are doing it for the long term."

US President Donald Trump has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods exported to the US. Initially, Trump announced 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, while later, he imposed another 25 per cent tariff, taking the total to 50 per cent, citing India's continued imports of Russian oil.

The secondary tariff came into force on August 27. The higher duties are applicable to all Indian products that are either entered for consumption in the US or withdrawn from warehouses for consumption.

While the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms were announced amid the implementation of the US tariffs, Piyush Goyal said that the work on the tax reforms was being carried out for months, and the two have coincided by "chance".

## 24x7 assistance and monitoring for flood-affected people: CM Rekha Gupta

**The Sikh Times**  
Simmi Kaur Babbar

5 September 2025

Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta has said that her government is closely monitoring the flood situation. Government teams are providing 24x7 assistance to affected people. They are being continuously supplied with food, water, medical aid, toilet facilities, and other essential help.

Fodder is also being provided for cattle belonging to farmers in the affected areas, and residents are being shifted to relief camps wherever necessary.

Regarding the flood situation in the capital, the conditions in impacted areas, and the essential assistance being provided, Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta yesterday held an online review meeting from her camp office 'Chief Minister Jan

Seva Sadan' with the Divisional Commissioner and all District Magistrates, issuing clear and necessary directions. Giving details of the meeting, the Chief Minister informed that the water in the Yamuna is continuously receding and it is likely that the situation will soon return to normal. Nevertheless, her government remains fully engaged in supporting those impacted. She emphasised that all senior officers have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock vigil in affected areas and ensure proper arrangements for food, water, medical care, sanitation, and other essential services in relief camps. The Chief Minister underlined that safeguarding the lives and

property of those impacted by this natural calamity is the foremost responsibility of her government, and no negligence will be tolerated.

The Chief Minister added that due

ensured. Mrs Rekha Gupta further said that all District Magistrates have been given specific instructions to pay special attention to the elderly, women, and children in the affected areas. According to her, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is also keeping constant watch.

Officials have also been instructed to coordinate with local social organisations wherever required, so that timely and effective help reaches the people.

District Magistrates have also been asked to ensure the protection of cattle and other animals belonging to farmers, with arrangements for fodder and related needs.

**Continued news page 2**

## How dare you? Video of Ajit Pawar rebuking woman IPS officer goes viral

### Mumbai. (Agency)

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar has landed in a controversy after a video of him purportedly pressuring a woman IPS officer to halt action against illegal soil excavation in a village in Solapur went viral on social media. The incident reportedly occurred two days ago in Karmala taluka's Kurdu village, where sub-divisional police officer Anjana Krishna had gone to act on complaints of illegal 'murrum' excavation — a material widely used in road construction. Villagers clashed with officials on the spot, prompting local NCP workers to intervene. Party

worker Baba Jagtap is seen in the clip handing his phone to Krishna after dialling Ajit Pawar directly.

In the video, shared by many on social media, Pawar is heard speaking to Krishna from Jagtap's phone. "I can understand what you are saying, but I am unable to figure out if I am talking to the deputy Chief Minister. Can you please call me on my number directly?" the IPS officer asked.

Her reply apparently made Pawar furious. He shot back, threatening action against the IPS officer. "Ek min, main tere upar action lunga (I will take action against you. I am myself talking to you and you are asking me to call you directly. You want to see me. Take



my number and make a WhatsApp call. Itna aapko daring hua hai kya (How dare you?)

" the Maharashtra Minister said.

Since the officer does not recognise his voice, the Deputy Chief Minister later makes a video call, sternly telling her to stop the action. Krishna, in response,

said she had not realised she was speaking to Pawar. The NCP leader then asks her if she recognises him by face.

The Nationalist Congress Party has defended Ajit Pawar, claiming his remarks were misinterpreted. "Ajit Dada may have chided the IPS officer to pacify party workers. He didn't mean to halt the action completely," said state party chief Sunil Tatkare, stressing that Pawar never supports illegal activities. Party spokesperson Anand Paranjpe added that the video was being given the wrong colour. "In a democracy, even workers' grievances must be heard. Pawar only tried to manage the situation.

## Karnataka Cabinet withdraws 60 criminal cases, 11 tied to DK Shivakumar supporters

**The Karnataka cabinet approved the withdrawal of 60 criminal cases involving activists and political supporters. Prominent cases include those linked to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. BJP's Ashwath Narayan slammed the move, calling it abuse of power.**

### Karnataka. (Agency)

The Karnataka cabinet has approved the withdrawal of 60 criminal cases registered against various groups, including farmers, Dalit activists, pro-Kannada organisations, pro-Hindu activists, and others. The cases had been filed in different police stations across the state. One of the most prominent withdrawals involves a 2019 case against supporters of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. His followers had been booked for stone-pelting on buses and government offices in Kanakapura after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

Also included is a case against supporters of Shivakumar's brother and former Bangalore Rural MP D K Suresh, who in 2012 had gheraoed the then chief minister after being excluded from a ceremony to garland BR Ambedkar's statue.

Cases related to the 2019 Chittapur stone-pelting incident, which followed a police seizure of cattle being transported based on a tip-off from Hindu activists, are also among those being dropped. Additionally, skirmishes during Ganesh processions in Ramanagar, Koppal, and other areas, taken up on the recommendation of a former BJP minister, are part of the list.

The cabinet's decision also covers several cases filed against farmer and Dalit activists during state-wide agitations.

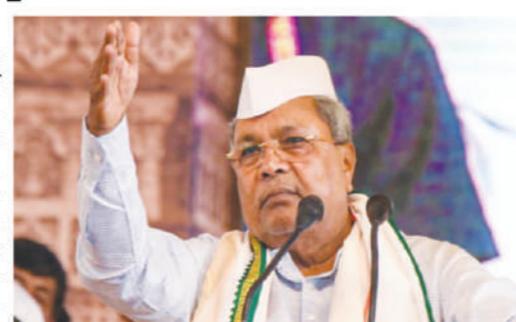
Reacting to the decision, BJP leader CN Ashwath Narayan criticised the government, saying the move amounted to an abuse of power. "The High Court has made it clear that you cannot misuse or abuse your power to withdraw cases. The government should understand that High Court judgments prevent them from doing this. They are going against the law of the land," he said. He added that instead of withdrawing

## Siddaramaiah, his family given clean chit in Muda 'scam', panel blames officials

**The PN Desai Commission has given a clean chit to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family in the MUDA site allotment case, with the cabinet accepting its report and recommending action against officials.**

### Bengaluru. (Agency)

The commission headed by retired judge PN Desai has given a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case. The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday accepted the report, which also recommended legal action against officials responsible for irregularities. The Desai Commission examined allegations that Siddaramaiah's family was involved in an "illegal alternative site allotment scam" in Mysuru between 2020 and 2024. It concluded that the allotment of sites as compensation could not be termed illegal. In respect of utilisation of de-notified land in survey number 464 of Kesare village, though the land owner insisted on



alternative un-developed land as compensation and although the resolution was also passed in 2017, the same has not been implemented. Subsequently, in 2024, sites were allotted in the ratio of 50:50 as per one of the modes of payment adopted in the same manner as allotted to others," the commission said in its findings.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil confirmed the cabinet's decision. "We (the government) had constituted Justice PN Desai's one-man Commission, which has submitted its report in two volumes. The report makes it clear that there is no truth in allegations made against the chief minister and his family. It has also asked for action against certain officials on various accounts. We (the cabinet) have accepted the report and its recommendations," he said.

According to officials, the commission exonerated Siddaramaiah and his wife Parvathi BM, citing no illegality in the allotment of 14 plots to Parvathi in lieu of 3.16 acres of her land at Kesare village. The Muda had allegedly used the land to form a layout.

Front continued news

## 24x7 assistance and monitoring for flood-affected people: CM Rekha Gupta

According to the Chief Minister, government teams are continuously monitoring the regions to ensure that any major damage is averted. She stated that this is both a moral and administrative duty of her government. District Magistrates have also been instructed to carry out assessments of flood-damaged crops so that appropriate compensation can be considered. She also informed that water from a few drains in neighbouring Haryana is entering the fields and low-lying areas of Delhi's border regions. She directed the concerned District Magistrates to resolve this issue promptly and coordinate with Haryana's departmental officers to ensure that the drainage system there is fixed. District Magistrates have informed that work is in progress. The Chief Minister made it clear that the lives and safety of those impacted are her government's top priority. The entire administrative machinery is active in response to the continuous rainfall and flooding. Senior officials, disaster management teams, and health services are on full readiness. The government is fully prepared to deal with any emergency that may arise.

## News box

## 6-hr outage in Noida's 100x sectors, water supply hit too

## Noida. (Agency)

Residents in several highrise societies in the 100x sectors experienced a six-hour power outage on Thursday morning due to a failure in the 11kV feeder from the 33/11 kV substation in Sector 122. The outage also impacted water supply in the area.

The outage began around 7am and lasted till after 1pm on Thursday. While some of the affected societies relied on power backup, residents in others used inverters to maintain supply during the power cut. Societies impacted included RG Residency, Amrapali Zodiac in Sector 120, Gaur Grandeur, Eldeco, and Aranya in Sector 119, among others. Power supply in the 100x Sectors failed this morning, preventing the area from supplying water to approximately 5-6 societies, including Gaur Grandeur, RG Residency, Amrapali Platinum, Aranya, and Eldeco. Water supply has been an issue throughout the summer, with the Noida Authority's deliveries proving inadequate. The power failure on Thursday morning created yet another problem regarding water shortages," said Nikhil Singhal, president of the Noida Highrise Federation (NHRF) for the 100x Sectors. According to NHRF secretary Kapil Mehra, power outages are a major issue in the area, particularly during morning and evening water supply hours.

## DTCP demolishes illegal gates, guard room in Gurgaon

## Ghaziabad/Noida. (Agency)

The enforcement team of the department of town and country planning (DTCP) on Thursday carried out a demolition drive in new Gurgaon, removing illegal gates installed by a developer. DTCP officials said Orris Infrastructure had erected gates and deployed guards on 24-metre-wide sector roads in Sector 85 "to restrict public entry and exit", prompting complaints from residents. Acting on the complaints, the DTCP team, led by town planner Amit Madholia, reached the site and dismantled two gates blocking the sector roads.

A guard room built in the middle of the road was also demolished. Officials said Orris not only closed the sector roads but also stationed marshals to regulate vehicle movement, in violation of planning norms. Madholia told TOI, "No one is allowed to block a 24-metre-wide road under govt policy. These are public roads meant for free movement of residents, visitors and emergency vehicles. Deploying guards to monitor entry is unlawful. We have directed the concerned SHO to take strict action if guards are reinstated in future." The demolition is part of DTCP's ongoing enforcement drive to ensure that licensed colonies and developers hand over sector roads and open spaces to the govt without any encumbrances. Officials said such blockages often lead to traffic bottlenecks and safety concerns for residents.

In a separate action, the DTCP team also razed an encroached green park in Uppal Southend, a licensed colony in Sector 49. Officials said the residents' welfare association (RWA) fenced off part of a 24-metre-wide internal road and converted it into a park, despite the road already being handed over to the govt.

## Noida: Delivery boy turns predator; forces woman to strip at knife-point

## Noida. (Agency)

A 23-year-old hairdresser who also delivers groceries was arrested Thursday for allegedly forcing a customer to strip by pointing a knife at her son, recording her explicit pictures and videos, and later blackmailing her. Police said the incident happened in July at the woman's Greater Noida apartment, where the accused, Gaurav, delivered milk and other household goods. The woman claimed Gaurav harassed her for over two months with the photos before she called the emergency police helpline on Sept 2, allegedly after he uploaded some of her photos online and shared them with her husband, who works in Ahmedabad. According to the cops, Gaurav visited the woman's flat, apparently saying he wanted to talk to her, on July 10. The FIR states that once he was in the house, he pulled out a knife and held it to the neck of her son, who was sleeping. The woman claimed that Gaurav threatened to kill the boy if she resisted and forced her to undress while he recorded videos and took photos. The woman, in her statement, said, "When I refused, he threatened to kill my children. He said he would throw my daughter into a drain. Fearing for their lives, I complied." Gaurav then allegedly began blackmailing her, repeatedly visiting her flat and warning her not to go to the police. On one occasion, he allegedly sealed her fourth-floor flat's balcony at night.

# Flooding to snarls: Plea in court over crumbling infrastructure in Gurgaon

## Gurgaon. (Agency)

For many in the city, the monsoon's arrival is less a season and more a test of endurance — submerged roads, stalled traffic, and frayed tempers. For Mahender Vazirani, a resident of Sushant Lok-3, the latest deluge was the last straw. Tired of dodging potholes, wading through waterlogged streets, and watching neighbours suffer property loss and even tragedy, Vazirani filed a petition in the district court, urging judicial intervention against what he described as chronic civic neglect. The petition named MCG, deputy commissioner, and DCP (traffic), accusing them of failing their statutory duties and allowing the city's infrastructure to fall into disrepair.

The court, acknowledging the gravity of the complaint, issued notices to the city's senior officials, demanding detailed responses within two weeks. Vazirani's petition called for transparency and accountability. He urged the court to order a thorough audit of funds spent on roads,

sewerage, and drainage over the past five years, and to ensure the city's maintenance and development records are made public. The petition, argued by counsel Manish Shandilya, painted a grim picture of the crumbling infrastructure. "The roads, sewer network, and drains inside the city have turned pathetic. In this rainy season, it has turned from bad to worse," Shandilya said. He pointed to a string of recent tragedies — eight rain-related deaths in July alone, including four persons electrocuted on a waterlogged street, and several others drowned after being swept away by the city's swollen drains.

"Due to the pathetic condition of roads, several accidents have occurred in the city. Multiple people have suffered injuries and there have been casualties as well," he added. Vazirani's petition argued that this state of affairs was not just inconvenient but unacceptable, especially in a city



where residents pay hefty taxes for basic amenities. "The general public and taxpayers deserve nuisance-free lives while living in the city. They must feel safe, secure, and should be able to travel throughout the city without any inconvenience. But this is not the case," the petition stated. It accused MCG of collecting house tax, drainage, and sewer maintenance charges without delivering on its promises, and alleged corruption and collusion between officials and

contractors. Not just a cry of frustration, the petition demanded systemic change. It called for a detailed audit of all funds and projects related to roads, sewerage and drainage, and insisted that the authorities be held accountable for years of neglect.

"The acts and conduct of the authorities are gross violations of the law, unwarranted, and gross negligence of the duty and responsibility assigned to them," said Shandilya. Like Vazirani, the city's failing infrastructure is a daily ordeal for many. Shivam, a corporate executive, found himself stranded after the rains on Monday evening, forced to pay Rs 600 for a 6km e-rickshaw ride — what he wryly called a "premium charge for a boat ride".

Elsewhere, officegoers were seen wading through waist-deep water near Cyber City and Golf Course Road, laptop bags held aloft as they navigated the flooded streets.

## Gone with the rain: Gurgaon roads repaired before monsoon are already in ruins

## Gurgaon. (Agency)

The city's main arteries, from Rao Gajraj Singh Marg and Sushil Aima Marg to the stretch between Rezang La Chowk and Krishna Chowk, are now lying battered after heavy rain. In Sector 9 and 9A, cratered roads filled with water force vehicles to slow to a crawl and attempt risky manoeuvres. Rain has also eroded the surface of the Sector 17-18 road, leaving behind an uneven stretch that jolts commuters and worsens congestion. Interestingly, most of these roads were repaired right before the monsoon, but failed to withstand even one rainy season. Residents and RWAs say shoddy repair work and lack of accountability are to blame.

"It's so unmotorable that even GPS can't decide the best route to fall into. Driving on this stretch feels like a punishment. The city planners at GMDA do not even bother to level it," said Lalit Suraj Bhola, general secretary of RWA 9A.

Rao Gajraj Singh Marg, one of the key

access routes to Udyog Vihar, has also been reduced to a battered stretch. "This road is the main lifeline for thousands, but every day we are forced to crawl through potholes and waterlogged patches. Crossing this stretch takes 20-25 minutes and damages vehicles. Authorities are simply looking the other way," said Neeraj Verma, who works in Udyog Vihar Phase-IV. Residents say repeated patchwork repairs have only worsened the problem. "Taxpayers' money is being drained. The road work on Sushil Aima Marg was carried out just two months ago. The roads don't last even one season, yet no accountability is fixed," said Rajan Saggar, RWA president of Palam Vihar.

Beyond these sectors, the situation on Southern Peripheral Road is equally frustrating. Commuters face long snarls daily due to bottlenecks near DLF Alameda. "Reaching NH-8 or Vatika Chowk has become a struggle. The waterlogged stretch forces vehicles to crawl on one lane, and potholes have developed again," said Prasenjit Bose, a

resident of Paras Irene. Residents said inadequate drainage and poor slope design were compounding the problem. Rainwater stagnates on these stretches, weakening the surface layer and leading to rapid wear. Without comprehensive repaving and proper quality checks, they warn, the cycle of quick fixes and collapse will continue year after year. "The real problem is poor drainage. Water just sits on the road for hours after every spell of rain. Until GMDA fixes the drainage, no amount of carpeting will survive a single monsoon," said Harpal Arora, a resident of Sector 68.

A GMDA official said roadwork was being monitored closely. "Road repairs and pothole-filling have been extensively taken up to improve conditions.

Black top work can be carried out once the weather improves. No payment has been made yet to the agency that fixed the roads. A penalty has been imposed, and directions have been given in writing to rectify the work after monsoon," the official said.

## MCG to hire 4 companies to sterilise 36k strays a year, set up ABC centres

## Gurgaon. (Agency)

MCG has started the process of hiring agencies to sterilise and vaccinate 36,000 stray dogs annually. Four agencies will be appointed, one for each zone, with the project cost estimated at Rs 2 crore per zone, officials said. According to MCG records, 24,985 stray dogs were sterilised and vaccinated in 2024, while 16,386 such procedures were carried out between Jan and June this year. "We have initiated the process to hire four agencies for the sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs across the city. Each agency will be assigned a target of 9,000 dogs per year, and the contract will last for one year," said MCG executive engineer Sunder Sheoran.

As per the request for proposal, the selected agencies will be responsible for setting up animal birth control (ABC) centres, arranging vehicles, and deploying trained staff to carry out sterilisation,

immunisation, and mass vaccination of stray dogs at their own expense. Each agency must provide at least one vehicle, ensure that all vehicles are equipped with GPS tracking, and install CCTV cameras at



the rear of each vehicle to record the dog-catching process. They are also required to submit daily, monthly, and annual progress reports to MCG. These reports should detail the number of dogs caught, sterilised, vaccinated, or kept under

observation, as well as any deaths before, during, or after surgery. The reports must also include the names and qualifications of veterinarians involved, the number of sterilisation surgeries each performed monthly, their registration details, and records of any post-operative complications or mortality linked to their surgeries. Officials added that agencies must strictly follow the ABC Rules, 2023, and related guidelines.

Recently, the civic body issued fresh directives to RWAs, reminding pet owners that registering all pet dogs is mandatory under the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, and the Registration and Proper Control of Dogs Bye-Laws, 2008. In a circular issued last Saturday, MCG noted that many residents have been keeping dogs without registering them or obtaining the required licence.

# Lessons in lockup: When prisoners turn teachers for fellow inmates

## Noida. (Agency)

Behind the high walls and heavy iron gates of the district jail on the outskirts of Greater Noida, a quiet transformation is unfolding. The inmates here are not just serving sentences, they're attempting to reclaim their lives, one lesson at a time. Every morning, at the break of dawn, the sound of "pachasa" — 50 rings of the jail bell — echoes through the prison in Luksar village. While some inmates head to kitchen or vegetable garden, others head to learning spaces. Jail authorities call it reform, for the prisoners, it is a way to hold on to hope. Prashant Tyagi, a BA in Hindi serving a life sentence for murder, never imagined that his education would mean anything in the barracks. But when an elderly inmate asked him how to read and write, something changed. "When I started teaching him, others came forward too. Now, it's a routine. We gather, we learn, we grow," he said. This organic effort caught the attention of jail authorities, who structured it into a proper

initiative. Jail superintendent Brijesh Kumar said, "We realised many inmates were illiterate, and learning could be their first step towards rehabilitation. We identified about 500 prisoners who needed basic education. The goal is simple. When they step out, they should be able to sign their name." For 65-year-old Rampal Singh, the first few days in jail were suffocating. Convicted under charges he claims are false, the weight of his sentence crushed him. But within the bleakness of his new reality, he found a reason to keep going. "Other inmates introduced me to the adult literacy programme, and I started teaching. It became my escape. If I can help even one person learn to read and write, I will have done something good with my life," he said. Each of the 68 barracks now conducts a one-hour daily adult literacy class for 30-40 inmates. "They have been provided study material, stationery and blackboards by NGOs. Some inmates learn basic reading and writing skills, while others, under

the guidance of peer educators, explore maths," said Mithun Singh from India Vision Foundation. Before Naresh Choudhary (56) was sentenced under IPC Section 302 (murder) in 2009, he had been a teacher for 15 years. "When I first arrived, I felt lost," he said. "But then I saw so many who could not write. I picked up my pen again, not for myself, but for them." Naresh is now a key figure in the literacy programme. He believes that writing can change lives. "If you can teach a man to write a poem, perhaps you can teach him to write a new future for himself," he said. Akidatta Raja, who is serving a life term, said his journey began when he saw a fellow inmate struggling to read a letter from his family. "He was staring at the paper for hours, unable to understand what his own child had written. That moment stayed with me," he said. "I offered to help him read, and before I knew it, others started coming to me too." For Anil Tiwari (48), who was a tutor, the prison's literacy

programme is a continuation of the life he left behind. "Maybe they made mistakes, maybe they were caught in circumstances beyond their control.

But everyone deserves a second chance, even if that second chance comes in a place like this," said Tiwari, who was imprisoned for the murder of his wife over dowry. Mukesh Sharma, who is serving a life sentence for kidnap and murder, believes that education inside jail is more than just

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# Ayodhya once saw bullets for devotees, now it showers them with flowers: CM Adityanath

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Lawns outside Delhi University's Arts Faculty are buzzing on a humid September afternoon. Groups of students sit under trees, sipping tea and exchanging notes. But the chatter isn't about fests or classes — it's about survival in Delhi. Expensive paying guest (PG) accommodations, soaring college fee, long commutes, unsafe streets and a range of other overwhelming daily struggles of students are dominating the conversations around the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections. Volunteers show a banner in support of NSUI candidate ahead of the DUSU elections in New Delhi on Monday. Tribune Photo: Mukesh Aggarwal For many day boarders, reaching daily classes comes at a cost and exercises a financial strain. Calculating her monthly commute, Priya Sharma, a third-year student from North Campus, said: "I spend more than Rs 3,000 a month just on Metro and bus passes. This is not fair. A 50 per cent concession is not a luxury — it's a necessity." Her friend Anjali Verma from Hindu College adds, "For students like us who travel every day from far-off places, this demand is about access to education, not just comfort." Those who make it to campus are hit by another worry — fee. Rahul Yadav of Ramjas College said: "Every year, fee is raised without consider-

ing students' financial conditions. If two students are studying the same course, why should one pay double just because of the

thousands. Accommodation is no less of a headache. With limited hostel seats, most outstation students are pushed into private

provide proper housing," Archit said. As the sun sets, safety becomes the biggest concern, especially for women. Simran Kaur of Daulat Ram College says she avoids walking on certain routes after dark. "Many streets are poorly lit and CCTV cameras don't work. After 7 pm, North Campus doesn't feel safe for us." Students say situation isn't much better inside classrooms and libraries. Wi-Fi signals keep dropping, canteen food gets complaints and libraries are so overcrowded that students often wait for hours for a seat.

"Reading halls are always packed, and Wi-Fi barely works. DU should invest in improving academic infrastructure, not just election posters," says Rohit Singh of Ramjas College, pointing at the campaign hoardings plastered across walls. Amid all posters and slogan, many students say they are tired of the political drama. Kartik Meena from Kirori Mal College puts it simply: "Elections should be about student issues, not party politics. Fee hike, transport, hotels — these affect us daily." The frustration is shared by many across the campus. Sitting outside Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) canteen, Nisha Rawat says, "We are told DU is a top-ranked public university. But basic things like affordable food, hostels and women's security are still missing. Our vote will go to those who listen to us, not those who just shout slogans." As campaigning heats up, one thing is clear, stu-

dents this year want solutions, not promises. Affordable education, safe and reasonable housing, reliable transport and better facilities are the real issues at stake in what remains the country's most closely watched student election.

## Prisoner creates ruckus at jail, threatens to kill officials

Gurugram: A prisoner of Faridabad's Neemka jail threatened to shoot the Assistant Superintendent and the head warden. He made a noise while talking on the phone, and when interrupted, he not only tore off his uniform but also pushed the head warden but also tore off his uniform. According to the complaint filed by head warden Devi Singh, a staff member told him that the prisoner, Lalit, was creating a ruckus to make a call. "On the complaint of the telephone booth in charge, I called the prisoner. When I confronted him, he not only tore off my uniform but also pushed me back. Assistant Superintendent Umesh Kumar then reached the spot. Lalit threatened to shoot me and Kumar in front of the guards," the head warden said. The FIR was registered against the prisoner for obstructing government duty, tearing uniform during government duty and threatening to kill at the Sadar, Ballabhgarh police station. "Action will be taken according to whatever facts emerge," Inspector Umesh Kumar, SHO of the Sadar, Ballabhgarh police station, said.



name of the college? There should be one course, one fee across DU colleges." The idea of "one course, one fee" has quickly gained ground, with many saying it reflects the need for fairness in a university where fee gaps between colleges often run into

PGs, which are both expensive and unsafe. "More hostels, especially for women, should be the first priority," says Archit Dwivedi, a student at Hansraj College. "PGs charge double the money and give half the facilities. If DU calls itself a premier university, it must

## Authorities intensify bio-security measures, surveillance at city zoo

New Delhi: Following the outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza at the National Zoological Park here, the authorities on Sunday intensified surveillance and bio-security measures at the facility. According to zoo officials, surveillance teams are conducting inspections of the entire premises twice in a day. Enclosures, water ponds and foraging grounds frequented by migratory birds are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Health and behaviour of animals are being closely tracked by keepers as well as through CCTV monitoring. "All zoo staff members have been equipped with protective gear, including gloves, masks, protective suits and shoe covers, to ensure safety and minimise the risk of transmission," an official statement from the zoo read. As of Sunday, no new casualties have been reported among water birds or migratory species. However, three painted storks and one black-necked ibis have been separated from the aviary and are under treatment and observation. So far, six painted storks and two black-necked ibises have died inside the water bird aviary, while four migratory painted storks died in the ponds. Two samples each of painted storks and black-necked ibises were sent to lab. The results confirmed the presence of H5N1 avian influenza. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus, which is listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a significant zoonotic disease with pandemic potential.

## Posing as telecom officer, Ludhiana man held for fraud

Gurugram: The accused, Shiva, who went to Laos in March, would dupe Indians by posing as a fake officer of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), CBI and the police. The police have seized a passport and a mobile phone from his possession and are investigating the fraud network. A local had filed a complaint on May 15, stating that he had received a call, wherein the caller introduced himself as an employee of the TRAI and said that his number was being used for illegal activities. He claimed that a case had been registered against him at the Colaba Police Station in Mumbai. Later, he made him talk to a fake police official. "The fake police official mentioned my name in a money laundering case and said that a warrant had been issued. Then, he digitally arrested me. I transferred money as per the direction of the fake police official," the complainant told the police. An FIR was registered and a cybercrime team of the West police station arrested the accused in Ludhiana on August 27. He was taken on an eight-day police remand after being produced in a city court. The accused was identified as Shiva, alias Harsh, a native of new Vijay Nagar.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, NAMEEN S/O RAJMAL R/O J-723, Jajahipur, Azadpur, N.S. Azadpur, North West Delhi, Delhi-11003, declare that name of mine and my son has been wrongly written as NEAVEEN KUMAR and DEV KUMAR in my minor son DEV aged 15 years in his school records. The actual name of mine and son are NEAVEEN and DEV which may be amended accordingly.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHANMUGATHAMMAL Mother of No. 2617355L Rank-LNAME MURUGAN S Presently residing at HOUSE NO-1/47, PILLAIYAR KOVIL STREET, VPO-POIGAI, DIST-TELANGANA, TELANGANA, NADU-624852, have changed my name from SHANMUGATHAMMAL to SHANMUGATHAI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUVARNA SIDDHANA BIRADAR Wife of No. 2617228W Rank-HAV NAME-HOSUR MALLIKARJUN BHIMAPPA Presently residing at VPO-SHURPALI, TEH-JAMAKHAR, DIST-BAGALKOT, KARNATAKA-587119, have changed my name from SUVARNA SIDDHANA BIRADAR to SUVARNA HOSUR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, PACHAIYAMAL Mother of JC-443309X Rank-NB SUB NAME-SELVAM Presently residing at VILL-SINDIPETI PO-KOTTAPPONDI, TEH-MELAMALAYUR, DIST-VILUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-604201, have changed my name from J PACHAIYAMAL to PACHAIYAMAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JAYARAMA GOUDAR Father of JC-443309X Rank-NB SUB Name-SELVAM J Presently residing at VILL-SINDIPETI, PO-KOTTAPPONDI, TEH-MELAMALAYUR, DIST-VILUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-604201, have changed my name from JAYARAMA GOUDAR to JAYARAMA GOUDAR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHD SALIM QUDUS S/O MOHD IKRAM R/O H NO. 2918 THIRD FLOOR KALAM MASJID TURKMAN GATE DELHI GPO NORTH DELHI-110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAHNAAZ KHAN

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, RAJNEET KUMAR S/O RAJNEET KUMAR R/O NO A/273 3RD FLOOR KALAM COLONY INDERPUR CENTRAL DELHI 110012 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJNEET KUMAR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MANZOOR AHMED S/O YAKUB KHAN R/O HOUSE NO A 273 3RD FLOOR KALAM COLONY INDERPUR CENTRAL DELHI 110012 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJUR KHAN

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MD. MANJUR KHAN S/O YAKUB KHAN R/O HOUSE NO A 273 3RD FLOOR KALAM COLONY INDERPUR CENTRAL DELHI 110012 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJUR KHAN

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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## NEWS BOX

## Trump says will speak with Putin soon

## Washington. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he would speak soon with Russia's Vladimir Putin, after his call earlier in the day with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders. "I will be, yeah," Trump told a reporter asking if he would speak with the Russian leader in the near future, on the sidelines of a dinner with prominent US tech executives at the White House. Trump's call with European leaders came after a summit in Paris aimed at firming up plans for security guarantees for Ukraine if or when there is a ceasefire.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday that talks with Trump "can be organized very quickly if necessary" but rejected out of hand the idea of Western security guarantees for Kyiv.

"Can foreign, especially European and American military contingents, provide and guarantee security for Ukraine? Definitely not, they cannot," Peskov told state news agency RIA Novosti. "This cannot be a guarantee of security for Ukraine that would suit our country." More than two dozen countries have pledged to join a "reassurance" force to deploy in Ukraine after any eventual peace deal, aiming to deter Moscow from again attacking its neighbour, leaders announced Thursday after the Paris summit.

However, there is growing concern that Putin has no interest in ending the conflict, with alarm intensifying after a visit to Beijing this week during which he vowed Russia would fight on in Ukraine if a peace deal cannot be reached.

## UK Doctor, Who Chopped Off His Legs, Jailed For Fraud, Saving Amputation Porn

## World. (Agency)

A UK judge jailed a vascular surgeon Thursday after he admitted making fraudulent insurance claims that involved having his legs amputated following self-inflicted injuries made "in part for sexual gratification". The case saw surgeon Neil Hopper also plead guilty to possessing extreme pornographic images, relating to videos by an extreme body modifications website called the EunuchMaker, which depicted genital mutilation. Judge James Adkin handed Hopper, 49, of Cornwall in southwest England, a 32-month sentence, telling the surgeon he must serve 40 percent of it behind bars before being considered for parole. The judge also made the surgeon in England's state-run National Health Service (NHS) the subject of a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order, which restricts offenders' behaviour to protect the public. Hopper, a married father who had carried out hundreds of NHS amputation operations, pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation after making insurance claims for nearly £163;500,000 (\$671,000) following his own amputations. In 2019 he used dry ice to freeze his legs but on admission to hospital said he had been unwell with diarrhoea and vomiting and he was treated for suspected sepsis. He eventually underwent a double foot amputation later followed by a further operation to remove his legs below the knees.

Becoming an amputee had long been an ambition of his and he had a sexual interest in it, the court heard.

"You subsequently made fraudulent insurance claims ... by representing that the injuries were organic, caused by sepsis, when you caused the injury seemingly at least in part for sexual gratification," Adkin said as he sentenced him. Hopper was identified following investigations into Marius Gustavson, who ran the EunuchMaker site. The ringleader of the site had his penis and leg removed and assisted others in cutting off body parts, before being jailed for life by a London judge last year.

## China's Victory Parade Stuns The World: Five Bold Messages The Dragon Sent To Friends And Foes

## Beijing. (Agency)

China unleashed one of its most massive military spectacles in decades, displaying everything from nuclear warheads to cutting-edge fighter jets and missiles, in its Victory Day parade on September 3. The show of strength sent ripples across the globe. Leaders from 20 countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, witnessed Beijing's showcase, which projected not only its military might but a meticulously crafted message to allies, rivals and the global order. Every maneuver and display highlighted that China's rise is relentless and its strategic influence is steadily expanding. The parade marked the 80th anniversary of China's victory over Japan in World War II, carrying a pronounced anti-Japanese undertone. Chinese analysts state that the event sent a subtle but unmistakable warning to Tokyo, particularly on the sensitive Taiwan issue. Beijing aims to encourage restraint and dissuade Japan from adopting a "Taiwan is Japan's concern" approach. Gao Zhikai, professor at Soochow University and deputy director at the China Globalisation Centre, observed that Beijing could have leveraged the occasion to seek a joint statement from attending nations to prevent Tokyo from amending its pacifist constitution and to curb any assertive stance on Taiwan. The parade also delivered a pointed message to Taiwan. Analysts likened Taiwan's resistance to "an insect attempting to halt a moving chariot", highlighting the military disparity across the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing framed the Victory Day as a shared historical moment with Taiwan, highlighting Japan's colonial atrocities, including the killing of 400,000 people in Taiwan, and portraying Taiwan's current leadership as weak for aligning with Tokyo instead of China. Professor Shen Yi of Fudan University described the parade as a defining moment in the shifting global power balance.

## Collateral consequences of Ukraine conflict, including fuel price, affecting Global South: India tells UNGA

**India has consistently advocated that the path of dialogue and diplomacy is the only way forward to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, no matter how insurmountable such a course may appear.**

## United nations.(Agency)

India has voiced regret over the Ukraine conflict's collateral consequences, including prices of fuel, saying countries of the Global South have been left to fend for themselves, as Delhi underscored that diplomatic efforts hold the promise to end the war and bring lasting peace. India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We maintain that the loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and

no solution can be found on the battlefield, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said Thursday. Addressing the UN General Assembly debate on the situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, Harish said India continues to "note with regret that the collateral consequences of the conflict, including prices of fuel, is affecting the world at large and particularly the countries of the Global South, which have been left to fend for themselves. From our perspective, it is critical that their voices are heard, and their legitimate concerns duly addressed".

Underscoring that the wholehearted participation and commitment of all stakeholders are critical for lasting peace, India told the UN General Assembly that it welcomes the "recent positive developments" in this direction. Harish said Delhi endorsed last month's summit meeting in Alaska between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and voiced appreciation

for the progress made at the summit. We also note the subsequent diplomatic efforts by the US president in engaging with Ukrainian president and European



leaders in Washington. Harish said. We believe all these diplomatic efforts hold the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up prospects for a lasting peace.

Three days after rolling out the red carpet for Putin for the summit meeting in Alaska, Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and seven other

European leaders - German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron, United Kingdom Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte - in the White House. Harish said Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains in touch with Putin, Zelensky and the European leadership on the evolving situation. Underlining that an early end to the Ukraine conflict is in everyone's interest, Harish referred to Modi's message that this is not an era of war and emphasised that Delhi stands ready to support diplomatic efforts for an early end to the conflict. Hours before India's statement at the UNGA, Modi spoke with European Council President Antonio Costa and von der Leyen. Exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and efforts for bringing an early end to the conflict in Ukraine, Modi said in a post on X.

## "Cannot Provide Assurances": Russia Rejects Western Security Guarantees For Ukraine

## World. (Agency)

Russia rejected the notion of Western security guarantees for Ukraine on Friday, after more than two dozen countries pledged to join a "reassurance" force to deploy in the war-torn country after any eventual peace deal with Moscow. A force to deter Russia from again attacking its neighbour is a key pillar of the security backstop a coalition of mainly European countries want to offer to Ukraine if the war ends via a peace deal or a ceasefire. The extent of any US involvement remains uncertain, even after European leaders spoke to President Donald Trump via video conference following the Paris summit at which the "coalition of the willing" pledged its force. But on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected the idea of Western security guarantees for Ukraine, saying that "foreign, especially European and American" troops "definitely cannot" provide such assurances to Kyiv. The Paris summit was hosted by French

President Emmanuel Macron and attended by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, while others, like British prime minister Keir Starmer,



participated remotely. The meeting represented a new push led by Macron to show that Europe can act independently of the United States after Trump launched direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The United States was represented by Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, who also met with Zelensky separately. Trump said after his call with European leaders that he would speak to Putin soon, with Peskov confirming Friday

that such a call could be organised swiftly.

First concrete step'

Europe has been under pressure to step up its response over three and a half years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

"We have today 26 countries who have formally committed -- some others have not yet taken a position -- to deploy as a 'reassurance force' troops in Ukraine, or be present on the ground, in the sea, or in the air," Macron told reporters, standing alongside Zelensky. Zelensky hailed the move: "I think that today, for the first time in a long time, this is the first such serious concrete step." The troops would not be deployed "on the front line" but aim to "prevent any new major aggression", the French president said.

Macron added that another major pillar was a "regeneration" of the Ukrainian army so that it can "not just resist a new attack but dissuade Russia from a new aggression".

## Facebook Brings Back "Poke" Feature After Nearly A Decade

**Facebook users will now have a special page in the app that shows everyone who has poked them.**

## World. (Agency)

Meta is bringing back one of its classic and most nostalgic features, the Poke, on Facebook. Originally launched in 2004, the Poke allowed users to send a simple nudge to friends to say hello, get their attention, or just have fun with them without sending a message. "Sending pokes just got easier," Facebook wrote in a carousel post, with the caption, "It's time to start poking again." In an Instagram post, Meta stated that the company was restoring pokes to user profiles in the Facebook app. "Pokes never really left, but they're making a comeback in a major way!"

Facebook users will now have a special page in the app that shows everyone who has poked them, Meta said. Earlier, Pokes were easy to miss. On facebook.com/pokes, users can see all their pokes and track interactions with friends. This time, Meta is also adding a

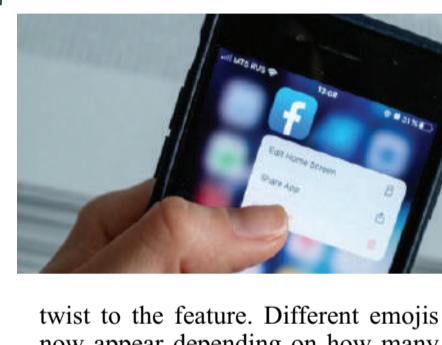
someone's attention. It became one of Facebook's signature features in the early years. People used it to flirt or show interest, play around with friends, and break the ice without sending a message.

It was particularly popular among teenagers and college students.

As Facebook grew, new features like Messenger, likes, and reactions became more popular. However, the Poke feature lost its relevance and was removed from the main app by 2014.

How to use Poke feature on Facebook? Users can now poke friends directly from their Facebook profile, instead of searching or using a separate page.

When someone pokes you, you'll receive a notification, so you always know when a friend is interacting with you. "Now you can poke your friends directly from their profiles and learn about new activities through notifications," Meta said.



twist to the feature. Different emojis now appear depending on how many pokes have been exchanged between friends to give a Snapchat-like feel.

What is the Poke feature? Facebook first launched the Poke feature in 2004. It was a simple way to get

## Aftershocks rattle Afghanistan after quake kills 2,200; aid groups plead for funds

## Washington. (Agency)

Two powerful aftershocks shook eastern Afghanistan in a span of 12 hours, the German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ) said, triggering fears of more deaths and destruction on Friday in a region where about 2,200 people died in quakes in four days. Survivors in the earthquake-prone region are scrambling for basic amenities as the United Nations and other agencies warn of a critical need for funds, food, medical supplies and shelter, with the World Health Organization seeking funds of \$4 million. The latest aftershocks follow two earthquakes that ravaged the South Asian nation, crushed by war, poverty and shrinking aid. The Taliban administration estimated 2,205 deaths and 3,640 injuries by Thursday. A Reuters witness said continuous aftershocks hit the province of Nangarhar and details of the damage were still being collected.

Friday's earthquake of magnitude 5.4 struck

the southeast at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles), GFZ said, hours after one late on Thursday night. The week's first earthquake of magnitude 6, just minutes before midnight on Sunday, was one of Afghanistan's deadliest, unleashing damage and destruction in the provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar when it struck at a shallow depth of 10 km.

A second quake of magnitude 5.5 on Tuesday caused panic and interrupted rescue efforts as it sent rocks sliding down mountains and cut off roads to villages in remote areas.

With houses built mostly of dry masonry, stone, and timber, some families preferred to stay in the open rather than return home, as a precaution against aftershocks.

Naqibullah Rahimi, a spokesperson for the health department in Nangarhar province, said the epicentre of Thursday's earthquake

was in the district of Shiwa near the border with Pakistan, and there were some initial



reports of damage. The earlier quakes flattened villages in both provinces, destroying more than 6,700 homes, and rescue workers pulled bodies from the rubble on Thursday.

The earthquakes mainly happen in the Hindu

Kush mountain range, where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.

## FUNDING CRISIS

Landslides and debris on key roads hampered relief work, the WHO said, while calling for more funds to provide healthcare and disease surveillance.

"A funding gap of at least \$4 million threatens to delay critical activities, underscoring the urgent need for international support," it added in a statement. It warned against the risk of disease, stemming from overcrowded shelters, unsafe water and inappropriate waste management, while an influx of Afghans recently deported from Pakistan strains the fragile healthcare system.

Afghanistan's Taliban government appealed for urgent aid from the world soon after Sunday's disaster. But relief has been scant in a country largely ignored by the world since the Taliban takeover in 2021.

**34 'human bombs' carrying '400 kg of RDX': Mumbai police on alert after threat message**

The WhatsApp message, which claims to be from the 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi' organisation, also said that 14 Pakistani terrorists have entered India.

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

The Mumbai traffic police received a threat message on its WhatsApp number Friday in which the sender claimed that 34 "human bombs" carrying "400 kg of RDX" have been planted in 34 vehicles for a blast that will "shake the entire city", officers said. The message, which claims to be from the 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi' organisation, also said that 14 Pakistani terrorists have entered India. "Mumbai Police is alert, and security across the state has been enhanced. All angles of the threat are being investigated,"



an officer said. This comes even as the Mumbai police are preparing for Anant Chaturdashi and Eid-e-Milad festivals in the city.

"We keep receiving such threatening messages from unknown numbers on our helpline. Most of the time, they either are from someone facing mental health issues or those under the influence of alcohol," the officer added.

"However, every time we receive such a message, we have to take it seriously and follow the protocol set up for such cases. If a specific location is mentioned, we have to evacuate the premises and carry out a check with the help of the bomb disposal squad," the officer said.

In this case, the message does not mention a specific location, the officer said, adding that they are tracking the number and should be able to identify the sender soon. "Further legal processes, like registration of an offence in the matter, will take place soon at the local police station."

## Onam eve rush grips Thiruvananthapuram as shoppers crowd markets

**Thiruvananthapuram .(Agency)**

The state capital on the eve of 'Thiruvonam' witnessed 'Uthradapachil' — an unprecedented rush with people thronging the streets for last minute purchases. Traffic at Overbridge, East Fort, Chalai, Pazhavangadi and MG Road intermittently halted with shoppers dominating the streets for buying vegetables to textiles to celebrate Onam.

Almost every street leading to Chalai, Palayam and MG Road — three popular shopping areas — were taken over by shoppers and pedestrians. Many feel that Onam festivities are almost back to normal compared to the previous years which were marred by the Wayanad landslide, pandemic and flood.

On Thursday, the Chalai market was seen buzzing with activities from morning itself. Jayakumar P, a vegetable vendor at Chalai Market, said that the business is good. "There was no price surge on perishables like last year. We are also getting good sales and the market has been buzzing with customers all day. We are



content that people are able to make purchases for Onam without burning a hole in their pockets," said Jayakumar.

Sakeer, a wholesale vegetable vendor said the availability of vegetables has helped keep the prices on check this year. "The prices of vegetables surge depending on its availability and fortunately, there was no shortage this year," he said.

The market intervention by the state government to rein in coconut oil prices has come as a huge relief for families. Vijayamma Y, who came from Sreevaraham to make last minute purchases at Chalai Market, appreciated the effort of the government to slash the coconut oil prices.

"Normally, the price of vegetables surge during Onam but this year things are different and except for some items we don't feel any additional price rise on perishables this Onam. SupplyCo is selling coconut oil at subsidised rates and that helped a lot to bring down the coconut oil prices. The price before was Rs 550 for 1kg," said Vijayamma.

## Gujarat: Ajwa, Kadana, Narmada dams release water; over 160 villages on alert

**Vadodara .(Agency)**

Following heavy overnight rainfall in Halol and other parts of Panchmahal district — the catchment area of the Vishwamitri River — the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Friday opened all 62 gates of Ajwa Reservoir to release 6,600 cusecs of water downstream to create a cushion in the reservoir. The release will continue for four hours until 1 pm, after which the civic body will review the situation.

Ajwa stood at 213.50 feet on Friday morning, against its rule level of 212.50 feet. Officials said the release will allow the Vishwamitri to rise up to 18 feet if required. The river overflows low-lying areas at 22 feet and the city faces major flooding once it crosses 28 feet. On Friday morning, the river stood at 11 feet at Kala Ghoda bridge, its measurement point.

## Mumbai wakes up to light rain amid a yellow alert; showers to let up from Sunday

**The rain led to traffic snarls in multiple locations in Mumbai, including the Western Express Highway and the Eastern Express Highway.**

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

As Mumbai continues to be under yellow alert until Saturday, the Maximum City woke up to a light and moderate spell of rain Friday morning, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s forecast showed that light showers will continue for the next 48 hours. According to the weather bureau, Mumbai is expected to remain overcast throughout the day, with cloud cover persisting.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s automatic weather stations (AWS) show that Mumbai's eastern suburbs recorded 24.86 mm of rainfall till Friday morning, followed by 9 mm in the island city, and 7.15 mm in its western suburbs.

IMD's record shows that the Santacruz observatory has recorded 11 mm of rainfall until Friday morning, followed by 9 mm at the coastal observatory at Colaba.

"The ongoing rain activity is ongoing due to low pressure that has developed in the Bay of Bengal. This low pressure is leading to an interaction between dry and moist winds, which is creating heavy rainfall over Mumbai and adjoining districts in the Konkan region of Maharashtra," a senior official told .

In its last five-day forecast that was issued Thursday, September 4, IMD sounded an orange alert for the Palghar, Thane, and Raigad districts till Sunday, September 6. The IMD forecast also stated that rain activity will gradually subside from September 7 onwards.



Meanwhile, the rain led to traffic snarls in multiple locations in Mumbai, including the Western Express Highway (WEH) and the Eastern Express Highway (EEH).

So far, IMD's Santacruz observatory has received 2,530 mm of rainfall since June, and the Colaba observatory has received 1677.4 mm of rainfall until now.

Overall, the city records an average of 2,319 mm of rainfall between June and September, which are labelled as monsoon months for the year. This year, Mumbai saw an early monsoon onset on May 26 — the earliest in 75 years. Typically, the arrival of the Southwest

Monsoon occurs between June 8 and 15 each year, and the average rainfall recorded in June is 537 mm.

## BEST to launch new AC bus route A-84 via Mumbai's Coastal Road from Sunday

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking will introduce a new airconditioned (AC) bus service on route number A-84, connecting Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Chowk (Museum) in South Mumbai to Oshiwara Depot in the western suburbs starting Sunday, officials said.

According to BEST, the initiative is part of its ongoing effort to add more AC buses to its fleet. The new route will operate along the recently opened Dharmaveer Swarajya Rakshak Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Sagari Kinara Marg or Coastal Road, offering passengers a faster and more comfortable commute between South Mumbai and the western suburbs.

The buses on this route will cover key locations including Ahilyabai Holkar Chowk (Churchgate station), Worli Sea Face, the mayor's residence near Shivaji Park, Mahim, Andheri Station (West), Vile Parle, Oshiwara Bridge, Babasaheb Worlikar Chowk, Worli Depot and Santacruz Depot before terminating at Oshiwara Depot.

The first bus from Oshiwara will depart at 7.15 am, while the first service from Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Chowk will leave at 8.50 am. The last bus from Oshiwara is scheduled at 5.20 pm, and the final service from the Museum will end at 7.15 pm. Services will be available at intervals of approximately 40 to 45 minutes, officials said.

The fare for the new route has been fixed at a minimum of Rs 12 and a maximum of Rs 25, making it one of the more affordable AC transport options available to commuters in the city. The service will operate throughout the week.

"BEST has been working to increase the number of airconditioned buses available to residents. With this new route, we hope commuters will benefit from a convenient and comfortable coastal connection," said Sucheta Utale, Public Relations Officer, BEST.

The undertaking has appealed to passengers to avail of the new service and make use of the expanded transport options on the city's road network.

## Woman prisoner under treatment 'dies by suicide' at Yerawada Regional Mental Hospital

**The woman, lodged in Maharashtra's Parbhani jail, was brought to the Yerawada hospital with the court's permission after she reportedly experienced mental health issues.**

**Pune .(Agency)**

A Haryana native woman prisoner, who was under treatment at the Regional Mental Hospital in Pune's Yerawada, was found dead Wednesday in a suspected case of suicide, the police said.

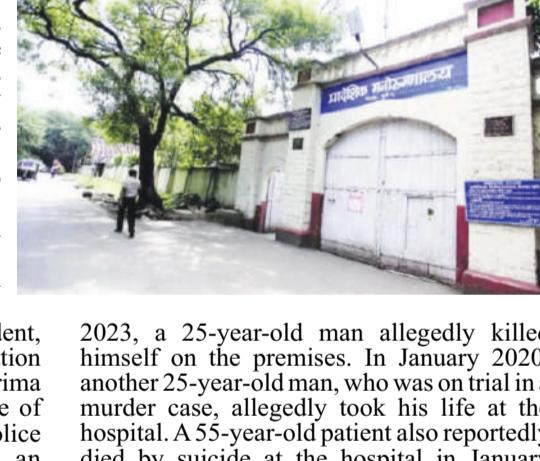
The woman, lodged in Maharashtra's Parbhani prison, was brought to the hospital for treatment with the court's permission after she reportedly experienced mental health issues, officers stated.

Accordingly, the woman was admitted to the establishment on July 31, officers said, adding that she was found unresponsive in her ward on Wednesday morning, following which doctors at the hospital examined her and confirmed the death.

After receiving information about the incident, a team from the Yerawada police station reached the spot for investigation. Prima facie, the incident appeared to be a case of suicide, said Ravindra Shelke, Senior Police Inspector. As per legal procedure, an accidental death report was filed at the station,

and an inquiry was initiated to determine the exact cause behind the death, Shelke said.

In recent years, at least three cases of death by suicide have been reported at the Regional Mental Hospital in Yerawada. In September



2023, a 25-year-old man allegedly killed himself on the premises. In January 2020, another 25-year-old man, who was on trial in a murder case, allegedly took his life at the hospital. A 55-year-old patient also reportedly died by suicide at the hospital in January 2018.

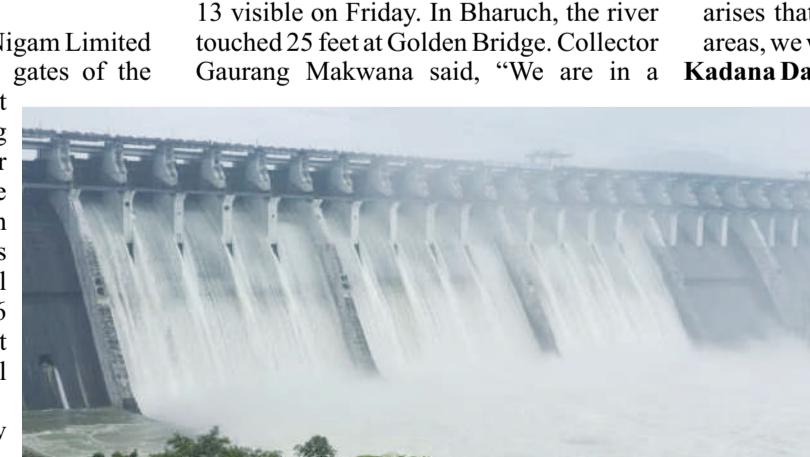
**Narmada Dam**

The Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) opened 23 radial gates of the

Narmada Dam for the first time this season, releasing 4.45 lakh cusecs of water overnight, including from the Riverbed Powerhouse. With an inflow of 4.9 lakh cusecs from upstream, the dam level has risen to nearly 136 metres, just over two feet short of its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres.

The Narmada River is now raging through Narmada, Vadodara and Bharuch districts, with about 30 villages along the banks placed on alert. At Chandod, the Malhar Ghat saw 95 footsteps inundated, with only

13 visible on Friday. In Bharuch, the river touched 25 feet at Golden Bridge. Collector Gaurang Makwana said, "We are in a



comfortable situation until 27 feet but as part of preventive action, the low-lying areas have been alerted. If such a situation

arises that water is entering the low-lying areas, we will begin evacuations."

**Kadana Dam**

The Kadana Dam on Mahisagar river is discharging 2.29 lakh cusecs with 13 gates opened up to 10 feet, following heavy inflow from Bajaj Sagar dam in Rajasthan's Banswada, Anas river in Madhya Pradesh, and rainfall in the catchment.

A total of 124 villages are on high alert in Lunawada, Khampur and Kadana talukas of Mahisagar district as well as Godhra and Sehra talukas of Panchmahal district. Another 39 villages along the Mahisagar in Vadodara district have also been alerted.

## India-China | Why the glass brought back from Tianjin is half-full

Surveying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Tianjin, most China experts and ex-bureaucrats are sceptical whether an India-China rapprochement is possible. India's 'permanent establishment', with its tunnel vision, is wary of China's intentions. Like in Bertolt Brecht's existential play *Waiting for Godot*, they would rather await Donald Trump's arrival. Thus, it is largely left to the global audience to take note of the geopolitics of Modi's visit.

If Modi travelled to China with hopes of rebuilding the India-China relations from ground zero, he returned home with a glass half-full. That is not because the visit and the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping weren't meticulously planned. On the contrary, highlevel discussions in New Delhi between top officials of the two countries had preceded the visit up to the eleventh hour. First, the impact of the visit on bilateral cooperation. Xi told Modi that achieving a 'dragon-elephant dance' is the right choice for the two neighbouring countries. Modi argued that peace and tranquillity at the border are prerequisites for bilateral ties. While Xi flagged that the bilateral ties cannot be defined merely by the boundary issue, Modi added, and Xi agreed, that India and China are partners, not adversaries, and would have far more consensus than differences. Both agreed that differences should not turn into disputes.

Both India and China see the potential to leverage the external environment of tariff walls to build greater mutual understanding to advance commercial ties. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri stated at a media briefing that this is a discussion going on at many levels between the two governments, and businesses and entities that are involved in trade in the two countries, "and we will have to see how it evolves".

China is very much interested in the expansion and deepening of business ties, and more importantly, is conscious of the role that the Indian and Chinese economies can play in stabilising world trade. Thus, Modi and Xi agreed, once again, that there is need to proceed from a political and strategic direction to reduce India's trade deficit, facilitate bilateral trade and investment ties and inject transparency and predictability into business conditions. Another significant outcome is to accelerate implementation of the understandings reached between the two countries' special representatives at their 24th round of talks on the boundary held in New Delhi just a fortnight ago. There was understanding on the need to maintain peace on the border using the existing and new mechanisms, and to avoid disturbing the overall relationship. Misri disclosed that an immediate follow-up can be expected in the coming days and weeks to flesh out the recent decisions of the special representatives with regard to setting up an expert group to "explore early harvest in boundary delimitation" in the border areas; setting up a working group "to advance effective border management"; creating general level mechanisms in the eastern and middle sectors; and discuss de-escalation. Overall, there is no question that the meeting at Tianjin injected new momentum into the bilateral relations. Both leaders actively signalled cooperation. The involvement of Cai Qi, a senior politician in Xi's inner circle for many years, is noteworthy. The importance of being Cai Qi should be understood. He is the first-ranked member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), fifth-ranking member of the CCP Politburo Standing Committee and director of the CCP General Office—making him the de facto chief of staff to CCP General Secretary Xi. In his capacity as director of CCP's General Office, Cai supervises the implementation of top-level decisions, internal and external alike.

THE southwest monsoon has wrought havoc in many parts of the country. The monsoon rainfall so far has been above normal, and several extreme weather events have been reported. The hill states/UT — Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir — are the worst hit, along with Punjab, Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Many cities and rural areas in southern states, too, have recorded heavy rainfall. It is scientifically established that the Indian monsoon has been affected by climate change. Several studies have pointed out that the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events have increased since the 1950s over most land areas, and that human-induced climate change is likely the main driver of this increase. A synthesis of these findings has been reported in the periodic assessments issued by the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC).

Experts attribute the increased intensity of the monsoon to stronger atmospheric moisture build-up over the Indian Ocean, which, in turn, is triggered by higher evaporation due to higher sea surface temperatures, as well as an increased land-sea thermal contrast. The increased level of atmospheric moisture causes a larger moisture flux and higher precipitation as the summer monsoon moves from the southwest to the east, carrying moisture from the ocean in large rain clouds. It means that the changing monsoon patterns being witnessed are linked to larger climate change. So, should we simply blame climate change for whatever is happening and continue with 'business as usual' with our public policies relating to environment, urban planning, development, water resources, agriculture and so on? Not at all. First, climate change itself — as defined by the IPCC — is an anthropogenic or man-made phenomenon. For instance, if one of the key drivers of the monsoon — land-sea temperature difference during summers — is changing, it is due to excessive greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activity. Second, while extreme weather events (incessant rainfall in monsoon and extreme heat in summer) are going up due to climate change, their impacts (flooding, loss of human life, damage to infrastructure, etc.) are getting aggravated due to wrong public policies (concretisation, encroachment of riverbeds, destruction of hills, deforestation, etc.).

The solution lies in addressing climate change and faulty developmental policies simultaneously. First, we need to make all our public policies compliant with climate change. For decades, we have been saying this, but we see little action on the ground. The progress made under the national and state climate change action plans is limited to the promotion of renewable sources of energy. Instead of focusing on a few sectors like energy or transport, the need is to mainstream climate change concerns in all public policies. For instance, while

## Wake-up call on the climate front

There is a need to thoroughly review the Environmental Impact Assessment regime



proposing or constructing a hydropower plant or a new highway or a tunnelling project in the hills, we should take into account not just immediate environmental concerns but also present and future risks arising due to climate change. The same applies to developmental projects in the plains where urban flooding has become a regular occurrence due to mindless concretisation, destruction of lakes and water bodies.

Second, we should thoroughly review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regime. Over the years, it has been diluted, and clever ways have been devised to either circumvent its mandatory provisions or do away with it altogether. The most glaring example is the Char Dham highway project. The government agencies concerned avoided a comprehensive EIA by dividing the 825-km project into 53 smaller parts, each less than 100 km long. This way, they could avoid environmental scrutiny since the EIA is mandatory only for road projects exceeding 100 km.

Such segmentation of a large project to bypass environmental regulations was highlighted by environmentalists and raised in the Supreme Court-appointed committee. In some cases, environmental clearance was granted ex post facto to regularise projects initiated without EIA clearance. The apex court struck down the practice as illegal in May.

The disastrous results of wilfully ignoring ecological risks

involved in large developmental projects and violation of EIA terms, particularly in the Himalayas, are visible now. Therefore, we not only need to revisit the EIA regime to make it more stringent but also incorporate climate change risks that may arise during the lifecycle of a project and ways to mitigate them. Projects can be designed to better withstand future climate conditions, reducing potential damage and disruption. For monitoring compliance, an independent mechanism should be developed.

Third, we need to conduct a 'climate audit' of all existing infrastructure — hydel projects, national highways, road and railway bridges, airports — not from a financial perspective but to check if it is climate-resilient. This is more urgently required for the infrastructure built before the EIA system kicked in. For projects which have received the green nod, the check should be about compliance with the conditions mandated at the time of their clearance. Following the audit, necessary retrofitting measures should be initiated to make vital infrastructure climate-proof. As a first step, the environment ministry must develop a robust climate audit framework and requisite standards, protocols and tools for assessing whether existing infrastructure can withstand a changing climate. Then, a concerted, multi-sectoral national effort should be launched. The 2025 monsoon is yet another wake-up call.

## Public broke Modi govt's pride; 2024 polls marked end of communal politics: Akhilesh in Lok Sabha

Referring to BJP's defeat in Faizabad, which includes Ayodhya, Akhilesh said it was perhaps the wish of Lord Ram.

Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday hit out at the Modi government asserting the public had broken their pride and adding that the 2024 Lok Sabha polls marked the end of communal politics in India.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address in Lok Sabha, Akhilesh said that the election results were a moral victory and a message of responsibility for the INDIA bloc. "The public has broken the pride of the government. The court is in session, but it is very sad and without light. Why is there no connection from the top? There is no base from the bottom. What is stuck at the top? This is not a government... It feels like, for the first time, there is a defeated government. The people are saying that this government won't run. It was a moral victory for the INDIA alliance in the elections. It was a victory of positive politics," said the MP from Kannauj.

"The whole of India has understood that INDIA is pro-India. This election is the moral victory of INDIA. It is a victory



for positive politics. It is the victory of the PDA, social justice movement. 2024's message is also full of responsibility for the INDIA bloc," the Kannauj MP said, adding that "June 4, 2024, was the day of independence

from communal politics for India. In this election, communal politics has lost forever." "This election is a new era of positive politics, pro-Constitution people have won, the Constitution has won... It is the end of top-down politics," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added. Referring to the election result in Ayodhya (Faizabad LS constituency), where the SP defeated the BJP, Akhilesh said, "The victory of Ayodhya is the democratic victory of the mature voter of India... Hoi wahi jo Ram rachi rakha (Whatever Ram has planned will happen)." Faizabad MP and SP leader Awadhesh Kumar Prasad was seated next to Yadav during the debate.

Meanwhile, speaking on the paper leaks issue, Akhilesh claimed that the leaks were being deliberately done to avoid providing jobs for the youth. "Why are paper leaks happening? The truth is that this is being done by the government so that it doesn't have to give jobs to youth," he said.

## How to judge judgements

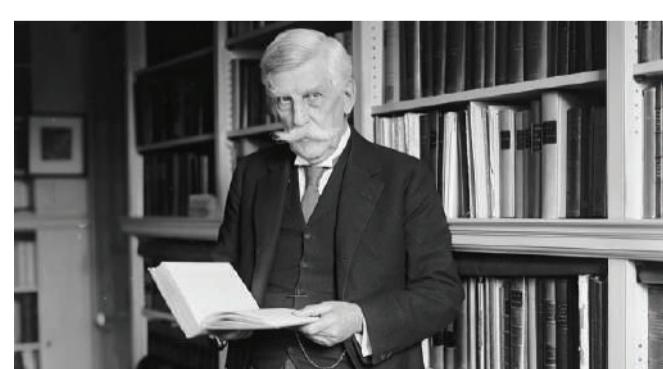
Inadequacies in criticising legal judgements have led people to dismiss practical interpretations of the law. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr said that the actual life of a law is not of logic—it's the experience that judges' rulings bring to it

The natural use of the word 'judgement' is to denote a mental act of attributing a predicate to a subject. In that sense, the act of judging primarily involves inference, that is, determination of the connotation of the subject, or attribution of certain property to the object even if the inference arrived at, or the attribution cast upon, are not justified or derived through argumentation. This conception, rooted in the classical tradition extending from Aristotelian logic through contemporary analytic philosophy, generally understands judgement as the attribution of properties to particular objects or subjects.

In the legal context, where a judge is required to deliver a judgement based on facts and to justify the inference or attribution, this conception reflects as the determination that particular factual or normative claims are true or false. This determination carries significant practical consequences. When a court determines that a person is guilty of negligence, it is making a substantive assessment about the relationship between 'individual agency' and the legal consequence of the use of the agency. The underlying conclusion is the result of determinations about personal identity over time, the nature of causal responsibility, and the ontological status of legal properties. In this case, the court has passed a judgement that a person is guilty of a particular offense, and it differs from a more generalised judgement that 'negligence must be punished with liability'. However, some

judgements do not involve such attributions or objects. This dimension concerns their relationship with truth—as a determination, recognition or attribution of truth values to factual or normative claims. Take the *Kesavananda Bharati* (1973) judgement, which arguably represents the most important example of such truth value attribution in Indian constitutional law. The Supreme Court held that parliament's power to amend the Constitution was subject to implicit limitations that preserve the Constitution's basic structure. Here, the alethic dimension manifested through the court recognising the truth of a constitutional interpretation that curbed parliament's powers. The language of judicial judgements is the language of logic. These conceptions reveal that judicial judgements, much like other judgements, emerge not just as a derivative phenomenon but as the fundamental structure within which cognitive activity occurs. Institutions ensure that questions about the characterisation of persons and events are addressed through processes that take seriously both epistemic concerns about truth and concerns about fair procedure. However, as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr of the US Supreme Court once noted, "The whole outline of the law is the resultant of a conflict at every point between logic and good sense." In *Common Law* (1881), Justice Holmes elaborated: "The actual life of the law has not been logic: it has been experience. The

felt necessities of the times, the prevalent moral and political theories, intuitions of public policy, avowed or unconscious, even the prejudices which judges share with their fellow-men, have had a good deal more to do than syllogism." As legal realists would attest, judges' background, beliefs, temperament and even the demeanor of the arguing



counsels affect the manner in which issues are framed and weighed. This, however, is not because the judges are acting in bad faith or pursuing an agenda. Rather, their lived experiences, which is what Justice Holmes refers to as "good sense", lead them to see the same legal issues differently, even if the language of their judgements follow the same logic. For example, one cannot deny that *Kesavananda Bharati* was a product of its time. How does one then criticise judgements, especially ones that deal with constitutional issues?

One way would be evaluating the judgements based on their fidelity to formal logic and its methods. Yet, this may not always capture the undercurrents driving legal developments.

Another way would be adopting pragmatism, to judge judgements on the basis of their practical outcomes. There always being a competing "good sense", as long as the outcomes are not anathematic, the judgement must stand. Finally, we may judge also on the basis of whether the judge has adequately acknowledged and tested their pre-suppositions in the form of adherence to procedure.

Take the recent interim order of the Madras High Court staying an amendment taking away the governor's power to appoint vice chancellors. The criticism of the order primarily focused on what some labelled as 'misplaced urgency', pendency of a transfer petition before the Supreme Court, and an alleged lack of opportunity to file a counter. However, the criticism ignores the fact that Tamil Nadu had already constituted search committees, issued government orders, published advertisements, and commenced the selection process for vice-chancellor appointments. The criticism fundamentally misunderstands judicial duty. The SC had given no stay order or oral injunction, preventing the high court from proceeding. All of these, including the issue of opportunity to file counters, are dealt with in the order.

## Take measures to prevent accidents on rain-affected roads: Gangwa to officials

**In the meeting, Gangwa added that “traffic must not be disrupted, quality of repair work must not be compromised, and public complaints, especially via the Harpath app, should be addressed promptly”.**

### Chandigarh .(Agency)

In response to the widespread damage caused by the recent rains in Haryana, Public Works Minister Ranbir Gangwa held an emergency meeting Thursday and directed officials to urgently repair rain-affected roads, fill potholes, and ensure the safety of bridges. He instructed officials that damaged roads be marked with warning signs if immediate repair is not possible. Haryana has already cancelled leaves of field staff till further orders, directing all engineers and workers to stay on-site for continuous monitoring of the ongoing flood-situation.

In the meeting, Gangwa added that “traffic must not be disrupted, quality of repair work must not be compromised, and public complaints, especially via the Harpath app, should be addressed promptly”.

Sumit Misra, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), announced a state-wide Civil Defence mobilisation plan to boost emergency preparedness. “The strategy includes awareness campaigns, voluntary enrollment of state employees, and special leave for those participating in training. The aim is to harness

the expertise of government personnel to improve disaster response capacity,” she said. Health minister Atul Singh Rao expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for promptly opening the e-Kshatrapur portal for reporting crop losses and disbursing



compensation due to extensive damage to cotton and millet crops caused by heavy rains.” Haryana is bracing for severe flood-like conditions due to relentless monsoon rains. Dozens of villages across 12 districts – spanning Ambala, Kaithal, Yamunanagar, Rohtak, Bhiwani, and others – continue to

remain inundated as rivers including the Yamuna, Ghaggar, Tangri, and Markanda have surged near or beyond danger levels. The floodgates of the Hathnikund Barrage remained open for the fourth consecutive day (since 4 am on September 1), with water flow exceeding the danger level of 1 lakh cusecs. As of 3 pm Thursday, 1,32,295 cusecs of water were recorded.

The release of water from Hathnikund Barrage has raised the water level of the Yamuna River heading toward Delhi, putting flood-prone areas in Yamunanagar, Karnal, Panipat, and Sonipat at risk. In Faridabad, after water was released from the Okhla Barrage in Delhi, the Yamuna has reached danger level.

In Jaldehra, Kurukshetra, the Markanda River has crossed its danger level. The danger mark is 5 feet, but due to the flow of 14,000 cusecs, the water level has risen to 6.7 feet. Previously, a breach had formed near Nangli village along the Markanda, flooding nearby fields. The water has now crossed Thaska Miranji village and reached the Hisar-Chandigarh National Highway 152.

## New Bengaluru civic chief directs swift action on roads, garbage black spots and encroachments

### Bengaluru .(Agency)

A day after taking charge as commissioner of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Rajendra Cholan P stressed on enhancing public transportation, safety and basic infrastructure and directed officials to initiate swift action on creating pothole-free roads, eliminating garbage

“Identify roads within the Central Business District (CBD), TenderSure roads, white-topped roads, and high-density corridors for development as model roads. For each of these roads, dedicated nodal officers will be appointed and held accountable for their maintenance,” he told the executive engineers.



Cholan also asked to prioritise beautification of Metro pillars, roadside landscaping, installation of streetlights, and ensuring their proper maintenance. Notice must be issued a day in advance to footpath encroachers, followed by clearance drives and intensive cleaning operations, he added.

**India's absence from China's Victory Day parade another major setback on foreign policy front, says Congress's Vyas**

### Ahmedabad .(Agency)

Referring to China's grand Victory Day parade in Beijing, senior Congress leader Jai Narayan Vyas on Thursday raised questions on the Central government's foreign policy.

“Invitations were sent to 26 countries. The Indian government has not made any clarification on whether India was invited or not. If the Indian Prime Minister was rushing to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, then this event (Victory Day parade) was an occasion for China to demonstrate its military power to the world, and especially to the US. While China's close allies like Russia, North Korea, Iran, Zimbabwe and Pakistan were present, the Indian Prime Minister was conspicuous by his absence,” former Cabinet Minister Jai Narayan Vyas stated during a press conference held at Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan.

On Wednesday, the Victory Day parade of more than 12,000 soldiers, 100 military aircraft, hundreds of other vehicles, and China's advanced military power were a special attraction at Tiananmen Square. As many as 26 countries were invited to participate in the parade, including India's neighbours Nepal, Myanmar, Maldives, and Pakistan, the Congress pointed out.

Vyas said, “In the recent meeting with Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit, important issues like the border dispute were also kept out of the discussion. India rushed to get closer to China and Russia due to deteriorating relations with America, but this did not achieve much success, an example of which is the absence of the PM from the Victory Day Parade.

**NIRF 2025: Gujarat institutes making in top 100 overall category reduces to one, ranking slips too from previous year positions**

### Ahmedabad .(Agency)

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) maintained the top spot in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2025, as it was named the best management institute for the sixth consecutive year in the list released by the Ministry of Education on Thursday.

However, the number of institutes from Gujarat

## Timber logs in floodwaters: Green activists welcome SC intervention

### Shimla .(Agency)

With the Supreme Court Thursday taking serious note of videos showing a huge number of timber logs washed down by floodwaters in Himachal Pradesh, environmentalists and activists expressed hope that the state government will now be asked to bring a sustainable development policy suited to the topography of the hill state.

Noting “that in the flood, huge numbers of wooden logs were flowing around... Prima facie, it appears that there has been illegal felling of the trees, which has been going on uphill,” a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandra issued notices to the Centre, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(MOEF&CC), Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab, besides the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

One of the videos, widely circulated on social media, showed large number of logs floating in the Pong Dam in Mandi. A second clip surfaced later from the Ravi River, near the Old Sheetla Suspension Bridge in Chamba, showing a similar accumulation of wooden debris. The visuals raised concerns of illegal timber felling in ecologically fragile regions.

Kullu-based activist Sandeep Minhas said the apex court's intervention was timely but

stressed that the issue should not be closed merely after the state's response. “We expect



the Supreme Court will not shut the matter just after reviewing the government's

version. The court should direct the state to bring a sustainable development policy suited to the topography and ecological needs of mountain states, instead of allowing haphazard projects in fragile zones,” Minhas said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had ordered a CID probe into the accumulation of logs in Pong Dam after a preliminary inquiry by the state forest department on July 8 ruled out illegal felling in the Beas catchment area. The CID inquiry, however, is still pending. Similarly, after reports of logs floating in the Ravi River, the forest department again denied illegal felling.

## Good footpaths in Bengaluru may remain a dream

### Bengaluru .(Agency)

Bengalureans' dream of having a safe, unhindered walk on the city's footpaths is likely to remain just that for a long time, irrespective of whether the corporation is called 'Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike' (BBMP) or 'Greater Bengaluru Authority' (GBA). Lack of funds, their improper utilisation for maintenance, and lack of interest in inter-agency coordination are being blamed for Bengalureans being deprived of the basic need for safe pedestrian mobility.

According to the data with the authority's engineering section, only 8% of the total 3,500-km footpath network in the city, or

about 280 km, is in good condition. And there is no guarantee that the number will not reduce further. Worse, even

According to GBA engineers, there are three types of roads: arterial, sub-arterial and collector. Footpaths are mandatory for arterial and sub-arterial roads. They measure 1,682 km in length and 90% of them have footpaths of which only 150 km are in good condition. The remaining 100 km that are part of TenderSure and white topped roads have good paths.

Also, 25% of collector roads have footpaths, but they are not in good condition. Thus, totally, 3,500 km of footpaths exist in Bengaluru, but only 8-10% is in good condition.

on the 8% of “good” footpaths that exist in the city, the apathy of the civic agencies, lack of enforcement, and the absence of civic discipline among citizens ensures that the walkways are plagued with encroachments,

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## From Gippy Grewal to R Nait: as Punjab sees the worst floods in decades, songs are healing hearts

**With fields and towns inundated, singers in Punjab have released songs of sorrow and the indomitable spirit of the state's people.**

### Ludhiana .(Agency)

As Punjab battles devastating floods, its cultural heartbeat — its music — has stirred deep empathy and unity. From new flood-themed singles to viral social media anthems, Punjabi singers are once again proving that resilience and awareness march to the beat of their songs.

The Punjab Government has declared 23 of the state's districts flood-hit, after rivers and dams swelled to near-critical levels. More than 30 people have died and lakhs have been affected by the heavy rain and floods in Punjab.

The government has evacuated people from low-lying and flood-affected areas, and set up hundreds of relief camps to provide shelter and essential facilities to those affected.

On September 3, popular actor-singer-producer-director Gippy Grewal released Aalaha, a poignant single track that captures the emotional toll of the flood. “Lakhan supne

soorjan jidde paani vich beh gaye (Countless dreams as bright as the sun have drowned in water),” he sings, reminding listeners that it isn't just fields but futures that are lost.

The song also highlights the resilience of Punjabis to fight back.

A day before, R Nait dropped We are not Fukrey, spotlighting how Punjab's rugged tractors are wading through chest-high waters to deliver aid. With lines like “tambu taan laye bann te hun assi ghar nahi jaana... saade tractor tankan varge kyun tuhade toh zare nahi jande... (We put up tents but we won't go home... why don't our tractors pull a drop for you)”, the song celebrates community resolve and selfless service. Meanwhile, Sanam Bajaj's Fariyat Punjab Di

is streaming on YouTube, giving voice to sorrow and yearning across flooded towns. Another resonant track by Ritaz, Rabba baddal morh lai apne, nahi taan sab kuch veh jana hai (Oh God, turn back the clouds, otherwise everything will be washed away)

has been going viral on social platforms.

The song released this month features a haunting line, “paani ne hai agg lagai (the water has ignited a fire)”, which connects flood fury with environmental strife, pointing to unchecked sand mining and rampant urban sprawl.

Similarly, singer Virasat Sandhu's Chardi Kalan, released in September, celebrates Punjab's indomitable spirit.

**Past flood, farmers' protests**

Some echoes from the past are also finding new life.

Sufi singer Kanwar Grewal's 2023 flood song, Galti Maaf, is being shared afresh on social media reels, its emotional undertones deeply resonating during these turbulent times, as he described the devastation floods caused in 2023 in Punjab



making it to the top 100 in the overall category not only reduced this time, but the ranking also went down compared to last year — with the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) securing the 39th rank. In 2024, the NIRF rankings placed IITGN at the 29th position.

IIMA director Prof Bharat Bhasker said, “At IIMA, we remain committed to nurturing management leaders and innovators who can address the challenges of a rapidly changing world. It is a matter of great pride for us to be recognised as the best management institute in India for the sixth consecutive year by the Ministry of Education's NIRF 2025 rankings.

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# 500 flights disrupted at IGIA and Hindon, airlines issue travel advisory

►As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Delhi is experiencing inclement weather conditions. There might be an impact on flight operations.

#### Agency New Delhi.

As the city continued to brace for torrential rain on Thursday, Delhi airports and airlines issued travel advisories for the flyers, cautioning disruptions in flight operations. In the last three days, nearly 500 flights from Delhi and Hindon airports have either been delayed, cancelled or diverted to other cities due to poor visibility and

inclement weather conditions, airport officials said.

“As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Delhi is experiencing inclement weather conditions. There might be an impact on flight operations. Our on-ground teams are working diligently with all stakeholders to ensure your journey remains hassle-free. For the latest flight information, passengers are advised to contact their respective airlines,” the Delhi airport said in an advisory.

The IMD on Thursday issued a heavy rain alert over Delhi-NCR for a few hours, raising concerns about further disruption to air traffic. Airlines including IndiGo, SpiceJet and Air India among others urged passengers to check their flight status before leaving for the airport. SpiceJet, in an advisory on X, said, “Due to bad weather in Delhi, all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights may be affected. Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight



status.” The airline also advised travellers to factor in extra time to reach the airport in view of waterlogging and traffic snarls across the city. IndiGo, the country’s largest carrier, also cautioned of possible delays. “With heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in Delhi, we’re seeing a chance of delays and slower traffic to and from the airport. While we can’t control the skies, we’re doing everything possible to keep your journey steady on the ground,” the airline said in a statement. “Please check your flight status and consider giving yourself a little cushion

of time to reach the airport,” the statement added. Despite the bad weather, airport officials maintained that ground staff were coordinating closely with airlines to minimise inconvenience to passengers, though they admitted that operations were likely to remain affected as long as the heavy downpour persisted.

#### Heavy downpour continues to batter city

The capital recorded widespread showers for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, triggering widespread waterlogging and traffic snarls. The IMD said that these conditions are likely to remain as the city is set to experience an active monsoon phase over the next four days.

#### Goods worth lakh damaged

The flood has also hit the local economy. Dozens of basement shops in the area were submerged, forcing the shopkeepers to watch helplessly as their goods worth lakh were damaged in the water. The entire stock is gone, locals said.

**“May This Beautiful Festival Bring Renewed Joy”: PM Modi Extends Greetings On Onam**

#### Agency New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday extended warm greetings to the nation on the occasion of Onam, wishing joy, health, and prosperity to all. Sharing his wishes on social media platform X, PM Modi said, “Wishing everyone a very happy Onam! May this beautiful festival bring renewed joy, good health and abundant prosperity to all. Onam reflects the timeless heritage and rich traditions of Kerala. This festival is a symbol of unity, hope and cultural pride. May this occasion strengthen the spirit of harmony in our society and deepen our connection with nature.” Onam, the grand harvest festival of Kerala, is marked with vibrant celebrations, traditional feasts, cultural performances, and floral decorations.

It holds great significance for the Malayali community across the globe, symbolising prosperity, unity, and the legendary homecoming of King Mahabali.

Leaders across the political spectrum also extended their greetings on this auspicious occasion. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath posted on X, “Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the food provider farmer companions and the residents of the state on the sacred festival of Onam, which is a symbol of prosperity, harmony, and cultural festivity! May this sacred festival bring a new dawn of happiness, prosperity, and well-being in everyone’s life; this is the prayer.”

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also shared his greetings, wishing prosperity, and fraternity for all. “Onam is a celebration of life, hope, our legendary past and diverse secular traditions. May its spirit of harvest and renewal, and the purity of the Onam Sadhya, inspire togetherness, prosperity, and fraternity for all,” Kharge posted on X. This year, the 10-day-long festivities began on August 26 and culminate on Friday, September 5, with Thiruvonam, the most important day of the celebrations.

## GST Relief Done, Centre Working On Relief Package For Exporters Hit By US Tariffs: Sources

#### Agency New Delhi.

With the completion of the rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Centre is now gearing up for support measures for exporters hit by US tariffs, official sources told on Friday. A set of targeted schemes may soon be announced to support sectors adversely affected by the 50 per cent tariff imposed by President Donald Trump, sources said.

Key industries facing headwinds include textiles and apparel, as well as gems and jewellery, where exporters are struggling to stay competitive. Beyond these, exporters in leather and footwear, chemicals, engineering goods, agriculture, and marine products are also encountering fresh challenges in global markets.

The proposed relief package is expected to focus on the following points:

- Addressing liquidity constraints faced by small exporters
- Easing pressure on working capital
- Ensuring job security across vulnerable export-linked sectors
- Facilitating uninterrupted production while new markets are explored

Sources indicate that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is working on a stimulus model akin to the one extended to MSMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel, efforts are underway to operationalise the Export Promotion Mission announced in the Union Budget, aimed at boosting India’s global trade footprint. India’s exports to the US during the first four months of this fiscal year have reportedly risen 21.64 per cent to USD 33.53 billion. It was USD 86.5 billion in 2024-25. About half of this is out of the ambit of 50 per cent tariffs.

## 38 relief sites with 522 tents from metro to Nigambodh ghat

#### Agency New Delhi.

As the Yamuna swelled above danger levels this week, floodwaters pushed deeper into Delhi, swamping government offices, markets, metro access points and even the city’s busiest cremation ground, forcing mass evacuations and paralysing daily life across several districts. By Thursday, water had reached near the Delhi Secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, cabinet ministers and top bureaucrats. Nearby areas such as Vasudev Ghat and the Shri Marghat Wale Hanuman Baba Mandir near Kashmere Gate were also submerged. According to the revenue department, 8,018 people have been moved to tents, and another 2,030 have been shifted to 13 permanent shelters. In Majnu ka Tila, floodwater gushed into narrow lanes, leaving homes and businesses in



ruins. The Tibetan colony, usually alive with cafés, tattoo parlours, home spas and garment shops, is now reeling. Machines have been damaged, salons lie without equipment, restaurants remain shuttered, and many owners have been forced to sleep inside their waterlogged shops. Relief camps set up in low-lying zones, including near Mayur Vihar Phase-I, were inundated after the Yamuna breached embankments. At Loha Pul (Old Iron Bridge) and Yamuna Bazar, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams assisted in relocating residents.

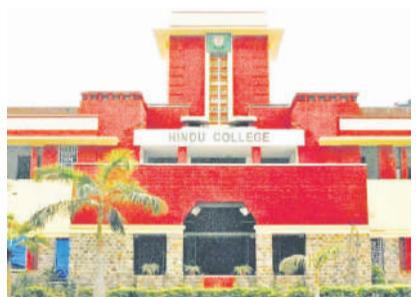
The agency said it rescued 25 people and evacuated 1,171 individuals along with 29 livestock.

In the northeast, the DDMA reported an 11-hour search-and-rescue at Usmanpur’s 3rd Pusta, where three people, six dogs and a calf were saved with help from the Boat Club team. Transport links have also been hit. At Yamuna Bank, the approach road to the metro station was submerged, prompting the closure of station gates. Boats were used to reach stranded commuters before NDRF intervened. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation assured that while the road was cut off, the interchange facility at the station remained functional. According to officials, six districts, North, North East, Shahdara, East, Central and South East, are now on flood watch. Majnu ka Tila and Jhara Khan reported waist-deep water.

## Hindu tops NIRF ranking among colleges in country

#### Agency New Delhi.

Delhi’s higher education institutions have once again asserted their dominance in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, with Hindu College claiming the top spot among colleges in India. The achievement marks a milestone for the institution, which has long been regarded as one of the country’s most prestigious centres of learning. Delhi University (DU) as a whole climbed to the 5th position in the Universities category, improving from 6th rank last year. DU also made significant gains in research, moving up to the 12th position among research institutions. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) maintained its 2nd spot among universities, continuing its tradition of



representing “excellence with equity”. Meanwhile, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) rose to 4th rank among universities and performed strongly in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) rankings, highlighting its emphasis on inclusive and socially responsible education. The NIRF 2025 saw an increase in

participating institutions and further expansion of categories, reflecting the growing competitiveness of Indian higher education.

Celebrating the achievement, Prof Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, said, “DU’s best-ever performance in NIRF is a landmark moment in the university’s history and a source of immense pride. It reflects the dedication and collective effort of our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and stakeholders, and will inspire us to reach even greater heights in teaching, research, and service to society.” With this recognition, the University of Delhi reaffirms its commitment to excellence in education, research, and community engagement, further strengthening its position.

## Yamuna swells past 207 metres, third-highest level in six decades

#### Agency New Delhi.

The Yamuna in Delhi touched 207.48 metres at the Old Railway Bridge on Thursday morning, marking its third-highest water level since 1963, according to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

The level, which remained static through the early hours, rose marginally from 207.47 metres recorded between 2 am and 5 am to 207.48 metres at 6 am, where it held steady until 7 am before gradually falling to 207.42 metres by 7 pm.

Officials said the water level is expected to stabilise and show a gradual decline, with the Central Water Commission (CWC) forecasting a dip to around 207.30 metres by 8 am on Friday.

Despite the predicted fall, the level remains well above the danger threshold of 205.33 metres and the evacuation mark of 206 metres, posing persistent flood threats for low-lying areas.

The Old Railway Bridge continues to serve as the main observation point for

monitoring the river’s flow and flood risks. “The level is above the danger mark but below the highest flood level. There is a possibility of flooding in the next few hours. People are advised not to go near the river,” the CWC warned in its bulletin.

The Yamuna had last crossed such levels in July 2023, when it swelled to 208.66 metres—the highest on record—displacing over 25,000 residents. The second-highest level of 207.49 metres was recorded in 1978.

This week’s surge has already forced nearly 10,000 people to move out of floodplains across Delhi. At 5 am Thursday, water discharge from the Hathanikund barrage was 1.53 lakh cusecs before reducing to 1.34 lakh by 4 pm. The maximum discharge reached 1.78 lakh cusecs.

Officials said coordination with the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department remains

crucial to regulate outflow. “Higher discharge from the Okhla barrage ensures smooth exit of water from Delhi,” an official explained.

#### Highlights

1 By Thursday, water had reached near the Delhi Secretariat, which houses the offices of the chief minister, cabinet ministers and top bureaucrats. Nearby

areas such as Vasudev Ghat and the Shri Marghat Wale Hanuman Baba Mandir near Kashmere Gate were also submerged.

2 According to officials, six districts, North, North East, Shahdara, East, Central and South East, are now on flood watch. Majnu ka Tila & Jhara Khan reported waist-deep water. At Nigambodh Ghat, a wall collapsed, halting cremations at a site that typically conducts up to 60 funerals everyday.

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## NEWS BOX

**Lionel Messi remains coy on Argentina future: I haven't decided about World Cup****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Lionel Messi has once again cast doubt on whether he will play at the 2026 World Cup, admitting he has not yet made up his mind about extending his international career to another tournament. The 38-year-old scored twice in Argentina's 3-0 win over Venezuela in Buenos Aires on Thursday, in what he confirmed was his final World Cup qualifier on home soil. The reigning world champions, already qualified for the expanded tournament in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, were dominant from start to finish. Nicolas Tagliafico and Franco Mastantuono both went close in the opening stages, only to be denied by Venezuela goalkeeper Rafael Romo, before Messi broke the deadlock in



the 39th minute. The Albiceleste captain latched onto a pass from Julian Alvarez during a swift counterattack and fired his shot into the top-right corner. After the break, Argentina's relentless pressure was rewarded with a second goal in the 76th minute as Nico Gonzalez crossed from the left for Lautaro Martinez to score with a diving header. Four minutes later, Messi struck again, this time finishing from Thiago Almada's assist, to complete a memorable night. "It's not something I like, want or expect. But time is passing, and it's been many years," Messi said when asked about retirement. "As I've said before, I don't think I'll play another World Cup. At my age, it's only logical to think I might not." The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner acknowledged that his decision will ultimately depend on how he feels physically over the next year. "Day by day, I try to feel good and, above all, be honest with myself. When I feel good, I enjoy it. But when I don't, honestly, I don't enjoy it - and if that's the case, I'd rather not be there. So we'll see. I haven't made a decision yet about the World Cup. Match by match, I'll finish the season, then have pre-season, and in six months, I'll see how I feel. Hopefully I can finish this MLS season strong, have a good pre-season in 2026, and then make a decision."

**Punjab's son, Oman's leader: Jatinder Singh eyes Asia Cup glory in the UAE****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Under the bright UAE lights, Jatinder Singh will walk out carrying a burden he has never shouldered before: the hopes of an Oman side stepping into uncharted territory. For the Ludhiana-born cricketer who moved to Oman as a teenager, this Asia Cup is more than just another tournament—it is both a personal milestone and a historic leap for Omani cricket. Once a boy who dreamt of facing India and Pakistan from afar, Jatinder now stands as captain, entrusted with leading a new-look squad against two of the biggest forces in world cricket. The road to



this moment has been anything but smooth. A year ago, a bitter fallout between the Oman Cricket Board and its players tore through the camp, with 11 members of the T20 World Cup squad suspended following central contract disputes. From that turbulence emerged Jatinder, the team's most prolific run-scorer, chosen to chart a revival. He succeeds Zeeshan Maqsood, the stalwart who spent more than a decade shaping Oman's rise from obscurity. But unlike in 2016, when Oman bowed out in the qualifiers, the team this time will walk into the Asia Cup main round as debutants—drawn alongside India, Pakistan, and the UAE in Group A. Their campaign begins on 12 September in Dubai, with Pakistan as their opening test.

For Jatinder, this is not just another series—it marks the beginning of a new era and a chance to prove that Oman belongs on cricket's biggest stage. Having already featured in two T20 World Cups and with more than 1,300 international runs to his name, he understands the weight of responsibility on his shoulders.

**From despair to dominance: India's Asia Cup redemption against Malaysia**

**India overcame an early setback to beat Malaysia 4-1 in a crucial Asia Cup clash. After the disappointment of a draw against Korea, Harmanpreet Singh's men showed resilience and character to secure an important win and move a step closer to the final.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Subjecting yourself to the torture of public scrutiny is what players and teams constantly do. Some crumble and fall apart. Others climb out, one hold at a time, from the pit of despair. Against Malaysia, with their backs to the wall after a 2-2 draw against South Korea and desperately needing a commanding win, India delivered what could only be called a masterclass. Commanded by the midfield, they not only secured a 4-1 victory but set themselves up brilliantly for a spot in the Asia Cup final. It's

always a question that begs for an answer—why reach a stage where you have to dig deep, find answers, and smoothen out a machine that, over the last six months, has been misfiring? Players who are supposed to amble in, get the angles, twist, turn, send in the aerials, and figure out space where none exists have largely played like amateurs; like a college guy on a nervy first date, fumbling, spilling the drink. Malaysia, who have played some scintillating hockey against India over the years, most of it at their home base in Ipoh, would have thought they had the answers at Rajgir too. In the second minute, they silenced the Indian fans with a move from the left flank that was not only quick but electrifying. India had barely settled down when they lost the ball. Najib pushed it to Shafiq Hassan, who made a lovely run, cutting into the circle, pushing past Sanjay, and bending slightly to powerfully send a reverse shot fizzing past Krishan Bahadur Pathak. At 1-0, India not only had to rebuild but needed to calm their nerves, which were surely strumming like guitars. Against a back wall of Amit Rohidas,

Jugraj Singh, and Sanjay, Harmanpreet came up, positioning himself between the half and back line. Malaysia's middle-of-the-pitch movements were immediately cut off. At the same time, the Indian captain could initiate moves, pushing players up front. It took



some time, but India settled. In the last six minutes of the first quarter, a crucial passage of play looking at the three quarters ahead, India's pressure had Malaysia playing with eight in their own striking circle. Manpreet's hard shot, though saved, rattled Malaysian

goalkeeper Hafizuddin. Sukhjeet in a one-on-one situation swiped at air instead of the ball. Even though Malaysia led 1-0 in the first quarter, India came off controlling the game in earlier games, one could feel a sense of rigidity in India's play. Today, there was adaptability. The dynamic in the team was more collaborative. Five penalty corners came in a rush for India in the second quarter, born out of an urgent need to press the button and get results. Off the fifth, Harman's flick rebounded off the Malaysian goalkeeper's pads. Manpreet, aggressive in the circle, moved forward and swatted it into goal. At 1-1, there was a relaxed air around the team. Build-ups that were difficult in the earlier games were now coming off. A harried Malaysia was constantly scrambling back. The space created was in India's possession, and two minutes later, Hardik moved effortlessly, as he always does, giving it to Abhishek, who was playing slightly withdrawn. The pass went to Shilanand Lakra, whose deft touch sent it to Sukhjeet, with the last tap giving India a 2-1 lead.

**Top 10 amateurs set to shine at legendary Cypress Point in California****New Delhi. (Agency)**

While the Ryder Cup is still a few weeks away, its amateur counterpart takes center stage this weekend in one of the most jaw-dropping settings the sport has to offer. The Walker Cup returns to Cypress Point Club in Pebble Beach, California, for the first time since 1981, bringing not only top amateur talent but also a rare glimpse inside one of golf's most exclusive playgrounds. The Walker Cup is a biennial showdown that pits the best amateurs from the United States against their peers from Great

**SUCCESSOR**

This has to be a win-win situation for the camp; as the Argentine legend gets ready to retire, there is someone who could, at least to some extent, be seen as a replacement. But not everyone agrees with that. Lionel Scaloni, the Argentine association football manager, believes no one can be an heir to

the legacy Messi is leaving behind. In a conversation with Flash Score last September, he emphasised that no one could replace Leo. "No, there can't be. There won't be. There won't be an heir to Messi, for sure." He also stressed that even beyond Argentina, no one comes close to Messi's impact. "No, let's see, there may be great players who marked the era, but what he has done in such a long time, I think it will be unrepeatable. Football has a lot of unthinkable things, but in this, I could almost assure you that it will be impossible to see anything else like it. At least from what I saw, I think Leo is unmatched."

Since Leo announced that the FIFA 2026 qualifier match on September 5 against Venezuela in Buenos Aires would be his last, Scaloni has been visibly emotional. "This is a match which Leo has said will be emotional, special, nice because it's true that it's our last qualifying match. We have to enjoy it as we've always been saying," he said.

**Explained: Watching IPL live just got costlier thanks to new GST rules****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Cricket fans in India will now have to dig deeper into their pockets to watch IPL matches live, as the government has raised the GST on premium sporting events from 28% to 40%. The sharp increase places IPL tickets in the highest tax bracket, alongside casinos, race clubs, and luxury goods. According to official guidelines, the GST hike applies to "admission to casinos, race clubs, any place having casinos or race clubs, or sporting events like the IPL." The new rates are part of a broader GST reform targeting high-value discretionary spending and are set to take effect from 22 September 2025. Under the previous structure, a ticket priced at Rs 1,000 attracted 28% GST, taking the total cost to Rs 1,280. With the revised 40% rate, the same ticket will now cost Rs 1,400—a Rs 120 jump for every Rs 1,000 spent, representing a 12% increase in effective cost. Here is a breakdown of how the GST hike impacts different ticket prices:

Rs 500 ticket: Rs 700 (up from Rs 640)

Rs 1,000 ticket: Rs 1,400 (up from Rs 1,280)



Rs 2,000 ticket: Rs 2,800 (up from Rs 2,560)

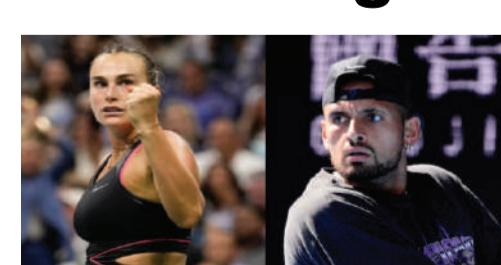
The uniform 40% tax applies to all IPL tickets and other high-value sporting events, treating them as non-essential or luxury entertainment.

While the GST Council framed the hike as part of revenue alignment, it effectively distinguishes grassroots-level sporting events from high-profile commercial tournaments. Osaka reached a Grand Slam semi-final for the first time since her return from maternity leave in 2024. In her previous seven majors before this US Open, she had failed to progress beyond the third round. But in New York, the Japanese star

showed glimpses of her vintage best, producing stroke-making of the highest order. Entertaining the crowd and drawing attention with her flamboyant "labubus", Osaka was thrilling spectators in New York, and it appeared her run might extend further when she dominated the opening set, sealing it in a tie-break. However, once she began to falter on serve and offered up second-serve opportunities, Anisimova seized control. Anisimova, whose interactions with her coach court-side at Arthur Ashe Stadium were at times volatile, raised the quality of her shot-making to its peak, striking winners off both wings with remarkable consistency.

**Sabalenka responds to Kyrgios with bold Battle of the Sexes vow: Going to kick his a\*\*****Rajgir. (Agency)**

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka has responded in typically combative fashion to Nick Kyrgios's controversial comments about their proposed "Battle of the Sexes" exhibition, promising fans a spectacle and vowing to "kick his ass." The showdown hasn't been announced yet, but it is likely to take place next year. Several media outlets reported that the man-versus-woman competition could take place in Hong Kong, in the run-up to the 2026 Australian Open. I think it's gonna be spectacular to watch. It's going to be fun, especially against someone like Nick," said the 27-year-old Belarusian, who is chasing the fourth Grand Slam title of her career. "He said in another interview that I genuinely think that I'm going to win. And I'll definitely go out there, and I'll try my best to kick his ass. We are not sure about the place, but definitely if we're going to bring it, we're going to bring it to somewhere where a lot of people are watching,



and we're gonna put a lot of pressure on Nick." Sabalenka addressed the topic after reaching the US Open final for the third successive year. She outlasted local hope Jessica Pegula in a hard-fought three-set battle on Thursday at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

**NICK KYRGIOS TALKS BIG**

Her comments come after Kyrgios, ranked 651 in the world and sidelined since March due to injuries, suggested Sabalenka stood no chance against him. Speaking to fellow ATP player

Alexander Bublik, the Australian insisted: "She's not going to beat me, do you really think I have to try 100 percent?" He went on to argue that his serve alone would overwhelm her: "Our serves, women can't return them, and then we can just chip and drop shot." The event has yet to be confirmed but is expected to take place in Hong Kong early next year in the build-up to the 2026 Australian Open. Peter Johnston, director of international events for the Hong Kong, China Tennis Association, has confirmed discussions are ongoing. The prospect of a Kyrgios-Sabalenka showdown has inevitably drawn comparisons to the original "Battle of the Sexes" in 1973, when Billie Jean King famously defeated Bobby Riggs in a landmark moment for women's sport. For now, while Kyrgios continues his recovery, Sabalenka is letting her tennis do the talking—bidding to become the first woman in 11 years to defend the US Open women's singles crown.

## SBI Research sees limited revenue loss from GST reforms, banking sector to gain

**CHENNAI.(Agency)**

State Bank of India's research wing has estimated that the recent GST reforms, including rate reductions, will lead to a revenue loss of only about Rs 3,700 crore — far lower than the government's projected loss of Rs 48,000 crore.

The reforms, approved by the GST Council on Wednesday, introduce a two-tier tax structure aimed at simplifying compliance and reducing the burden on consumers and businesses. According to SBI Research, the move is likely to be growth-accretive, boosting consumption while keeping fiscal risks in check. The study also notes that the new structure will benefit the banking and financial sector by improving cost efficiencies. Lower indirect tax costs on inputs and services are expected to translate into operational savings for lenders, strengthening margins and competitiveness. Analysts believe the sharply lower revenue loss projection suggests that the government will have more fiscal space than initially anticipated, while the broader economy could see gains from higher demand and improved credit flow.

## SoftBank pares stake in Ola Electric to 15.68%

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Japanese investment major SoftBank on Thursday sold 2.15% of its stake in Ola Electric Mobility through open market transactions, reducing its holding to 15.68%. According to BSE filings, SoftBank Investment Advisers' entity, SVF II Ostrich (DE) LLC, disposed of 94.94 million shares between July 15 and September 2. It now holds 691.2 million equity shares, representing a 15.68% stake in the company. The sale crossed the 2% threshold specified under SEBI's Takeover Regulations.

Before the transaction, SoftBank held 786.5 million shares, or 17.83%, making it the second-largest investor after Ola founder Bhavish Aggarwal. Ola Electric went public in December 2024.

Following the sale, Ola's shares fell 7.63% to an intraday low of ₹63.70 on Thursday before recovering to close at ₹64.49. Despite the decline, the stock has gained 57.87% over the past month.

Founded in 2017, Ola Electric recently secured certification for compliance with eligibility assessment requirements under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for its Gen 3 scooter



portfolio. The company also unveiled its first locally made 4680 Bharat cell and a rare earth metal-free motor at an event in Tamil Nadu. Ola was embroiled in controversy in October 2024 after users posted images on social media highlighting defects in its two-wheelers and alleging unattended complaints for several months. Ola faced a financial dispute with Rosmerta Group, leading to the withdrawal of insolvency proceedings against Ola Electric Technologies Pvt Ltd. Rosmerta confirmed receiving ₹26.75 crore under the settlement.

## Exports to Europe: In August India shipped 137% more diesel than it did last year

**Kolkata.(Agency)**

August was a bumper month for India's diesel exports to Europe. Reports stated that diesel exports to Europe from India jumped 137% (y-o-y) to touch 242,000 barrels per day (bpd) in August. The performance in August also marked a surge of 73% compared to July and a leap of 124% compared to the average shipments of the preceding 12 months, according to reports which quoted data by Kpler, a global real-time data and analytics provider.

According to another energy cargo tracker Vortexa, India's diesel exports to Europe in August stood at 228,316 bpd, which is 36% higher than that achieved a month ago (in July) and 166% higher (y-o-y) ie, when compared to August last year. High demand, advanced maintenance operations What led to the big rise in diesel exports? Analysts indicated that the jump was due to a combination of different factors — high demand and apprehensions of sanctions by EU that can close the doors on shipments from India, an expected winter demand and an European refinery's sudden decision to advance maintenance. In fact, the demand for Indian diesel from Europe is expected to remain robust in the remaining months of 2025. A lot of shipments landed in Rotterdam since one of Shell's refinery there brought forward its planned turnaround from 2026 this year. An analyst also told the media that the maintenance was advanced from 2026 since sanctions on imports from India could raise demands of local oil in 2026 and the refineries were preparing for that eventuality. "European buyers may accelerate liftings from India given that Middle Eastern refineries will be having a high maintenance in October-November, echoing the stockpiling seen ahead of the February 2023 EU ban on Russian products," Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining and modelling at Kpler, was quoted in the media as saying.

## Life and health insurance premiums exempt from GST: How much will you save

**With full GST exemption, life and health insurance premiums could become lower, potentially saving policyholders several thousand rupees. The change is expected to cover all individual policies, including term plans, ULIPs, endowments, and senior citizen health plans.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is getting its biggest update since 2017, and one of the most notable changes affects individual life and health insurance. From September 22, 2025, premiums for these policies are expected to be fully exempt from GST. This could make insurance more affordable for millions of households and encourage wider adoption of financial protection.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR POLICYHOLDERS**

### BoB classifies Anil Ambani, Rcom as fraud

**The classification follows a Show Cause Notice (SCN) issued by Bank of Baroda, citing findings from a forensic audit report prepared by BDO India**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has classified the loan accounts of Reliance Communications Limited (RCom) and its erstwhile promoter and director Anil Ambani, as 'Fraud'. The company, which is currently undergoing a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), made the disclosure in a letter to the BSE and National Stock Exchange on Friday. The classification follows a Show Cause Notice (SCN) issued by Bank of Baroda, citing findings from a forensic audit report prepared by BDO India LLP. According to the report, the audit identified a "diversion and misappropriation of funds, along with

Until now, individual health and life insurance premiums were taxed at 18%. With the GST exemption, premiums are expected to drop. For instance, a health insurance policy with a Rs 15,000 annual premium, previously costing about Rs 17,700 including GST, could now cost closer to Rs 15,000. Similarly, a Rs 25,000 term life policy might come down to around Rs 25,000, instead of Rs 29,500. Therefore, with GST exemption, premiums could become lower, potentially saving policyholders several thousand rupees. The change is expected to cover all individual policies, including term plans, ULIPs, endowments, and senior citizen health plans.

While the savings are likely to be immediate for premiums paid after September 22, 2025, actual benefits may vary depending on insurers' pricing and policy terms. Families may find it easier to buy new coverage or renew existing policies, but the exact impact will become clearer once the new rules take effect.

Rakesh Goyal, Director at Probus, says the move is more than just a numbers game.

"The GST relief on individual health and life insurance premiums is a decisive step toward making insurance more



accessible. Affordability has long been a barrier to insurance penetration. Lower premiums will encourage more households to buy coverage and improve renewal rates." Amit Ganorkar, MD & CEO of TATA AIG General Insurance, adds, "This relief will make protection more affordable for millions. Wider adoption of health insurance is critical in India, where out-of-pocket healthcare costs are high." Dr. Sabine Kapasi, CEO at Enira Consulting and UN advisor, notes that while government schemes like

Ayushman Bharat have helped financially disadvantaged groups, the "missing middle" often cannot afford private insurance. Removing GST from premiums directly benefits this segment, encouraging timely treatment and easing pressure on hospitals.

### WHAT ABOUT INSURERS?

Insurers will no longer be able to claim Input Tax Credit on their business expenses, which may increase operational costs slightly, by 2.5% to 7%. Regulators, however, have mandated that insurers pass the GST savings fully to policyholders for at least a year, ensuring that families see immediate relief. Even if small premium adjustments happen later, they are expected to remain significantly lower than the previous 18% tax burden. Simply put, policyholders are likely to benefit most if they renew or buy insurance after September 22. While the exact savings may vary by policy and insurer, this reform is designed to make life and health insurance more accessible, helping millions of households plan for protection and financial security.

## Buying a home vs investing in stocks: Which builds more wealth, explains expert

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

For many Indians, owning a house is seen as the ultimate sign of success. Families save for years to buy property, believing it is the best way to build wealth. But according to Rajeev Agarwal, this belief may not always hold true.

"Does buying a house really make you rich in India?" he asks in a LinkedIn post, adding that while property offers security, it may not be the fastest route to financial growth.

### THE REAL ESTATE STORY

Agarwal pointed out that a Mumbai property bought for Rs 50 lakh back in 2003 could be valued at nearly Rs 3-3.5 crore today. A six to seven times growth in two decades sounds good, but not extraordinary, he explained. "Real estate in Indian cities has historically grown at 10-12% a year before taxes and costs," Agarwal said. "After stamp duty, property tax,



maintenance charges, brokerage, and the fact that you cannot easily sell it, the actual return often falls to just 6-7%."

### THE STOCK MARKET COMPARISON

Now compare this with the Nifty 50 index. If the same Rs 50 lakh had been invested in 2003, it would have grown to around Rs 10-11 crore by 2025. That's nearly a twenty-fold rise, three times more than property. "Nifty 50 has delivered a compound annual growth rate of about 15.5% over the past two decades," says Agarwal. "There are no maintenance costs, it is liquid, and expenses are far lower than in real estate."

### WHAT MOST PEOPLE MISS

The key difference, according to Agarwal, lies in understanding what each asset gives you.

"A house gives you stability, comfort, and emotional satisfaction," he says. "But if your goal is to become truly wealthy, the stock market has quietly been the bigger winner for the past 22 years."

## Probe widens as ED raids Arvind Remedies in ₹637 crore loan fraud case

**CHENNAI.(Agency)**

The investigation in the Rs 637 crore loan fraud case involving Chennai-based Arvind Remedies is expected to continue as authorities analyse the seized documents and digital evidence. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has in the last two days carried out searches in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Goa as part of its probe into a bank fraud linked to the company and its promoter Arvind B. Shah. The case dates back to 2016, when the CBI registered an FIR following a complaint from Punjab National Bank. The company is accused of defrauding a consortium of lenders by diverting loan funds and falsifying accounts.

The ED raids are aimed at unravelling the underlying financial trail and identifying those responsible for manipulating company accounts, misappropriating funds, and laundering money through a complex web of interconnected entities.

According to investigators, quoted in reports, the promoters routed money through shell companies and multiple bank accounts. The ED examined financial statements between 2009 and 2015 and transaction details from nearly 300 accounts. The raids are aimed at tracing the flow of funds and collecting evidence of money laundering. Officials said further action will follow once documents and digital

records seized during the searches are analyzed. The ED's current probe has involved a deep dive into the company's annual reports from fiscal years 2009-10 through 2014-15, audited financial statements obtained from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and extensive transaction data spanning 294 bank accounts. Analysis suggests that funds were siphoned off through shell or dummy entities controlled by the promoters—raising serious concerns of financial misconduct and money laundering.

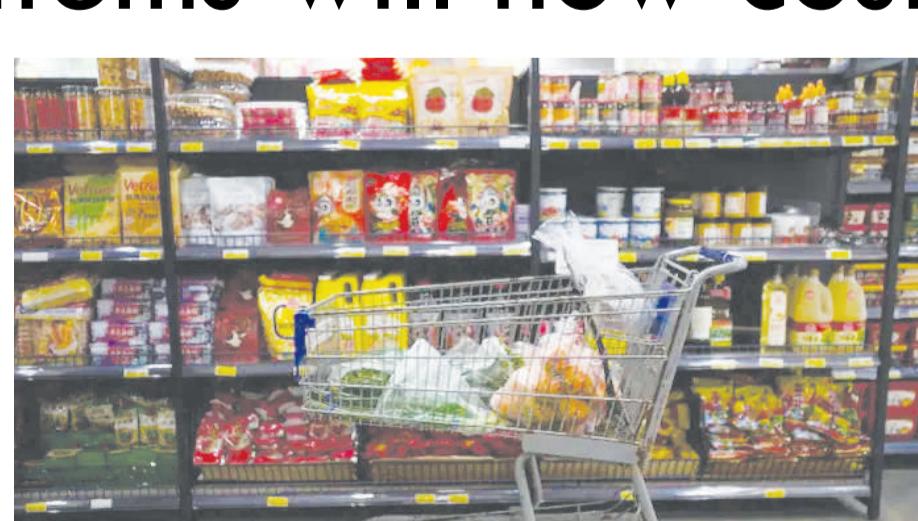
The Chennai-based Arvind Remedies Ltd, was engaged in the manufacture of generic medicines and ayurvedic products.

## GST 2.0: Essentials cheaper, but these items will now cost more

**Following the latest GST announcement, farmers are expected to get relief as their cultivation costs will reduce. Farmers have long demanded lower taxes for the agriculture sector.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is set to undergo its biggest overhaul since 2017. From September 22, 2025, the system will shift to simpler "2+1" structure: 5% for essentials, 18% for most goods and services, and a steep 40% for sin and luxury items. While most everyday items are set to become cheaper, a handful of products that people indulge in regularly will see their prices jump. Commercial cargo vehicles such as trucks and delivery vans have moved from 28% to 18% GST,



while their insurance rates have been reduced from 12% to 5%. This is expected to improve the transportation of agricultural products, making it faster and more cost-effective.

### WHAT GET'S MORE EXPENSIVE?

The 40% top rate hits products the government wants to discourage or that are considered luxuries. Colas and other

fizzy drinks will rise from 28% to 40%, making movie-night sodas and family treats costlier. Sugary juices and energy drinks will also carry the higher rate, affecting lunchboxes and urban fitness routines. Pan masala and chewing tobacco move to the same slab, a clear nudge toward healthier habits. Luxury motorcycles and high-end cars now face

the 40% rate too, adding a sharp bite for aspirational buyers. However, the good news is essentials are becoming cheaper. Soaps, hair oil, packaged snacks, small cars, and even some household appliances now fall into lower slabs, sometimes by more than half. The government aims to make daily life easier, trim inflation, and revive consumption. Economists estimate that the reform could shave around 1.1 percentage points off inflation. The Centre expects a short-term revenue loss of roughly Rs 48,000 crore but hopes that lower rates on essentials and simpler compliance will encourage spending and offset the gap over time. For families, the impact is easy to see at the counter. Grocery baskets, personal care products, and household items may cost less, but colas, energy drinks, pan masala, and cigarettes will definitely be pricier.

Luxury motorcycles and cars will hit the pocket harder too. For families, the equation is simple. Essentials will cost less, while indulgences like colas, energy drinks, pan masala, cigarettes, and luxury vehicles will become more expensive.

# Neha Sharma

## Goes Bold In Cutout Jumpsuit; Aisha Stuns In Bralette And Sexy Skirt

**N**eha Sharma and her sister Aisha Sharma set the red carpet ablaze at the GQ Best Dressed event in Mumbai on Thursday evening. Known for their glam quotient and daring fashion statements, the Sharma sisters made sure all eyes were on them as they struck confident poses for the paparazzi in sultry black ensembles. Neha Sharma, who has always been a fashion-forward diva, opted for a daring black cutout jumpsuit that perfectly flaunted her toned midriff. The jumpsuit featured metallic detailing at the front, adding an edgy twist to her glamorous look. She paired it with a chic oversized black blazer draped casually over her shoulders, creating a balance between bold and sophisticated. Her hair was styled in soft waves, framing her face beautifully, while her subtle glam makeup highlighted her features. With a nude lip, smokey eyes, and minimal accessories, Neha let her outfit steal the spotlight. The actress carried the look with effortless grace and confidence, winning hearts with her striking appearance.

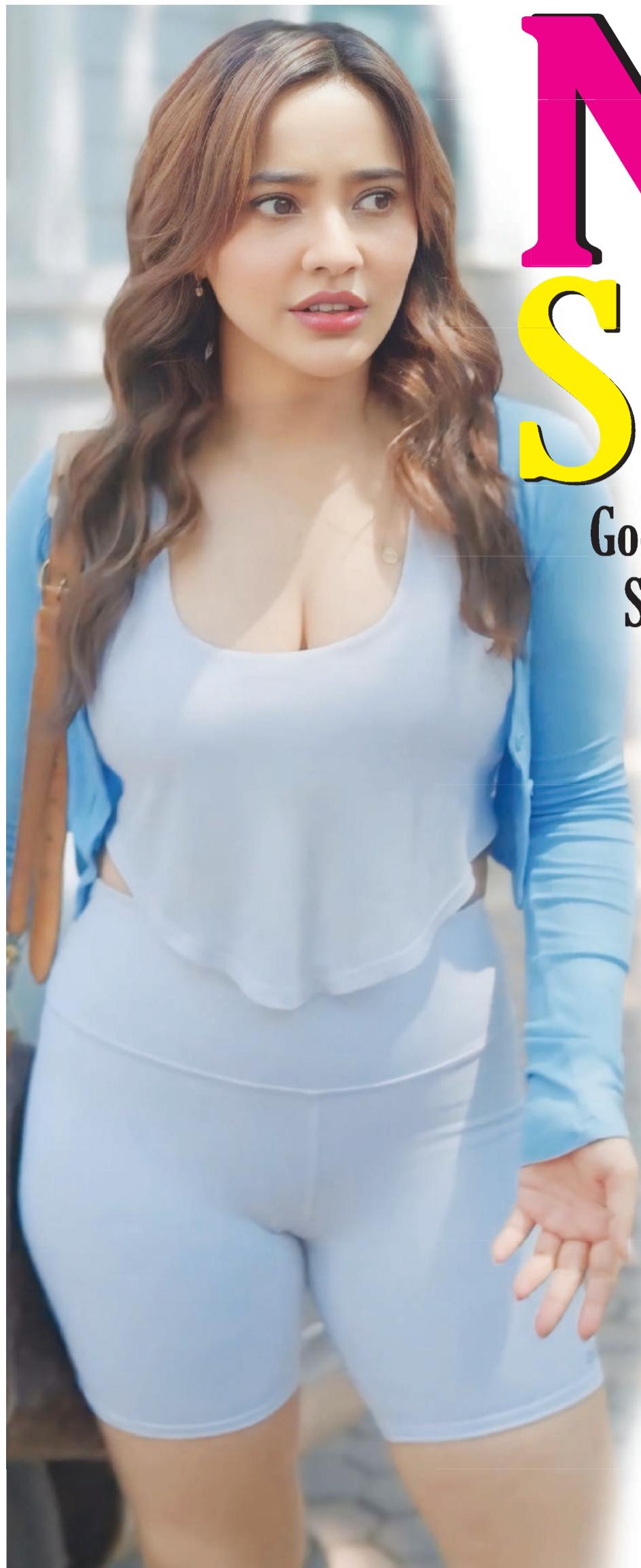
### Aisha Sharma Sizzles In Bralette And Slit Skirt

Not to be outdone, Aisha Sharma brought equal heat to the carpet in a stunning black bralette paired with a skirt featuring a cutout around the waist area. The outfit accentuated her toned figure, while the cutout added an extra dose of drama and allure. Keeping the look minimal yet sexy, Aisha accessorised with a sleek watch and kept her makeup bronzed and natural. Her straight, center-parted hairstyle added polish to the edgy ensemble, making her appearance one of the most talked-about at the event. Aisha's bold choice proved she has carved her own niche in the fashion world, just like her elder sister Neha.

### The Sharma Sisters: Glamour Meets Talent

Neha Sharma, who made her Bollywood debut in Crook (2010), has since appeared in films like Kyaa Super Kool Hain Hum, Tum Bin II, and Youngistaan. She is also known for her web-series Illegal and has earned praise for her versatility and screen presence.

Aisha Sharma, on the other hand, started her Bollywood journey with Satyameva Jayate (2018) opposite John Abraham. Before entering films, Aisha made waves in the modeling industry and quickly became a sought-after face for magazine covers and fashion campaigns. Together, the sisters are not only celebrated for their professional work but also for their enviable sense of style, often spotted serving glamorous looks at events, vacations, and on social media. Earlier this year, Neha had also shared a deeply emotional tribute to her late pet dog Joy, who was a part of their family for 15 years.



## Mannara Chopra's Bright Red Look Lights Up Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations In Mumbai

**M**annara Chopra is currently enjoying fans' positive response to her recently released song, Gun Gunate Chale Mausam. Sung by Ankit Tiwari, composed by Harsh Kargeti and penned by Samay, the song also features Hardik Banga in the lead. As the romantic track continues to win hearts, the Bigg Boss 17 fame recently sought the blessings of Lord Ganpati amid Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in the city. The festival is among the most auspicious occasions of the Hindu religion and marks the birth of Ganpati, the god of good fortune and wisdom.



### Mannara Chopra Seeks Lord Ganesha's Blessings

In a video shared on Instagram, the actress was seen visiting a Ganpati pandal in Mumbai and seeking the blessings of the lord. She was accompanied by her mother, Kamini Chopra Handa. As the clip progresses, we see Mannara greeting, posing in front of the paps

stationed at the location and exuding her adorable smile. Lastly, she also struck a pose with her mother.

Talking about her look, she looked pretty in a bright red suit paired with a matching dupatta, while her mother wore a green suit.

### Fans Shower Praises On Mannara Chopra

In no time, the comment section was flooded with reactions from fans and admirers. An Instagram user wrote, "Breathtakingly Beautiful Barbie seeking Bappa's Blessings."

One of them commented, "Ganpati Bappa Morya." Another one shared, "Radiant n Ravishing in Red Mannara."

### Mannara Expressed Happiness For Her Song Release

Recently, just after her song, Gun Gunate Chale Mausam was released, the actress took to Instagram and expressed her happiness as her latest track was released during the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. In a photo, the actress was seen wearing a blue embroidered kurta with a white skirt, seeking blessings from Lord Ganesha and heartily enjoying the day with her loved ones. "Feeling blessed as my song releases on Ganpati day! Thank you, Bappa, for the divine blessing and T-Series for the incredible support!" she wrote in the caption.

### Mannara Chopra's Work Front

She was also a part of the cooking-based reality show, Laughter Chefs: Unlimited Entertainment Season 2, in which she was paired with Sudesh Lehri. Mannara left the show mid-way due to her other work commitments.



**Hrithik Roshan Calls Saba Azad 'Baby', Lauds Songs Of Paradise: 'I Love You'**



**A**ctress Saba Azad is currently enjoying the success of her recently released movie, Songs of Paradise. On Thursday night, her actor boyfriend, Hrithik Roshan, also took to his Instagram handle and penned a heartwarming note, praising his lady love's latest project.

Hrithik shared a few stills of Saba from the movie and wrote, "The genuine praise I'm hearing all around for the makers, technicians and artists associated with Songs Of Paradise is truly heartening. I watched this movie in its rough form many months ago, and I remember being touched to my core. Tears that filled me up with such deep love especially for the character of Zeba." "The humongous applause this movie is getting today has restored my infallible faith in the universe. You get what you deserve. And you @sabazad for the incredible artiste you are, for the exquisite art you create, deserve all the applause coming your way.. I have seen your struggle, the helplessness, the frustrations, the agony that so many amazing artistes suffer from – of craving the basic right to opportunity that genuine talent deserves in a business that demands "followers" before the "actor". Which is why today I feel the lightness of unbridled joy watching you get what you deserve. And you my love deserve the world and more. This performance goes down as my top 10 performances ever," he added.

Hrithik ended the post with a sweet message for Saba that read, "Rock on baby My heart is full. I love you."

### What Do We Know About Songs of Paradise?

Besides Saba Azad, the film also features Soni Razdan, Taarak Raina, Sheeba Chadha, Zain Khan Durrani and Lilette Dubey in significant roles. Songs of Paradise follows the inspirational journey of Zeba Akhtar, a young woman in 1950s Kashmir who defies societal norms to become the legendary singer Noor Begum (also known as Raj Begum) and the first female voice on Radio Kashmir. The film is a musical drama loosely based on the life of the Padma Shri awardee, showcasing her struggle for recognition in a conservative society and her significant contribution to Kashmiri musical heritage.

## Shilpa Shetty's Husband Raj Kundra Donates Mehar's Opening Collection To Punjab Flood Victims



**T**he flood crisis in Punjab deepened on Wednesday after another spell of torrential rain, pushing the death toll to 37, according to official reports. Authorities confirmed that this is the worst flooding the state has witnessed since 1988. Vast stretches of farmland have been devastated, with crops spread across nearly 1.75 lakh hectares in 23 districts bearing the brunt of the disaster.

Amid this, Raj Kundra has announced something special. Shilpa Shetty's husband, who is all set for his second big screen outing as an actor and will be making his Punjabi film debut with the movie Mehar, shared that the first day worldwide collection of Mehar will be donated to the victims of the Punjab Floods. Mehar is slated to hit the big screens on September 5, 2025.

Raj Kundra captioned his video as, "Tomorrow MEHAR hits cinemas worldwide! But this isn't just a release... it's relief. Day 1 worldwide collections are ALL for Punjab flood support Be part of sewa, be part of history (sic)."

Directed by Rakesh Mehta, Mehar features Geeta Basra in the lead role, marking her much-awaited return to acting after a long hiatus. While talking about her comeback, Geeta had earlier said, "When Mehar came to me, I just couldn't say no. It's such a deep and meaningful story, with a powerful message that speaks directly to the heart. As an artist, you wait for a film that resonates with you on every level – and Mehar is exactly that. It's a blessing to be part of something that I know will connect with families everywhere."

The trailer of the film was unveiled by the makers in August. Shilpa Shetty had loved the trailer, and she took to her social media to publicly praise her hubby Raj Kundra. She called him the 'new hero in town', but added that he has been her hero in real life for many years now. She also congratulated the entire team of Mehar, and expressed her excitement to watch the film.

Shilpa Shetty took to her Instagram to share the trailer of Mehar, and penned a lovely encouraging message for her hubby Raj Kundra. "Woohoo!! Punjabi films have got a new HERO in town, but he's been my HERO for many years. Welcome to the movies @onlyrajkundra. Wishing you and the entire team of #Mehar great success, director @therakeshmehta.de Paji, producer @divzbatnagar @geetabasra, Lovvveeee the songs and now the trailer. Can't wait to watch the movie."

Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.

While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...

**Spot reduction exercises:** An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.

**Leg extensions (Seated):** A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the "Jou

# 7 exercises you need to avoid

rnal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

**Leg press:** Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount

of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

**Seated abduction or adduction:** Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.



**Leg curls:** According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff, exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

**Sit ups:** As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a person should never

**(behind the head):** This is a big "no-no" without proper form, as this may affect your shoulder joint functioning. Only those with extreme shoulder joint flexibility can opt for this exercise and that too, with extreme care for correct form. A better alternative for working your lats is by pulling the bar towards your chest and not behind the head. But, remember to keep your spine straight and abs pulled in while performing this.



How papaya, fenugreek leaves can control

## Dengue

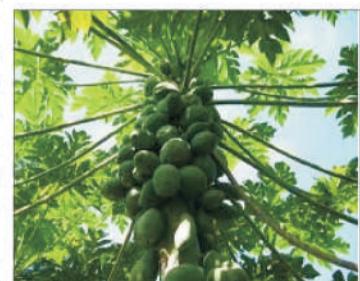
Giloy is helpful in building the immune system and papaya leaves cure dengue fever, an expert says.



Pankaj Aggarwal, from the capital-based Agrawal Homoeo Clinic, has suggested some easy home remedies to control platelet loss and recovery from dengue fever

**Giloy (herb):** This is helpful in building the immune system, giloy stem marks immediate recovery when consumed in frequently during the fever. Boil two or three giloy stems for ten minutes and serve the patient for better immunity.

**Papaya leaves:** The budding leaves of papaya tree cure dengue fever and helps in removing excess toxins from the body. The intake of its juice from crushed leaves can help in rising the platelet count.



**Fenugreek leaves:** Fenugreek leaves help in reducing the pain of the patient and help in restful sleep. It reduces the level of fever stabilizing the blood pressure and heartbeat of the patient.

**Goldenseal:** The herb proves to be an excellent remedy for its ability to clear up the symptoms of the dengue fever. The leaf when consumed in form of juice helps in eliminating the dengue virus from the body strengthening the immunity of the body against its signs.

## Feeling blue? You have impaired your ability to identify colours

Taking the association between our mood and colours beyond a mere metaphor, new research has found that feeling sad can impair our ability to accurately identify colours on the blue-yellow axis.



"Our results show that mood and emotion can affect how we see the world around us," said study first author Christopher Thorstenson from University of Rochester in New York, US.

"Our work advances the study of perception by showing that sadness specifically impairs basic visual processes that are involved in perceiving colour," Thorstenson noted.

In the study, the researchers had 127 undergraduate participants watch an emotional film clip and then complete a visual judgment task.

The participants were randomly assigned to watch an animated film clip intended to induce sadness or a standup comedy clip intended to induce amusement.

After watching the video clip, the participants were then shown 48 consecutive, desaturated colour patches and were asked to indicate whether each patch was red, yellow,

green, or blue. The results showed that participants who watched the sadness video clip were less accurate in identifying colours than participants who watched the amusing clip, but only

for colour patches that were on the blue-yellow axis. They showed no difference in accuracy for colours on the red-green axis.

The results cannot be explained by differences in participants' level of effort, attention, or engagement with the task, as colour perception was only impaired on the blue-yellow axis.

"We did not predict this specific finding, although it might give us a clue to the reason for the effect in neurotransmitter functioning," Thorstenson said.

The researchers noted that previous work has specifically linked colour perception on the blue-yellow axis with the neurotransmitter dopamine.

The new research was published in the journal Psychological Science.



Here's how you should make turmeric

## MILK

Much has been said about the benefits of drinking turmeric milk - or 'Golden Milk' as it is fondly called by the Orientals.

It has been advocated by several schools of native medicine, including Ayurveda. A simple Web search on 'turmeric milk' will tell you about benefits ranging from decongestion to weight loss, so I am not going to delve into that much in this post.

Instead, I want to share with you an authentic method of preparing it, which I zeroed in on after trying several recipes advised by Ayurvedic doctors, and found in many books.

1. Take an inch-long stick of turmeric. Remember that turmeric powder is never as effective as crushed turmeric sticks, because the chances of contamination in the powder are high, plus its

efficacy is also bound to reduce during the heat-generating grinding process. So, take a stick of turmeric (the variety used in cooking; varali manjal in Thamizh) and crush it coarsely using a mortar and pestle.

2. Crush a few peppercorns too.

The white variety is better.

3. Mix a cup of water with a cup of milk, add the crushed turmeric and pepper and bring to a boil.

4. Simmer for 20 minutes. By this time, the milk will reduce to a cup. This is the reason why I suggest you begin with a mixture of milk and water; else you will end up with a very thick, kheer-like drink that won't be as soothing.

5. Remove from the stove, filter, add a spoonful of honey or palm sugar, and enjoy the drink warm.

6. If you are taking this to relieve a sore throat, add 1/2 teaspoon of ghee to the hot turmeric milk before drinking it. The ghee will melt and coat your throat, relieving you of cough as well.

Note: The most important part is to sit and relax with this cuppa for a few minutes, relishing its soothing flavour and rustic aroma! This will enhance the feel-good factor.

