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Congress Rules Out Punjab Leadership Change Ahead Of Assembly Polls

Bhupesh Baghel said the Congress high command has already taken its decision and Raja Warring will continue to lead the Punjab unit

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Congress general secretary in charge of Punjab, Bhupesh Baghel, has made it clear that there will be no change in the state leadership and that Amarinder Singh Raja Warring will continue as the state Congress president.

Rejecting speculation over a leadership change, Baghel said, "Appointing a Congress president is not a game of 'gudda-guddi' (playing with dolls). The party high command's decision will not be changed."

He said the Congress high command has already taken its decision and Raja Warring will continue to lead the Punjab unit.

Baghel also asserted that there is no tradition in the Congress of reversing decisions taken by the party leadership.

According to Baghel, District Congress Committee presidents and Punjab Congress Committee members have unanimously welcomed the high command's decision. He added that party leaders also congratulated the newly appointed working presidents, reflecting organisational unity.

The remarks came during Baghel's visit to Punjab, where he held meetings with District Congress Committee presidents, senior leaders and party office-bearers to review the organisation's preparedness ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.

Baghel stressed that the party's focus is on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level and ensuring all leaders work together.

He said the Congress wants to build a united organisation instead of getting distracted by internal differences.

On senior leaders Charanjit Singh Channi and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Baghel said he had already spoken to both of them and would meet them soon. "If needed, I will personally visit their homes and meet them over a cup of tea," he said.

With Baghel's statement, the Congress leadership has sought to end speculation over the Punjab Congress chief's post, reaffirming that Raja Warring will continue to head the state unit while the party focuses on strengthening its organisation ahead of the next Assembly elections.

Mocked for feasting on kachori, noodles as Wangchuk fasts, CJP's Dipke clarifies

As activist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi completed its 10th day on Tuesday, the spotlight shifted from the protest to the plate of the Cockroach Janta Party's Abhijeet Dipke. This is what he had to say when asked why he was feasting even as Wangchuk fasted.

New Delhi. (Agency)

With activist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar completing its 10th day on Tuesday, the spotlight shifted from the protest to what Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke has been eating. Clips of Dipke eating bread pakodas and noodles have gone viral on social media, triggering memes and taunts. Critics have questioned why Wangchuk was fasting while CJP's Dipke or his associates were not.Some people have even mocked Dipke for having food on the stage beside Wangchuk, who is on an indefinite fast. On Sunday, Dipke was seen eating kachori sitting right next to Wangchuk. Amid the criticism, Dipke addressed the issue in an interaction with Delhi Tak, India Today Digital's sister platform.

He insisted the videos were being circulated out of context and said the party's core team had consciously stayed off the hunger strike so that the protest could continue to function. He also expressed concern over Wangchuk's deteriorating health, saying he had "urged him to end the fast, but the activist had refused to do so".Sonam Wangchuk, whose indefinite hunger strike entered its 10th day on Tuesday, joined the Abhijeet Dipke-led CJP's protest, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over exam paper leaks.

No evidence linking India to Hardeep Singh Nijjar killing, says Canada

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Canadian police said on Wednesday that there is no evidence linking Indian government officials to the 2023 killing of Canadian citizen and Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, nearly three years after former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged security agencies were probing credible allegations of a "potential link" between Indian agents and the murder. The development came as newly unsealed indictments by the US Department of Justice identified gangster Lawrence Bishnoi as responsible for Nijjar's killing.

"There is no evidence to suggest that through this organised crime syndicate investigation and the charges laid forward that Indian government officials would be charged or involved in this....nothing has come out to link the Indian government," Lisa Moreland, Deputy Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), told Canadian TV channel CBC News.

Jaishankar meets Bahrain's Dy PM Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa

New Delhi. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a four-nation Gulf tour, on Tuesday met Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa on Tuesday.

The meeting came a day after Jaishankar held an audience with Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al

Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

"A pleasure to meet Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain H.E Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa this morning. Discussed taking forward our bilateral cooperation across various sectors. Also exchanged views on the regional situation," Jaishankar posted on X on Tuesday.

Jaishankar arrived in Bahrain on Monday from Qatar. He is on the second leg of his four-nation Gulf visit from July 5 to 10, which also includes Kuwait and Oman.

Ram Mandir donation theft has tarnished India's image: Akhilesh Yadav

Akhilesh Yadav that the reported embezzlement of donations at Ayodhya's Ram Mandir had tarnished India's global image, hurt investor confidence and exposed the BJP government's loss of credibility.

Lucknow. (Agency)

Yadav said, "The news of theft of offerings, donations and contributions from the Ayodhya temple has spread across the world. Followers of Sanatan Dharma living in different countries are ashamed because of the disrepute caused by the BJP and its associates. They are also hurt because many of them had donated to the temple or personally offered contributions."The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister further claimed that the country was suffering a loss of reputation because of the

alleged actions of what he called the "BJP's irreligious elements".

He also said the controversy was hurting investor sentiment.'

"Investors across the world are withdrawing because they feel that if a government cannot safeguard even donations made to its own deity, how can it protect our investments tomorrow? The BJP government has completely lost its religious, cultural, political and economic credibility," he said.On the allegation made by Dubey, Yadav said, "The BJP committed a mistake by getting false allegations made through people whose personal record has historically been infamous and whose deeply corrupt social and political image is such that even leaders of their own party do not want them around."

Congress dubs VB-G RAM-G Act 'rozgar adhikar chori', hits out at Centre

Jairam Ramesh has accused the new VB G RAM G Act of replacing MGNREGA's legal work guarantee with a centralised model. The Congress says the law weakens rural workers' rights, burdens states and keeps wages too low.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday attacked the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, calling it "Rozgar Adhikar chori" and alleging that it has replaced MGNREGA with a highly centralised scheme that puts a heavy financial burden on state governments.

Sharing an article by former Jammu and Kashmir finance minister Haseeb Drabu, Ramesh said the new law had taken the place of a scheme that gave rural households a legal right to work.

The VB G RAM G Act came into force across the country on July 1, replacing the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act introduced by the Congress-led UPA.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "Haseeb Drabu, one of India's finest economists and the former Finance Minister of J&K, has written a very incisive article exposing the realities of the VB G RAM G that has been bulldozed through to replace the transformational MGNREGA."He added, "VB G RAM G is really Rozgar Adhikar chori. It replaces a Constitutional right to work that has empowered gram panchayats with a highly centralised scheme that places an intolerably heavy financial burden on state governments."

'Not a child's play': Baghel rules out change in Punjab Congress leadership, says high command's decision is final

New Delhi. (Agency)

AICC general secretary in charge of Punjab Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday dismissed speculation over a change in the Punjab Congress leadership, asserting that the party high command's decision to retain Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as the state unit chief is final.

Addressing reporters, Baghel said leadership decisions are not revisited repeatedly.

"When the high command has taken a decision, it is not changed. Koyi gudda-guddi ka khel hai kya ke baar-baar nirnay badla jaega? (Is this a child's play that the decision will be changed over and over again?)"

The remarks come amid reports of discontent within the state unit after the Congress on July 1 announced that Warring would continue as Punjab Congress president while appointing former chief minister and Jalandhar MP Charanjit Singh Channi as chairman of the campaign committee ahead of the Assembly elections due early next year.

Channi is believed to be unhappy over not being named the state unit chief.

On Monday, several senior Congress leaders met in Mohali in his presence, days after a number of sitting and former MLAs backed his candidature for the post.Baghel said he would soon meet Channi and senior leader Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa."I talked to him (Channi); the meeting will take place.

Amit Shah reviews Maharashtra, Gujarat rain crisis, assures full support from Centre

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday spoke separately to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel to review the situation caused by heavy rain in the two states, officials said.

During the calls, Shah assured both chief ministers of all possible assistance from the Centre in dealing with the rain-related situation. The review came as torrential rain disrupted daily life and train services in Mumbai, while southern Gujarat reported extremely heavy rainfall, five rain-related deaths and large-scale evacuations from flooded areas.

Mumbai witnessed heavy rain on Wednesday, delaying local train services and causing inconvenience to office-goers. The city had been battered by rain over the weekend before getting a brief respite on Tuesday.

Long-distance train services towards Gujarat remained disrupted because of waterlogging on the Vasai-Virar section in neighbouring Palghar district and at several places in south Gujarat. Operations on the Mumbai-Pune route were also yet to be fully restored after landslides in the Bhor Ghat section on Monday.

Civic officials said Tulsi Lake, one of the seven reservoirs that supply drinking water to Mumbai, started overflowing late

at night following heavy rainfall in its catchment area. The India Meteorological Department has forecast intermittent light to moderate rainfall in Mumbai and the suburbs during the day.

Southern Gujarat also received extremely heavy rain on Tuesday, with Surat district being the worst hit. Officials said five people died in rain-related incidents and 2,100 people were moved from flooded areas to safe places. Kamrej taluka in Surat district recorded 305 mm of rainfall in the 10 hours ending 4 pm on Tuesday.

Schools and colleges in Navsari district and Surat remained shut on Tuesday in view of the downpour. In its midday state forecast on Tuesday, the IMD said, "Extremely heavy rainfall occurred at isolated places in the districts of South Gujarat region, namely Surat, Valsad, Dadra & Nagar Haveli in the last 24 hours."

Speaking to reporters, Surat Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Nagarajan had said around 2,100 people had been relocated from different zones to safe shelters.

News box

Manesar begins groundwork for waste-to-energy plant

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCM has initiated groundwork towards the proposed waste-to-energy (WTE) plant, initiating the process to fence the remaining 10 acres of land earmarked for the project in Kasan village. Once operational, the facility will process municipal solid waste (MSW) — everyday household and commercial garbage — and convert it into energy.

"Out of 20 acres of land, we got possession of 10 acres of land first that was already fenced. We have now got possession of the remaining 10 acres of land on which now the work will begin. Fencing will be completed in 15 to 20 days," said MCM executive engineer Nijesh Kumar.

On Tuesday, the civic body floated a tender to hire an agency for fencing the 10-acre parcel recently acquired by HSIIDC for the project.

The project gained momentum in March when the directorate of urban local bodies (ULB) constituted a committee to prepare a model request for proposal (RFP) for waste-to-energy projects in major municipal corporations, including Gurgaon, Faridabad and Hisar.According to ULB officials, the project will be developed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has also issued a model RFP to assist states and ULBs in structuring technically viable and financially sustainable waste-to-energy projects.The committee has been tasked with carrying out techno-economic and feasibility reports, identifying suitable sites, assessing waste generation, and planning the power purchase agreement (PPA) framework. It will also estimate project costs, evaluate environmental requirements and outline mechanisms for the disposal of residual waste.

Vehicle thief shot at in gunfight in Noida, his minor aide detained

Noida.(Agency)

A suspected vehicle thief was injured in a gunfight with police and his juvenile accomplice was also detained on Tuesday. Police said the duo had recently stolen a car near GIP Mall and a motorcycle from Atta Market.According to additional DCP Manisha Singh, cops were conducting routine vehicle checks near GIP Mall when a white Maruti Swift Dzire approached and was asked to stop. The driver fled towards Sadarpur, prompting a police chase.The suspects allegedly abandoned the car near the forest area in Sector 42 and attempted to escape on foot. The main accused, Bhanu (22), allegedly opened fire at cops and sustained a bullet wound to the leg during retaliatory firing before being taken into custody. Cops also detained his juvenile accomplice.Police seized a country-made pistol, one spent cartridge and a live round from Bhanu, while his accomplice was allegedly carrying an illegal knife. Officers also recovered a stolen Hero Splendor motorcycle that did not have a number plate.The Swift Dzire recovered from the accused was stolen from near GIP Mall on July 6, while the motorcycle was allegedly stolen from Atta Market two days earlier. The accused are being questioned about their possible involvement in

Fire breaks out at shoe showroom, no injuries

Noida.(Agency)

A fire broke out at a shoe showroom in Ghantaghar on Tuesday evening. The cause of the fire, which took place at the Wings Shoes showroom around 5pm, is not known. No injury has been reported.

Chief fire officer (CFO) Rahul Pal said, "It took around two hours to control the situation. A total of 11 vehicles were present at this fire. No loss of life occurred. We are trying to identify the cause of the fire, but it is suspected that a short circuit could be the reason behind the incident. The information was shared with Kotwali fire station. All fire tenders, along with the Kotwali fire officer, were dispatched to the spot. The fire broke out on the fourth floor of the building, where shoes were stored. On the terrace, generator sets as well as the fuel were kept, due to which fire surrounded the area quickly."Six fire tenders were sent from Kotwali fire station, two others were called from Vaishali and the remaining tenders were called from different fire stations of Ghaziabad, the CFO said, adding, the fire service unit started firefighting by spreading hose lines up to the rooftops of nearby buildings. Due to intense heat and smoke inside the building, fire personnel wore breathing apparatus sets and entered the building to carry out firefighting.

10-feet crater opens on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway after rain, triggers snarls

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A section of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway caved in at Narsingpur on Tuesday evening after heavy rain, forcing closure of two lanes on the carriageway towards Jaipur and causing tailbacks during rush hour.The cave-in occurred at the spot where GMDA is constructing a stormwater drainage culvert beneath NH-8 using trenchless technology. It left a 10-foot-long and 8-foot-wide crater in the middle of the expressway, prompting traffic police to barricade the stretch and divert vehicles. Tailbacks extended up to IFFCO Chowk, with commuters stranded for more than two hours."The cave-in occurred on a portion of NH-8 near Narsinghpur (Delhi-Jaipur side) was localised. Traffic management measures have been put in place. NHAI is extending all necessary support and is closely coordinating with the executing agency to facilitate early restoration and ensure safe movement of traffic. The situation is being continuously monitored," an NHAI statement said.

Officials said GMDA is constructing the culvert to improve drainage network along the expressway. The project involves pushing three 900mm diameter pipelines beneath the highway through trenchless technology, which allows underground construction without excavating the carriageway or disrupting traffic. Two of the three pipelines were being laid when the road surface collapsed.Preliminary

findings suggested that rainwater entered through utility ducts and seeped beneath the highway, washing away supporting soil and causing the surface to settle. "The exact cause will be confirmed after a detailed inspection. Prima facie, it appears that water ingress beneath the carriageway caused the surface to settle," an NHAI official said.A senior GMDA official said teams reached the site soon after the incident and started restoration work. "Rectification will be carried out at the earliest. We are assessing the extent of the damage," the official said.To ease congestion, police announced diversions for vehicles travelling towards Jaipur. A traffic police officer said vehicles coming from Delhi were advised to take Dwarka Expressway from Shiv Murti and rejoin NH-8 through the cloverleaf interchange before proceeding towards Manesar and Jaipur.before merging back with NH-8 near Manesar. We have also coordinated with Delhi Police to regulate the incoming traffic," the officer said.

Civic gaps resurface as monsoon's first heavy spell floods key roads in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

It took just one proper monsoon spell to expose the city's oldest vulnerability. As the season's first widespread showers lashed on Tuesday, roads disappeared under water, traffic slowed to a crawl, school buses got stranded and commuters found themselves trapped for hours — a familiar reminder that despite gleaming office towers and the state's biggest taxpayers, the city's civic infrastructure still struggles to withstand a few hours of sustained rain.IMD recorded 80mm of rainfall at its Gurgaon observatory between 8.30am and 5.30pm. It issued a nowcast at 2.50pm, warning of thunderstorms, lightning, moderate rain and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph until 5.50pm.The downpour brought temperatures down sharply but also brought much of the city to a standstill, with waterlogging reported from several major roads and intersections. The worst-hit stretches included Hero Honda Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Huda Metro station road, Subhash Chowk, Civil Lines, Sector 45 and Sector 70A, where vehicles crawled through flooded carriageways. Videos from Hero Honda Chowk showed kilometre-long queues of cars, buses and trucks inching through wheel-deep water.The rain also disrupted school transport. A school bus slipped into a roadside drain along Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway near Narsingpur, while two other school buses and a tractor got stuck in deep potholes on a waterlogged road in Civil Lines. There were no injuries.Another school bus carrying children partially sank into a dug-up stretch near Sector 53 Circle on Golf Course Road around 3pm after appearing to nose-dive into a pit. According to a local resident, sanitation workers and passersby helped pull the vehicle out while children remained inside.An SUV also got trapped on a road in Civil Lines after sinking into an unfilled stretch excavated for sewer line-laying work. According to MCG officials, the project is part of a sewer network being laid for Patel Nagar.\ They said the previous contractor had abandoned the work midway, following which a fresh contract was awarded. The new contractor resumed work only a few days ago, leaving sections of the road vulnerable when Tuesday's rain inundated the area.

MCG admits Bandhwari leachate flows into Aravalis

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In a significant admission before National Green Tribunal (NGT), MCG has acknowledged that runoff from Bandhwari landfill flows into the adjoining Aravali forest during spells of heavy and prolonged rain.

The corporation's affidavit has also made it clear that the infrastructure required to permanently prevent such contamination is still either being planned or built, raising fresh questions over the protection of the ecologically fragile landscape.Filed ahead of Tuesday's hearing in the Bandhwari case, the affidavit stated that rainwater flowing from the rear of the landfill drains into the low-lying forest behind the site. The admission comes after years of concerns raised before NGT over toxic leachate entering the Aravalis, which play a critical role in groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation and the region's ecological balance.MCG said agencies carrying out legacy waste remediation have installed two trommel machines on the forest-facing side of the landfill to process waste and create a one-to-two-acre buffer along the forest edge. "New large drains will be excavated within the landfill to prevent overflow of rainwater and leachate, which will be channelled to existing ponds before being lifted through tankers," the affidavit states, effectively acknowledging that the present arrangement is inadequate during intense rainfall.

10-yr-old walking with mother falls in Greater Noida manhole, rescued

Noida.(Agency)

The first widespread monsoon showers of the season were enough to expose familiar cracks in the civic fabric of Noida and Ghaziabad on Tuesday. Within hours, roads turned into pools, traffic ground to a crawl, commuters remained stranded in kilometre-long tailbacks and residents were once again asking why a few hours of rain continue to overwhelm cities that promise world-class infrastructure.

Between 8.30am and 2.30pm, IMD recorded 45mm of rainfall in Noida and 16mm in Ghaziabad. Though the rainfall was moderate, its impact was anything but. There was waterlogging across major roads, residential sectors and key junctions.

One of the most alarming incidents was reported from Greater Noida, where a 10-year-old boy fell into an open manhole near Yatharth Hospital while walking with his mother. He was rescued by an enforcement team that happened to be passing by."We heard the mother raising an alarm and rushed to the spot. The boy was pulled out safely. He was covered in sewage sludge but fortunately suffered only minor injuries," said Rajesh Mohan, ARTO (enforcement).Residents alleged the manhole had remained uncovered for a long time despite the onset of the monsoon.The rain also crippled traffic across Noida. The Sector 18 underpass emerged as one of the worst-hit stretches after a truck broke down in the middle of the flooded carriageway, trapping commuters travelling from Film City towards sectors 27 and 60 for nearly an hour until police removed the vehicle. Traffic came to a crawl near Sector 37, Botanical Garden, Sector 62 and Lotus 300 in Sector 107, where vehicles negotiated waterlogged roads.

NH-8 chokes, diversions turn commute into hours-long ordeal

Gurgaon.(Agency)

On a day when the first widespread monsoon showers should have brought relief from the heat, they instead delivered a familiar reality check. For thousands, travelling a few kilometres became an exercise in patience rather than distance.

A city synonymous with expressways, corporate towers and premium neighbourhoods found itself merely inching forward as waterlogged roads, flooded intersections and a highway cave-in turned routine commutes into hours-long ordeals.Tuesday afternoon's rain brought traffic to a near standstill across the city, with jams rippling from one arterial road to another. Water accumulated rapidly on key stretches, forcing vehicles to crawl through inundated roads and creating tailbacks that stretched for kilometres. School buses, office cabs, ambulances and private vehicles all found themselves caught in the same gridlock.The worst-hit locations included Rajeev Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Kherki Daula toll plaza, IFFCO Chowk, Signature Tower, Sector 31 market, Mata Mandir Road, Golf Course Road, MG Road, Subhash Chowk, Vatika Chowk, Narsingpur, Basai Road, Bilaspur, Pachgaon, Manesar and the Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). Traffic also slowed considerably near GD Goenka School in Sector 48 after rainwater submerged parts of the carriageway.Golf Course Road — often projected as the city's flagship corridor — became one of the biggest choke points. Long queues of vehicles crept forward bumper-to-bumper, while MG Road witnessed similar scenes."It took me around 45 minutes to reach the Sector 55-56 Rapid Metro station from Sikanderpur. Normally, it takes 15-20 minutes, but waterlogging reduced traffic to a crawl," said Shobit Khanna, a resident of Sector 65.The situation worsened around 5pm after a road caved in near Narsingpur on the Delhi-Jaipur carriageway of NH-8. To ease the mounting congestion, police created three diversions. Vehicles from Delhi heading towards Jaipur were diverted onto Dwarka Expressway near Mahipalpur. At Rajeev Chowk and Hero Honda Chowk, motorists were redirected via Sohna Road and Southern Peripheral Road.

The diversions, however, shifted the burden rather than reducing it. SPR, already struggling with heavy traffic, became even more congested as diverted vehicles poured onto the corridor."Gurgaon aain came to a halt after a spell of rain. It took nearly 90 minutes to cover barely 7km from SPR to Sector 46. Every monsoon, commuters are left helpless while authorities promise lasting solutions," said Vikas Sharma, a resident of Sector 71.Navigation apps mirrored the scale of the disruption, showing travel times exceeding an hour for stretches that ordinarily take less than 20 minutes. Several commuters said it took them nearly an hour to travel just 3-4km, while others spent well over an hour negotiating.

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Woman slits mother-in-law's throat with knife during argument

Gorakhpur (UP): A 25-year-old woman allegedly attacked her mother-in-law (55) with a knife and slit her throat following an argument regarding a phone conversation with a young man in Gorakhpur's AIIMS police station area, police said on Tuesday. The woman, who sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at AIIMS Gorakhpur, police said. According to police, Jaihind, a resident of the village, works outside the district as a labourer. On Monday night, his wife, Vandana, was allegedly speaking to a young man on her mobile phone when her mother-in-law, Asha Devi, objected and asked her to stop the conversation. The objection led to a heated argument between the two women. During the altercation, Vandana allegedly picked up a knife kept inside the house and attacked Asha Devi, inflicting a deep injury on her throat.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHAMIM MOHAMMAD SIDDIQUI S/O Gulam Haider Siddiqui R/o N-24 EXTN., N- Extension Block, Between D.K Road and Gurudwara Road, Mohan Garden,Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to SHAMEEM AHMAD SIDDIQUI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Mukesh S/O Ram Barose R/O E- 405 ,Shastri Market Nanak Pura South Moti Bagh South West Delhi Delhi 110021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dinu.

NAME CHANGE
I,KRISHAN MOHAN JHA S/O MISHRI LAL JHA R/O 615/2f, Deoli Village, Deoli, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed the name of my minor son AYUSH alias AYUSHMAN KUMAR aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as AYUSHMAN KUMAR.

सार्वजनिक सूचना
मेरे मुवक्किल ओम प्रकाश पुत्र सूरज मल पता मकान नंबर 213, गांव घेवरा, उत्तर पश्चिम दिल्ली , दिल्ली-110081 ने अपने पुत्र अनीश राणा को इनके दुर्व्यवहार के कारण अपनी समस्त चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल कर सभी सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर लिए हैं इन पर हुए लेनदेन, पुलिस/कोर्ट केस की जवाबदेही मेरे मुवक्किलों व उसके परिवार की नहीं होगी।

महेन्दर कुमार एडवोकेट।

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Bhavya Jain and Mr. Rishabh Jain have applied for a Home Loan from Shivalik Small Finance Bank for purchasing the Upper Ground Floor, Rear Side Estern Portion without roof right, of property no. 11-A area measuring 100 Sq. Situated in the area of Village Khureji Khas in the abadi of Radhey puri , Illaqa Shahdara Delhi -110051, from Mrs. Shuddhi Khanna W/ o Aman Khanna. The property is bounded as under:
East: Road 16 ft wide Kumar.
West: Part of Property
North: Property of others
South: Property of others
The Original Sale deed dated 22.08.2024 executed by Ricky Kapoor S/o Late Krishan lal Kapoor in favour of Mrs. Nishi W/o Manoj Kumar Sharma in respect of said property bearing as document no. 2024/4/I/8383, in book 1, Vol no. 11559, pages 105 to 126, dated 23.08.2024 duly registered in office of sub registrar VIII geeta colony Delhi. has been Lost /Misplaced. Despite diligent search , the same could not be traced. A police complaint/GD No. 427853/ Dated 07.07.2026. has also been lodged. Any Person who finds the said Original Sale Deed or has any claim, right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, or any other objection whatsoever in respect of the said property is hereby called upon to notify the same in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned or to Shivalik Small Finance Bank Noida Barnch, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that the title of the property is clear and marketable, and the Bank shall proceed further with the loan process.

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PSR LAW FIRM.
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Indrapuram Ghaziabad -201014
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Sumit Gupta S/o Mr. Ramavtar Gupta is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Commercial Entire Ground Floor, without Roof/Rights, Part of property bearing No. XV/3245 (New), area measuring 100 Sq. Yards. situated at Bagichi Habib Bux, Paharganj, New Delhi. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Sale Deed dated 29.06.2026, Vide Doc No. 2026/24/I/6319, Book No. 1, Vol No. 23854, Page No. 1-34, at SR- Central Asaf Ali (III, New Delhi)., in the chain documents below mentioned document not available i.e., (1) SMC of Late Mr. Kishori Lal, (2) SMC of Late Mrs. Richpali D/o Mr. Kishori Lal, (3) SMC of Late Mr. Chander Prakash, (4) SMC of Late Mr. Anand Kumar, (5) SMC of Late Mr. Vicky S/o Mr. Rajender Kumar Babu, (6) SMC of Late Mrs. Bala W/o Mr. Rajender Kumar Babu Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property. and the said property is presently financed / mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch Narela New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the` right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
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Vaishali, Ghaziabad,
Uttar Pradesh-201010
(Contact at 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE
I, MORALE SHOURYA SANTOSH son of No.-17021874A, Rank-CFN AUTO TECH (B VEH), Name-MORALE SANTOSH BALBHIM unit- LRW, 12 RAPID SIG REGT (AREN) residing at VILL-DAHIPHAL (WAD), PO-DAHIPHAL (WAD), TEHSIL-KAIJ, DIST-BEED, MAHARASHTRA-431123, have changed my name from MORALE SHOURYA SANTOSH to SHOURYA SANTOSH MORALE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I ABDUL LAYIK S/0 Abdul Rashid R/0 F -80 3rd Floor Gali No 10 West Jawahar Park Laxmi Nagar Shakar Pur Delhi 110092 Changed my name to ABDUL LAIK

NAME CHANGE
I, "GURIYA" is legally Spouse of Army No.-14840562X Havildar (MT) Ramesh Prasad Sahu resident of Vill-Rangouli, Tehsil-Sirmour, District-Rewa, State-Madhya Pradesh, PIN-486445, have changed my name from "GURIYA" to "GURIYA SAHU" for all future purposes vide Affidavit No. IN-DL48982184959874Y dated 08/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known GAURAV CHAUHAN S/O BALVIR SINGH CHAUHAN R/OH NO-E-220, Gali No-6, Pulpehlad Pur, New Delhi-110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARVEEN CHAUHAN.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as S. C. KAURA S/O MATHRA DASS R/O 49 GF DDA SFS FLATS BASANT ENCLAVE VASANT VIHAR R K PURAM NCT OF DELHI-110057 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATISH CHANDER.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Tanuja D/O Mahesh Kumar residing A-15 ,A-block Jai shiv apartment Pitampura ,Saraswati Vihar North Delhi, Delhi -110034 have changed my name and she shall hereafter be known as Tanuja Kheria

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as Hina alias Divya D/O Ajay kumar W/O Deepak residing H.no. -B-33/2a yadav nagar samaypur libaspur North west Delhi ,Delhi -110042 have changed my name and she shall hereafter be known as Divya

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
Tender Notice No.: RN-ST-13-2026-27, **Date**: 06-07-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No.**: RN-ST-13-2026-27; **Name of Work** : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Webfil make UFSBI for a period of 02 (Two) years in Rangiya division. **Tender Value:** ₹44,16,000/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹88,300/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **03-08-2026**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **http://www.ireps.gov. in**

DRM (S&T), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

E-AUCTION FOR AWARDING ADVERTISING RIGHTS OVER RANGIYA DIVISION
E-Auction for awarding advertising rights over Rangiya Division. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee. **Trips/Days.** 1096.

Auction Catalogue No. ADVT-RNY-26-9

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	ADVT-RNY-BNGN-OSN-159-26-1 (Advertising - On station Premise (Non-Digital)	Awarding of bulk commercial publicity rights for display of advertisement inside and outside the station premises (i.e. at FOB, platform shed, pillar, entry exit, circulating area etc.) measuring total area 1000 Sq.ft. for a period of three years.
AA/2	ADVT-RNY-RNY-OSN-185-26-1 (Advertising - On station Premise (Non-Digital)	Awarding of Rail Display network contract (Non-digital) for display of advertisement inside and outside the station premises (i.e. at Foot over bridge, platform shed 2, 3, 4 & 5 and circulating area) measuring total area 2500 sq. ft. for a period of three years.

Auction Start Date & Time: At **12.00** hrs. & **Closing at**: **12.40** hrs. of **23-07-2026.** Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sub-: NIT No. 29-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-26-27

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055 invites e-tender for the following work:

1.	**Name of work and location :** Design, Manufacturing, Supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance during warranty period of 02 Nos Heavy-Duty passenger escalator for vertical height of 3.5 meter approx. at SUBZI MANDI Railway station in Delhi Division NR conforming to RDSO specification no.-RDSO/PE/SPEC/TL/0095 (Rev-4)-2026 dated 16.01.2026, with warranty of 2 years and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) for 05 years after expiry of warranty period.
2.	**Tender Notice no. :** 29-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-26-27
3.	**Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Now :** Rs. 3,67,000.00/-
4.	**Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,83,50,042.6/-
5.	**Date & Time for submission of e-tender and Opening of Tender :** Tenders uploaded on date 07.07.2026 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs. on 30.07.2026.
6.	**Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document :** The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 16.07.2026 to 30.07.2026. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 29-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-26-27 Dated: 07.07.2026 **2330/2026**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE
I, SUSHEELA VISHVAKARMA wife of No.-15417021M, Rank-HAV, Name-RAVI SHANKAR VISHVAKARMA residing at VPO-TIKATH KALA, TEHSIL-CHURHAT, DIST-SIDHI, MADHYA PRADESH-486771, have changed my name from SUSHEELA VISHVAKARMA to SUSHILA VISHWAKARMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I NAZIA FAROOQ W/O SAJID AHMAD R/O H NO-237-A GALI NO-3 MOONGA NAGAR KARAWAL NAGAR DELHI-110094 have changed my name to NAZIA ANSARI for all future purpose.

Date of Birth Change
I MAHANANDA Is Legally Mother Of Army No. 2810199n, Rank Sep, Name - RAUT MANGESH GANGADHAR, Presently Residing, At karajgaon, Post, Karajgaon Teh, Chandur Bazar, Dist, Amaravati, PIN 444809, State, Maharashtra, In My Son's Service Record My Date Of Birth Wrongly Mentioned As 03/05/1952 Instead Of My Correct Date Of Birth As 01/01/1957 Vide Affidavit Dated 08/07/2026 Before Notary Public Delhi

LOST AND FOUND
It is to notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Mark Sheet and CERTIFICATE of SECONDARY EXAMINATION (10TH CLASS) in the year 1978 Roll No:-26174 and SENIOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION (12TH CLASS) in the year 1980 Roll No:- 14501 issued by Board of High School and Intermediate Education uttar Pradesh (u.p. board) has been actually lost. Name of the candidate INAYAT HUSSAIN S/O DILAWAR KHAN Address:- RZ-2073, GALI NO-23, TUGHLAKABAD EXTENTION, KALKAJI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110019. Mob:- 9910974036.

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MR. BHANWAR PAL S/O MR. CHHITAR SINGH R/O D-46, OM VIHAR, PHASE-5, GALI NO. 08, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059 IS OWNER AND IN POSSESSION OF "Property bearing No. 55-A, area measuring 54.3 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 68/5, situated in the revenue estate of village Hastsal, abadi known as Colony as Hastsal Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi (SAID PROPERTY)" AND ACQUIRED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE GPA (Notarized), ATS (Notarized) and Will dated 26.08.2010 executed by Mr. Kanhi Ram and Mrs. Shanti Devi. NOW MRS. GULABO DEVI W/O MR. RAMPHOOL, R/O DAALYAN, SANGHI (83), ROHTAK, HARYANA IS GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER / SELLER MR. BHANWAR PAL, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO UNDERSIGNED IF ANYONE HAS AN OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE
E-16, 1ST FLOOR, E-BLOCK,
MANSAROVAR PARK,
SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9999042521.

NAME CHANGE
I RAUT PRATIKSHA MANGESH is Legally wife of Army No. 2810199N, Rank Sep, Name - RAUT MANGESH GANGADHAR, At karajgaon, Post, Karajgaon Teh, Chandur Bazar, Dist, Amaravati, PIN 444809, State, Maharashtra, have changed my name from RAUT PRATIKSHA MANGESH to PRATIKSHA MANGESH RAUT, vide Affidavit Dated 08/07/2026 Before Notary Public Delhi

NAME CHANGE
I,hitherto known as Mahpal alias Mahipal Rana S/O Ishwar Singh, R/O W Z-601, RAJ NAGAR PART-1, PALAM COLONY, Palam Village, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHIPAL RANA.

Name Correction
I MOHD AHMED S/O NAWABUDDIN Resident of House No D-560 STREET NO 1 CHAUHAN BANGER SEELAMPUR NORTH EAST Delhi 110053 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under.That my Passport mention My Father incorrect name is NABABUDDIN My Father Correct name NAWABUDDIN

NAME CHANGE
I, KM MAMTA W/o JAI PRAKASH, R/O 01-506, M V N ATHENS, SECTOR-05, SOHNA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122103, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAMTA PAINULI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I MOHD ZAID SAIFI S/O NAJMUDDIN SAIFI R/O L-218, L-Block, Sunder Nagri, Mandoli, Nand Nagri, North East Delhi, Delhi-110093 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD NIZAMUDDIN SAIFI in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is NAJMUDDIN SAIFI which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as VISHAL S/O THANGARAJ R/O T-313/17, 3RD FLOOR, BALJEET NAGAR, BALMIKI MANDIR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VISHAL THANGARAJ. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Date of Birth Change
I SHARADA SHRAVAN CHAUDHARI legally mother of Army no -2806251N Rank - NK, Name - CHOUDHARI KIRAN SHRAVAN, Presently Residing At - DORHALE Post- KORHALE, Teh - RAHATA, Dist - AHILYANAGAR, Pin - 423 107, State- MAHARASHTRA have changed my name from, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 09/09/1959 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/10/1960 vide affidavit dated 07/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

BEFORE THE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION AT TIRUVALLUR
E.A. No. 22 of 2026 IN C.C. No. 142 of 2025

Mr. Aravinder Pal S/o. Mr. Amrik Chand, Residing at Flat No. 102, Block-E, Mangalam Moon Light Apartment, Hospital Road, Opposite Sted Ford Hospital, Tirumullaivoyal, Chennai-600062......**Decree Holder/Petitioner**

Versus

1. The Manager,
Amazon Seller Service Pvt. Ltd., represented by its Authorized Representative, No.26/1, 8th Floor, Brigade Gateway, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleshwaram (West), Bengaluru-560055.
2. The Manager,
MMT GLOBAL, represented by its Authorized Representative, No.272, Patparganj Industrial Area, Near Anand Vihar, New Delhi-110092...
................**Judgment Debtors/Respondents**

NOTIFICATION TO THE 2ND JUDGMENT DEBTOR

Whereas the above Execution Application has been filed by the Decree Holder under Sections 71 and 72 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 seeking execution of the order passed by the Hon'ble District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Tiruvallur in C.C. No. 142/2025 dated 27.04.2026. And whereas notices sent to the 2nd Judgment Debtor, MMT GLOBAL, at the above address could not be served and the Hon'ble Commission has ordered substituted service by way of paper publication.

Therefore, the 2nd Judgment Debtor, namely MMT GLOBAL, represented by its Authorized Representative, is hereby called upon to appear either in person or through an Advocate before the Hon'ble District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Tiruvallur on 29/07/2026 at 10.30 A.M. (or on such date as may be fixed by the Hon'ble Commission), failing which the Execution Application will be heard and decided ex parte against the 2nd Judgment Debtor in accordance with law. By Order of the Hon'ble District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, at Tiruvallur.

Counsel for the Decree Holder
R.HARIRAMKRISHANAN, MCA, LLB (Advocate)
Plot No.4, Narasimapuram Kakkalur Vill. & Post
Tiruvallur Tk. & Dist-602003
Cell: 9361911459

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that my clients, Mr. Nafish Ahmad (Aadhaar Card No. 2854 1981 3233), son of Late Mr. Shaukat Ali, and his wife Mrs. Nasreen, residents of B-140, J.J. Colony, Phase-3, Dwarka Sector-3, South- West Delhi-110075, have, with immediate effect, disowned and debarred their two sons: 1. Mr. Mohammad Sohel Ahmad, and 2. Mr. Mohammad Shoaib Ahmad, from all their movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct, abusive behaviour, frequent quarrels, failure to maintain family discipline, and because they have become completely beyond the control of my clients. My clients have also severed all familial and social relations with them. Accordingly. the above-named sons shall have no right, title, interest or elaim over the movable or immovable properties of my clients.It is further notified that Mr. Nafish Ahmad, Mrs. Nasreen, any other member of their family, or any of their relatives shall not be liable, responsible, or answerable in any manner whatsoever for any act, omission, transaction, liability, or conduct of the aforesaid sons, whether civil, criminal, financial, or otherwise.

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA (Advocate)
Hall No-4 Seat No-9,
DWARKA COURT,
LAWYERS CHAMBER
DWARKA, NEW DELHI
M.NO:- 9598282828, 7838270595

NAME CHANGE
I, Neera Arun Kumar W/O Arun Kumar R/O Flat No 2005, Tower 1, Purvanchal Royal City, Greater Noida , Chi V, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201310 Have Changed My Name to Neera Prakash Choudhry for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Mahipal Singh alias Mahipal Singh Rawat S/O Shyam Singh Rawat, R/O 74, BHAVISHYA NIDHI ENCLAVE, Malviya Nagar S.O, South Delhi, Delhi, 110017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHIPAL SINGH RAWAT.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shahnaz Begum daughter of Mohammad Farooq resident of 1590, 5th Floor Gali Madarsa Meer Jumla, Lal Kuan, Delhi-6 have changed my name from Shehnaz Begum to Shahnaz Begum for all future purposes.that my father correct name is Mohammad Farooq.

NAME CHANGE
I, GAJRAJ MEENA S/O PATIRAM MEENA, R/O Q-35/199, NEAR GANDHI PARK, ORDINANCE FACTORY, MURADNAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201206, have changed the name of my minor son KAUSHAL MINA, aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as SATYAM. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I ACHINTYA PRATIKSHIT GUPTA S/O-PRATIKSHIT GUPTA R/O-1920 SECTOR-6 BAHADURGARH DISTT JHAJJAR HARYANA-124507 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ACHINTYA GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE
I PRATIKSHIT HARI OM PRAKASH GUPTA S/O-HARIOM PRAKASH GUPTA R/O-R/O-1920 SECTOR-6 BAHADURGARH DISTT JHAJJAR HARYANA-124507 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRATIKSHIT GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE
I RINA PRATIKSHIT GUPTA ALIAS RINA BARANWAL W/O-PRATIKSHIT GUPTA R/O-1920 SECTOR-6 BAHADURGARH DISTT JHAJJAR HARYANA-124507 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO-RINA KUMARI BARANWAL

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, HIMANSHU PRAJAPATI S/o SOMESH KUMAR , Residing at House No. – 48, Gali No.- 01, K-Block, Mahipalpur, PO: Gurgaon Road, Dist: South West Delhi, Delhi -110037, declare that name of my Father has been wrongly written as SOMESH in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is SOMESH KUMAR , which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Neha Arun Kumar D/O Arun Kumar R/O Flat No 2005, Tower 1, Purvanchal Royal City, Greater Noida , Chi V, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201310 Have Changed My Name to Neha Kumar for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I Yogesh Kumar S/o Dharampal Singh R/o A 33 sanjay colony okhla phase 2 okhla industrial estate south Delhi 110020 Have changed My Name Yogesh For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE
I SAJID S/O ATEEQ AHMAD R/O H NO-237-A GALI NO-3 MOONGA NAGAR KARAWAL NAGAR DELHI-110094 have changed my name to SAJID AHMAD for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AKANSHA D/O RAJENDER SHARMA R/O I-715,16, Jahangir Puri, Shanjar Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 have Changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKANSHA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, REKHA wife of Shri RANJEET, residing at House No. B-374B, Block-B, Lal Kuan, Delhi-110044, have changed the name of my minor son JATIN alias HARSH KUMAR aged 07 years and he shall hereafter be known as HARSH KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as SHABNAM D/o SHAKIR KHAN W/o MOHAMMAD SAHEER Residing at House No. B – 94, Ram Gali, Mandawali, Mandawali Fazalpur, PO: Shakarpur, Dist : East Delhi, Delhi - 110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAKRA .

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as VIJAY S/O DHARMPAL R/O 30/355, Trilok Puri,,Delhi-110091 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARUN KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I SUMIT KUMAR S/O LAKHAN SINGH R/O House No-122, Plot No-Old 57, First Floor, Near L Block Circle, Shastri Nagar North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUMIT KUMAR VERMA in my minor son KAVYANSH VERMA aged 13 years in his school record and Birth Certificate No MCDOLIR-0112-005328035. The actual name of mine is SUMIT KUMAR which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as SHITL RAGILE W/o RAM KRISHNA, Residing at I – 209, Sunder Nagri, Nand Nagri, PO: Nand Nagri, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi - 110093 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHEETAL.

Public Notice
My client, Om Prakash, son of Suraj Mal, resident of House No. 213, Village Ghevra, North West Delhi, Delhi-110081, has disowned his son, Anish Rana, from all his movable and immovable properties due to his misbehavior and has severed all ties with him. My client and his family shall not be held responsible for any financial transactions, dealings, police, or court cases involving him (Anish Rana). Mahender Kumar, Advocate."

NAME CHANGE
I, Mona Joshi Singh W/O Gopesh Singh R/O B-9/6313, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi-110070 Have Changed the Name to Mona Joshi for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as ANJU MEHRA W/O RAKESH MEHRA R/O D-995 New Friends Colony New Friends Colony S.O South Delhi-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANGELA MEHRA

NAME CHANGE
I,SANJEEV KUMAR GANDOTRA S/O JOGINDER NATH GANDOTRA R/O J-15 RAJOURI GARDEN DELHI-110027,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJEEV GANDOTRA

NAME CHANGE
I,RAMNATH YADAV S/O SURAJ DEEN R/O PLOT NO -133/A BLOCK-E RAMA VIHAR MOHAMMAD PUR MAJRI DELHI-110081,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAM NATH

NAME CHANGE
I, JC-707390H, RANK-SUB/PHARM NAME-AJAY SINGH residing at VPO-BIRDHANA, BIR DHANA (108), JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124102, have changed my wife's name from MANISHA to MANISHA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/07/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, JC-707390H, RANK-SUB/PHARM NAME-AJAY SINGH legal father of PRIYANSI residing at- VPO-BIRDHANA, BIR DHANA (108), JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124102, have changed my minor daughter's name from PRIYANSI to PRIYANSHI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/07/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

ENGINEERING WORK
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.: 03, 30 & 33-ENGG-RNY-2026-27. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

SN:1; **Tender No.** 03-ENGG-RNY-2026-27; **Brief Description of Item:** Stabilization of formation at various vulnerable locations by provision of stone dust (Pakur variety) in N.F.Railway. Tender Value: ₹3,26,53,800/-; Earnest Money: ₹6,53,100/-

SN:2; **Tender No.** 30-ENGG-RNY-2026-27; **Brief Description of Item:** At New Bongaigaon - Provision of STP (100 kld), ETP (200 Kld), drainage network and other ancillary work in New Bongaigaon workshop. Tender Value: ₹9,42,52,982.11; Earnest Money: ₹18,85,100/-.

SN:3; **Tender No.** 33-ENGG-RNY-2026-27; **Brief Description of Item:** Yard Remodeling work at New Bongaigaon Yard (Phase-I). Tender Value: ₹82,20,588.99; Earnest Money: ₹1,64,400/-.

E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 27-07-2026 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 27-07-2026 at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Rangiya. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

DRM (Works), Rangiya
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/08/2026-27; Dated: 03-07-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1; Tender No. 10/26/5035/OT/45/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 20-07-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Supply of Wheel and Axle Assembly with Final Drive (Part No.- 31427190 & 31427200) of NDM6 locomotive. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods (Supply). Qty - 2 Nos for SSE/IC/Mech, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No. - 141300300013.

SN. 2; Tender No. 30/26/1188A/OT/46/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 24-07-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Gangway bridge mounting Drawing No.:- 1.10113.0.24.120.001 Alt-B with Bridge sheet (item-1) to revised Drg. No. 2.10113. 0. 24. 120. 101 Alt-AR1 in place of existing Drg. no. 2.10113.0.24.120.002 MSP A Mat. Spec.:- As per drawing with latest revision and amendments. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking:] Item Type: Goods (Supply). (i) Qty - 539 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty - 2150 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (iii) Qty - 149 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). (iv) Qty - 418 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), (v) Qty - 72 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No. - 33612717.

SN. 3; Tender No. 77/26/0962/OT/47/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 06-08-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: PU Apricot yellow in two pack RAL Shade Cord 070 80 40 Mat. Spec.: RDSO M&C/PCN/100/2024, with latest revision and amendment. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking: Item: 230012. Epoxy Cum Polyurethane Painting System (Two Pack) for the Exterior Painting of Railway Coaches, Diesel and Electric Locomotives and other Industrial Applications] Item Type : Goods (Supply) Safety Flag Change: Non-Safety to Safety. (i) Qty - 14628 LTR for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty - 5535 LTR for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 77190063.

SN. 4; Tender No. 30/26/1226/OT/48/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 15-07-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Primary Vertical Damper for all LHB Coaches Fitted with FIAT Bogie RDSO Drawing No.:- RDSO/CG/DRG/21047, Alt-3, with latest Alteration Mat. Spec.:- RDSO/CG-18005, Rev-02, Amendment-01, with latest Revision and amendments. Warranty/Guarantee as per clause no. 10 of RDSO/CG-18005, Rev-02, Amendment-01. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking: Item : 3100285, Dampers for LHB Coaches and Vande Bharat Coaches Sub Item: Primary Vertical Damper for LHB coaches] Item Type: Goods (Supply). (i) Qty - 7257 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty - 333 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), (iii) Qty - 3393 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (iv) Qty - 287 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (Bihar), (v) Qty - 2041 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L. No. - 33501002.

SN. 5; Tender No. 30/26/1162/OT/49/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 05-08-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Glass unit for fixed window for AC two tier Drawing no.:- LW 54104, ALT-g or latest. Mat. Spec.:- MDTS-089 (Rev-4) or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking: Item : 2400001, Window for LHB Coaches AC Coaches (Including Hooper windows) Sub Item: Window for LHB Coaches AC Coaches (Including Hooper windows) Item Type: Goods (Supply), (i) Qty - 778 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty - 1617 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), (iii) Qty - 530 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), (iv) Qty - 341 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), (v) Qty - 565 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 33564103.

SN. 6; Tender No. 30/26/0109/OT/50/2026-27;
Closing/ Opening Date: 10-09-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Air Spring assembly 180 KN for higher capacity loads used on EMU/DMU/MEMU Coaches. Drg: ICF Drg. No. DMU/DPC10-0-5-001 alt-'j' with latest alteration and ICF Drg. No. DMU/TC7-0-5-701 alt 'h' with latest alteration. Spec.: RDSO Spec.RDSO/CG/S/23002 REV 01 with latest revision and amendments. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No., Stages:0] [UVAM Linking:] Item : 3100341, Air Spring Assemblies For Coaches Sub Item: Air Spring assembly (180 Kn Capacity) for higher Capacity Loads used on EMU/DMU Coaches for ICF type Bogies Item Type : Goods (Supply). (i) Qty - 183 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty - 17 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/ Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 32450114.

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

PCMM/ Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

NAME CHANGE
I, NAVNEET BHATIA daughter of Army No. 13909733, Rank- EX-HAV, Name-Late SATYA PAUL SINGH BHATIA resident of H NO-23/80B, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR BSES OFFICE, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018, have changed my name from NAVNEET BHATIA to NAVNEET KAUR BHATIA vide affidavit dated 08/07/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, MADHUBALA W/o Akshay Kumar Bhuttan R/o WZ-39, 3rd Floor, Plot No.48, Shyam Nagar Extn., Nr. Bansal Sweet, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name from MADHUBALA to MADHU ARORA permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, AKASH S/o Radhe Shyam R/o Ward No.13, Near Bus Stand Road Shiv Colony, Hathin, Palwal, Haryana-121103, have changed my name to AKASH GUPTA permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I,PARSHANT KUMAR S/o Radhey Shyam Aggarwal R/o Ward No.12, Near Shiv Colony, Hathin, Haryana-121103, have changed my name to PARSHANT GUPTA permanently

NAME CHANGE
I,REET D/O AMAR SINGH R/O 16/341 E TANK ROAD BAPA NAGAR KAROL BAGH DELHI 110005, CHANGED MY NAME TO REET CHAUHAN.

NAME CHANGE
I,Shankar S/o Lakhi Chand R/o C-71, Sanjay Colony, Bhatti Mines, Delhi-110074 have changed my name to Sankar Lal for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Prem Lal Singh S/o Mr. Kishun Dev Singh is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential built-up Property bearing No. C-301/A, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds. i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs., Out of Khasra No 823 & 824, situated at Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar, in the abadi of Gali No. 5, C-Block, Usman Pur Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi - 110053. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Regd. GPA with ATS & Will dated 04.09.2017, duly registered as Document No. 1437, in Book No. 4, Volume No. 11131, on pages 1-5, with the Sub-Registrar Office of SR IV Seelampur, Delhi/New Delhi. In the chain of documents, (1) Death Certificate of Mrs. Gulab Rani Yadav alias Gulab Devi W/o Late Mr. Babu Lal (2 Probate Order of Regd. Will dated 07.04.2014, are not available, Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property. And same property sold to be Mrs. Suman W/o Mr. Sunil the said property is presently financed / mortgaged with DMI, Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd., Branch: Prashant Vihar, Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the` right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, Sector-3,
Vaishali, Ghaziabad,
Uttar Pradesh-201010
(Contact at 09958871432)

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that my clients, Mr. Mithlesh Kumar & Sarita Devi, intend to purchase Plot no. 456/3/4, new no. 70/2/6, near water tank Jaiqubpur, Gurgaon Haryana - 122001, from Mrs. Shalini Sharma, The original owner of the aforesaid property was Mr. Shashi Bhushan, who acquired the property through Assessment Register. Thereafter, Civil Suit No. 588 dated 22.10.1994 in favour of Mr. Prabhu Dayal Sharma, Mr. Krishan Gopal Sharma, Mr. Satya Prakash Sharma, Mrs. Jai Devi Sharma & Mr. Shakti Raj Sharma in respect of Property bearing House No. 456/4 (Partitioned shares in the property), thereafter, a WILL dated 12.04.2004 executed by Mr. Prabhu Dayal Sharma in favour of Mr. Rakesh Sharma in respect of House No. 26, Gali No. 4, West Rajiv Nagar, Gurgaon and Plot No. 456/3/4 (Municipal Committee No. 70/2/6), Jacubpura, Gurgaon (Doc. No. 20, Book No. 3, dated 12.04.2004, SR-Gurgaon), thereafter, A Transfer Deed dated 07.08.2024 executed by Mr. Rakesh Sharma in favour of Mrs. Shalini Sharma in respect of property bearing Plot No. 456/3/4, New No. 70/2/6, area measuring 78 Sq. Yards (Doc. No. 5658, Book No. 1, dated 07.08.2024, SR-DRO Gurugram), Accordingly Mrs. Shalini Sharma has derived valid title to the property and is presently in peaceful physical possession thereof. Based on the documents produced for my examination and the information provided, the property appears to be free from all encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages, attachments, acquisitions, litigation, and third-party claims, My clients propose to purchase the aforesaid property from Mrs. Shalini Sharma, and the proposed purchase is to be financed by RBL Bank Limited, Building No. 1, First Floor, Modi Mill Compound, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

NEWS BOX

Tehran targets Bahrain, Kuwait after US strikes and limits Iran's oil sales over ship attacks

DUBAI.(Agency)

The U.S. military attacked Iran early Wednesday after it said Tehran struck three ships in the Strait of Hormuz, part of an American effort that also revoked the Islamic Republic's ability to openly sell crude oil in the world market. Iran retaliated with strikes targeting Bahrain and Kuwait.The regional crossfire raised the risks that an interim agreement to halt fighting in the war could break down, putting the Middle East again at risk of a wider conflict.The attacks on shipping and the resulting strikes came during the dayslong funeral for Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Feb. 28 in the war's first moments at age 86. The funeral, which ends Thursday, had been thought to be a period of lower tensions — though mourners have repeatedly called for the killings of U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.Negotiations to reach a final deal had been due to start after Khamenei's burial and focus on the toughest matters, including fully reopening the strait and rolling back Tehran's disputed nuclear program. But the new attacks threw that into question."The era of bullying and extortion is over," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf wrote on X. "It leads nowhere. We don't fold."

Rescuers search for missing in China storms after 100,000 evacuated

BEIJING.(Agency)

Rescuers scoured flooded parts of China for survivors after devastating storms killed 17 people, caused dozens of rivers to overflow and a reservoir dam to burst, with officials warning rain will persist on Wednesday.Six people died and at least 130,000 people were evacuated in the southern region of Guangxi after torrential rain and severe flooding from Typhoon Maysak, regional officials said, warning rain would persist there and in neighbouring Guangdong province on Wednesday.Fast-flowing muddy water burst the banks of 40 rivers and waterways in Guangxi, damaging nearly 13,000 acres of agricultural land, state media reported.Videos published by state broadcaster CCTV showed torrents of water rushing past the crumbled concrete walls of a reservoir dam that had burst in Guangxi, while rescue workers wearing life vests were deployed on inflatable boats.Chinese authorities were sending additional disaster relief like food, raincoats, and rubber boats to the region, state news agency Xinhua reported on Wednesday.

US immigration officer shoot and kill Mexican man in Houston during an enforcement operation

world.(Agency)

A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer shot and killed a man in Houston after he attempted to evade arrest in his vehicle during an operation Tuesday, the agency said.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that the man, a Mexican national, ignored commands to stop and attempted to ram an agent who fired his weapon in self-defense. The man was targeted in an operation because he was living in the country without legal permission, according to the department, which oversees ICE. The man's car struck an ICE vehicle, the department added.

The death dew immediate calls from some Democratic officials and immigrant rights groups for an independent investigation.

Democratic US Rep. Sylvia Garcia, who represents the neighborhood where the shooting took place, said the initial account released by federal authorities needs to be independently verified."All available footage, communications, and other evidence should be preserved and reviewed as part of a full and impartial investigation," she said in a post oThe DHS statement identified the man as Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and said he died at a hospital.

The FBI's Houston field office is investigating a potential assault on a federal law enforcement officer, said spokesperson Connor Hagan. In addition, representatives of the office's evidence response team responded to the shooting at the request of DHS to process the scene, he said.n X.

What to know about the electronic monitor a French court says Marine Le Pen must wear

A French court ordered far-right leader Marine Le Pen to wear an electronic monitor after convicting her of embezzlement, reflecting France's common use of such devices to reduce prison overcrowding.

PARIS.(Agency)

Electronic monitors such as one that Marine Le Pen may have to wear when she campaigns to succeed French President Emmanuel Macron in elections next year are a common measure in France, in part o ease prison overcrowding.A Paris appeals court on Tuesday declared the far-right leader guilty of embezzlement and ordered her subjected to electronic monitoring as part of her punishment.Still, Le Pen said she'll run for the French presidency next year despite that verdict — something that is possible under French law. She said she doesn't expect to wear an electronic bracelet at all, because she believes France's highest court will ultimately vindicate her on appeal.That court, the Court of Cassation, previously said it would be able to rule before the presidential election, and Le Pen could eventually be forced to wear the monitor during the campaign if her apeal proved unsuccessful.Here's what to know about electronic monitors:French prisons are overcrowded and have

struggled with worsening detention conditions, according to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture. Electronic monitors keep from adding to that problem.Under French law, home detention requires a person to wear an electronic ankle monitor or bracelet and prohibits them from leaving their home or another designated location of residence, except during the hours authorized by the judge.The designated location and the periods during which the person must remain there are determined by the court or by the judge responsible for the enforcement of sentences.Such a device makes it difficult to conduct a political campaign but not impossible.If Le Pen's conviction is eventually upheld, a specialized judge will decide how her electronic monitoring will be carried out, the residence where she must serve the sentence and the hours she will be permitted to leave.The law provides that "during the period of sentence adjustment, the convicted person may be eligible for sentence reductions of up to six months per year," and even conditional release, the appeals court stressed in a statement.

Funeral prayers in Iraq for Iranian supreme leader commence after body arrives in holy city

The funeral prayers in Najaf will take place at the Shrine of Imam Ali, the Prophet Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, and will be led by Muhammad Taqi al-Hakim, a senior scholar at the Najaf seminary.

NAJAF.(Agency)

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Funeral processions for Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei began Wednesday in the Iraqi city of Najaf with thousands of mourners present.The Islamic Republic's dayslong funeral for Khamenei began Saturday, with authorities shutting down streets, airspace and daily life in Tehran as mourners commemorate the life of the man who led Iran for decades with an iron fist while confronting the West. His body will later be taken from Najaf to the city of Karbala before returned to Iran.

Talks between the United States and Iran appear to be on hold until after the burial. However, strikes from both sides in the Persian Gulf

Tuesday and into Wednesday raised risks that the interim agreement to end the monthslong war that engulfed the Mideast could break down. The U.S. military attacked Iran early Wednesday after it said Tehran struck three ships in the Strait of Hormuz, before Iran launched retaliatory strikes on Kuwait and Bahrain.

The body of Khamenei arrived in the Iraqi city considered among the holiest for millions of Shiite Muslims around the world on Tuesday, alongside Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and other senior officials. They were welcomed by mourners and supporters holding portraits of the late supreme leader, and others performing self-flagellation on the streets.Khamenei's body was in a casket draped in the Islamic Republic's flag, encased in glass. Mourners waved flags of Iran as well as red and black flags symbolising mourning and revenge."We the people of Iraq will remain a thorn in the eyes of the enemies," said Jaafar Jawad, who is participating in the funeral. "His arrival to us is the greatest possible honor, and God willing we will be loyal, and repay a little of his due in the holy city of Najaf.

Taiwan warns China 'expansionism' to persist without global action

TAIPEI.(Agency)

China's "authoritarian expansionism" in regional waters will persist if the world fails to act, a senior Taiwanese security official warned on Wednesday, describing Beijing's strategy as "incremental salami slicing".Chinese ships regularly ply the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea to assert Beijing's maritime claims over disputed waters and islands.China is "constantly pushing the limits through an incremental salami-slicing approach," Lii Wen, a deputy secretary-general of the National Security Council, told an international forum.

Lii said China's "authoritarian expansionism" involved the use of military, coast guard, research and maritime militia vessels to press its claims and attempt to "transform international waterways into internal waters"."If the world fails to voice our concerns or take action, this expansionism will only continue," Lii warned.Ocean Affairs Minister Kuan Bi-ling told the forum that Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines faced the "same pattern of actions" that were "deliberately controlled to remain below the threshold of conventional warfare"."When a series of actions accumulates, it may create an entirely new status quo," Kuan said.

Kuan said international partners needed to have "shared understanding of the status quo" and prepare coordinated response measures "before the next crisis occurs".Their remarks came a day after ships from Japan's and China's coast guards faced off near disputed islands claimed as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.Each side claimed they drove out the other's vessels that had intruded into their territorial waters.Last month, China started patrolling waters to the east of Taiwan for the first time following talks between Japan and the Philippines to draw a boundary in that area, which Beijing called "illegal".

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and also asserts that waters around the island democracy come under its jurisdiction, which Taipei rejects.Ocean Affairs Deputy Minister Sung Chen-en said he would ensure China's patrol was not "permanent", noting the affected waters were "within our exclusive economic zone".

"They don't have rights here, no matter what are their excuses," Sung told AFP on the sidelines of the forum.

Danish PM says Greenland is 'not for sale' as Trump joins NATO leaders in Turkey

ANKARA.(Agency)

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday rejected renewed demands by President Donald Trump that the U.S. should take control of Greenland from NATO ally Denmark, saying that "Greenland is of course not for sale.""We hope that all, includig all allies, will respect the Greenland people right for self-determination," Frederiksen said ahead of a meeting of the leaders of NATO member countries in Turkey. "And we are sovereign states and we need everybody to respect our territorial integrity and our sovereignty."Trump reopened old wounds over Greenland on the eve of the meeting by insisting that the United States should control the semiautonomous island. NATO is founded on the principle that its 32 members will defend each others' territory, not threaten to seize it.Fredeiksen said Denmark is "ready to defend every inch of NATO including our own territory" in the event of an attack, and would rely on NATO allies to honor their commitment to defend each other.

NATO chief baks latest US strikes on IranAhead of the meeting, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Wednesday that he believes the United States is fully committed to the military organization, and praised U.S. President Donald Trump for taking forceful action against Iran overnight."I think it was absolutely necessary because when you have a ceasefire and Iran is basically violating a ceasefire, we see what happened yesterday, the ship is being attacked.

Cargo plane with 5 aboard goes missing off Pakistan's coast

Pakistan's airport authority posted on X that search and rescue operations were underway in the Arabian Sea. The cause of the aircraft's disappearance was not immediately known.

ISLAMABAD.(Agency)

A cargo plane with five crew members aboard went missing off the Pakistani port of Karachi late Tuesday after rapidly descending and losing contact with air traffic controllers on a flight from United Arab Emirates, officials said.Pakistan's airport authority posted on X that search and rescue operations were underway in the Arabian Sea. The cause of the aircraft's disappearance was not immediately known.

The Boeing 737 was being operated by Karachi-based K2 Airways on a cargo flight from Sharjah in the UAE to Karachi when it reported a navigation system problem at 9:18 p.m. local time, the authority said.Radar data showed th aircraft rapidly descending and making a sharp change in heading at about 9:21 p.m. before radar and radio contact were lost about 155 nautical miles (287 kilometres, 178 miles) west of Karachi, the authority said.

Authorities reponded by activating the Rescue Coordination Center and search and rescue operations were launched at sea through various agencies to locate

the missing aircraft, according to the airport authority.Aviation expert Imran Aslam told local ARY News that it remains unclear what caused the aircraft to disappear from radar. He said that even if an aircraft suffers an engine failure, it would normally continue gliding rather than plunge suddenly. "I still cannot understand how the plane went down so abruptly instead of gliding," he said.According to the K2 Airways website, it is a private cargo airline based in Karachi and was established in May 2018.

Authorities said Pakistan's military and civilian authorities had deployed multiple air and sea assets for the search and rescue operation. According to multiple officials, the Pakistan Navy frigate PNS Zulfiqar was quickly diverted to the area where contact with the aircraft was lost. They said the Pakistan Air Force had also deployed aircraft for the effort, while a Pakistan Navy ATR aircraft took off from Turbat to assist in the operation.

Surat man murders father with kitchen knife; arrested

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A diamond polisher was arrested on Tuesday after he murdered his 55-year-old father with a kitchen knife at their house in Surat's Moti Ved area.

Police said Rajesh Rathod had suffered knife wounds on his head, shoulder and right hand, which Subhash, his son, had claimed to be self-inflicted.

In his statements to the police, Subhash, 28, had stated that Rajesh had become "unstable" over the death of his wife a couple of years ago, and frequently fought with all his with his three sons and their wives, who lived in one house on Ved Road. His body was sent to the SMIMER Hospital for post-mortem, after which it became clear that the wounds were not self-inflicted.

A police team interrogated all three sons and their wives. Subhash confessed to killing his father, they said. Singhanpore police inspector PM Chaudhary said, "After consulting the doctors of SMIMER Hospital, we suspected that it was not a case of suicidal death.

Drug peddler arrested, 18 weapons, 771gm ganja seized in Bengaluru

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A drug peddler was arrested by Byatarayanapura police for allegedly attempting to sell weapons, including machetes, near Satellite Bus Station on Mysuru Road on July 1.

The police seized 18 weapons, 771 grams of ganja and 237 mobile phones from him.

Preliminary investigations revealed that he used to take mobile phones from those not paying him for drugs purchased from him. The accused has been identified as autorickshaw driver Akbar Sharif, 37, a resident of Shyamanna Garden. Six cases have been registered against him, including four under the NDPS Act.

He was taken into custody and booked under the Arms Act. Sharif allegedly confessed that he sold ganja. He also said whenever customers did not have cash to buy ganja, he took their mobile phones.

Based on information provided by Sharif, the team conducted a raid on July 3 and recovered the weapons kept near his house. The team also seized 771 grams of ganja and 237 mobile phones valued at Rs 15 lakh from him. A senior police officer said investigations are on to ascertain to whom the accused was supplying weapons.

Heavy rains batter Shivamogga; one dead as three reservoirs brim

SHIVAMOGGA.(Agency)

Heavy rains continued to batter Shivamogga district on Tuesday, claiming the life of an elderly man in Tirthahalli taluk and causing a house collapse at the New Mandli Extension of the city. The continuous downpour also led to a significant rise in water levels across all major reservoirs and water bodies in the district. The education department declared a holiday for schools and colleges in Hosanagar, Sagar and Tirthahalli taluks on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Ramappa (65). Sources said he had gone to his farm and failed to return home. His slippers and clothes were later found on the bank of the Malati river, which runs adjacent to his agricultural land.

Following the collapse of a house at the New Mandli Extension, MLA Channabasappa visited the spot and reviewed the situation. He listened to the grievances of the affected family and directed officials to take immediate measures to disburse relief to flood victims. "Complete all legal procedures and ensure that the family receives maximum relief from the government," he told oficials. Swollen rivers raise water levels in reservoirs The water level in Tunga reservoir on Tuesday reached 588.25 metres, nearing the reservoir's maximum capacity. The water level in the Bhadra reservoir also rose to 140.6 feet against the maximum capacity of 186 feet. In Linganamakki reservoir, the water level rose to 1,754.40 feet against the maximum level of 1,819 feet.

Several Gujarat district on alert for flash floods

The districts on alert include Rajkot, Surendranagar, Botad, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Dang, Navsari, Surat, Tapi and Valsad.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Several Gujarat districts have been alerted against "moderate flash flood risk" till Wednesday 11.30 am. This alert was issued by India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hydromet Division's Flash Flood Guidance Cell. The districts on alert include Rajkot, Surendranagar, Botad, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Anand, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Dang, Navsari, Surat, Tapi and Valsad. Surface runoff and inundation might occur at places with fully saturated soil and low-lying due to the rainfall expected in the next 24 hours, the bulletin issued on Tuesday said.

Meanwhile, the IMD's Ahmedabad unit has issued an orange alert for Dang, Navsari and Valsad for July 8. Dahod, Narmada, Surat, Tapi and Chhota Udepur, Amreli and Bhavnagar were put on yellow alert for heavy rain. Other districts are expected to receive moderate thunderstorms and moderate rain along with lightning and surface winds blowing at speeds up to 40- 50 kmph on Wednesday.

With the government on alert, the minister-in-charge for Amreli and Rajkot districts, Jitu Vaghani, virtually reviewed the preparations in Amreli, Rajkot and Bhavnagar with district officials there, on Tuesday. He directed the district administrations to continuously monitor dam safety and overflowing rivers. Also, officials of PGVCL, water supply and irrigation, and roads and buildings have been directed to remain on standby to quickly restore essential services in case of heavy rain-related disruptions, such as power outages, water supply interruptions, or road blockages.

The district administrations were directed to carry out another round of inspections of dilapidated buildings and hoardings, and remove any remaining unsafe structures immediately.

'Disputes cannot justify assault': Maharashtra minister on Thane hospital attack

Female nurses and doctors at Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation's Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli were allegedly assaulted by Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre and his supporters following a dispute over the referral of a pregnant patient.

Mumbai/thane.(Agency)

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar Wednesday condemned the alleged assault on doctors and medical staff at Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC)'s Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli, Thane, saying that disagreements in public life cannot justify physical attacks.

Abitkar's remarks came as Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray demanded government intervention and action against those responsible. "Disagreements happen in public life. In that case, an appellate authority and a complaint authority are available. We will take the necessary action when issues are brought to our attention. But resorting to physical assault is not right," Abitkar said.

Earlier in the day, Shiv Sena's Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde also distanced the party from the incident, saying no individual involved in the attack would be shielded and warning of disciplinary action against those found guilty.

Shiv Sena corporator's 3 associates of held Meanwhile, the Thane police arrested three associates of Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre in connection with the assault. The police have named Mhatre as an absconding accused and formed teams to trace him, while another woman named in the case is also absconding.

The healthcare staff of the KDMC hospital alleged they were assaulted Tuesday by Mhatre and some of his supporters following a dispute over the referral of a pregnant patient, triggering a strike by hospital staff.

Odisha gets Rs 932 crore from Centre for VB-G RAM-G

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The Centre has released Rs 932.31 crore for Odisha as the first-quarter installment of the newly-launched Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM-G), rolled out across the state on July 1.

The state government has committed a contribution of Rs 621.55 crore for the scheme, taking the total amount to Rs 1,553.87 crore. The central allocation comprises Rs 517.95 crore towards wages, Rs 345.30 crore for material costs and Rs 69.06 crore for administrative expenditure.

The Union budget has earmarked Rs 95,692.31 crore as the Centre's share for the rural employment programme nationwide, of which Odisha's allocation stands at Rs 3,763 crore. The VB-G RAM-G scheme, which replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from July 1, guarantees a national minimum wage of Rs 300 per day. The state has adopted the benchmark wage of Rs 300, while Kerala and Haryana offer the highest daily wages at Rs 401 and Rs 409, respectively.

Panchayati Raj secretary Girish SN said the state would release its matching share on schedule to ensure timely wage payments to beneficiaries. The first installment formed part of the Rs 25,863 crore 'Mother Sanction', following a review meeting chaired by Union Rural Development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan with state rural development ministers on July 5. Source said Chouhan praised Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan for rapidly operationalising the programme while urging Odisha and West Bengal to commence works in all gram panchayats at the earliest.

Ahmedabad 2008 serial blasts: Hunt continues for IM commanders on NIA Most Wanted List

Of the 77 arrested by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, Gujarat Police, 49 were convicted by the trial court in February 2022. Of these, 38 convicts were given the death sentence and 11 were handed down life sentences by the court.

Rajkot.(Agency)

NEARLY 17 years after blasts ripped through Ahmedabad City, killing 56 people and injuring hundreds more, many already in hospital premises, even as the Gujarat High Court (HC) on Tuesday upheld the trial court's order of death sentence for 38 convicts and life imprisonment for 11 of them, three high ranking members of the Indian Mujahideen (IM) continue to evade the authorities who, in turn, are still pursuing them.

The Gujarat Police had, in December 2022, nine months after the trial court verdict in this case, announced rewards of Rs 2 lakh each for anyone stepping forward to give credible information leading to the arrest of four absconders accused in the 2008 serial bomb blasts in Ahmedabad.

Of the 77 arrested by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, Gujarat Police, 49 were convicted by the trial court in February 2022. Of these, 38 convicts were given the death sentence and 11 were handed down life sentences by the court. This was confirmed by the Gujarat HC on July 7, 2026.

The then Gujarat Police DGP Ashish Bhatia had announced the reward for IM co-founder Riyaz Ahmed Shah alias Riyaz Bhatkal aka Chhota bhai, son of Md Ismail Shahbandri; Mohsin Chaudhary alias Ashfaq alias Ali alias Aftab, son of Ismail Ibrahim Chaudhary; Amir Reza Khan alias Parvez alias Rizwan alias Muttaki, son of Lt. Ishaque Ali Khan; and Umar Farooq alias Umar Ul Farooq alias Chekkuty Haji. Of these, Umar Farooq was allegedly earlier arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in another case.

Doctor falls for fake advertisement, duped of Rs 86 lakh in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Cyber fraudsters allegedly cheated a 76-year-old doctor of Rs 86 lakh by impersonating representatives of an investment platform and misusing the name and image of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a fraudulent social media advertisement.

According to the complaint, the doctor came across an online advertisement on March 9 claiming investors could earn Rs 22 lakh a week. The next day, he received a WhatsApp call from a man identifying himself as 'Ashwin', who claimed to represent a company called Social Venture Capital and persuaded him to register by paying Rs 17,500 and opening a Demat account.

The victim subsequently invested Rs 5 lakh initially and later transferred larger sums after being promised high returns. When he attempted to withdraw Rs 85 lakh, the money was allegedly diverted to another account. The fraudsters then demanded additional payments towards bank and processing charges on multiple occasions.

Realising he had been cheated, the doctor approached the Hyderabad cyber crime police, who registered a case and launched an investigation.

2 Mumbai lakes are overflowing: Should you worry about flooding?

Vihar and Tulsi lakes have begun overflowing after heavy rain in Mumbai. Here's what it means for flood risks, water supply and the ongoing water cut.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Vihar and Tulsi, two of Mumbai's smallest potable water-supplying lakes, filled on Tuesday night following heavy, relentless downpours and have begun overflowing.

Vihar Lake hit 100 per cent capacity and started spilling over at 9 pm on Tuesday, followed shortly by Tulsi Lake, which began overflowing at 11.43 pm. Both reservoirs are located within the dense foliage of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and are part of the seven-lake network that meets Mumbai's daily drinking water demands. Tulsi is Mumbai's smallest lake reservoir, with a total holding capacity of 8,046 million litres. Vihar is the second-smallest, with a storage capacity of 27,698 million litres, supplying 90 million litres of water to the city every day. Commissioned in 1860, Vihar is the oldest man-made reservoir in the city, its origin coinciding with the historical growth of the erstwhile Bombay city. Tulsi Lake's water was formally channelled into the city by the then-Governor, Sir Richard Temple Bart, on March 15, 1879. Why overflow means continuous monitoring

The overflow from both Tulsi and Vihar lakes drains directly into the Mithi River, which cuts through the heart of Mumbai before emptying into the Arabian Sea. For city administrators, the overflow from these twin reservoirs underscores the need to monitor the Mithi River's water levels, especially if heavy rains persist.

"The overflow of Vihar Lake goes into the Mithi River. We will now be closely monitoring the situation," Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide said Wednesday. For the average citizen, there is no immediate cause for alarm, but those living in low-lying areas near the Mithi River should remain vigilant.

The concern stems from recent history. Heavy, incessant downpours between August 18 and 19 last year caused Vihar Lake to overflow intensely, pushing the Mithi River near its dangerous 4.2-metre breach mark.

The resulting surge caused the Mithi and an adjacent major storm drain to overflow onto city streets, inundating low-lying areas near the airport lands in Kurla. In a preemptive move, the BMC and the Mumbai Police evacuated more than 350 residents from the area.

Blighty blue in the face as Brexit begets Bregret

A decade has passed since the seismic morning of June 24, 2016, when the British electorate woke up to realise they had voted to sever their 43-year relationship with the European Union. Ten years on, the dust of that historic referendum has settled, leaving behind a stark landscape. What was promised as a triumphant reclamation of national sovereignty has instead evolved into a cautionary tale of economic friction and institutional exhaustion. A comprehensive look at Britain's post-Brexit decade reveals a nation grappling with self-inflicted wounds, a public reassessing its choices, and a continent that has fundamentally moved on.

To evaluate whether Brexit has done more harm than good is to look at a deeply asymmetric ledger of suffering and benefit. Economically, the verdict is overwhelmingly negative. Independent consensus indicates that the British economy is notably smaller than it would have been had it remained within the single market, hobbled by trade barriers, acute labour shortages and a persistent chilling effect on foreign investment.The primary sufferers have been the everyday British public: small-business owners buried under mountains of bureaucratic red tape, farmers stripped of agricultural subsidies and consumers bearing the brunt of inflation exacerbated by currency depreciation and import friction.Conversely, the beneficiaries form a remarkably narrow cohort. A small class of hedge fund managers and financial speculators successfully shorted the pound or profited from volatility. A few large conglomerates managed to absorb the regulatory compliance costs that crushed their smaller competitors. For the vast majority of the population, however, the promised upside of exiting the bloc never materialised.The foundational promises and grand claims made by the Leave campaign have been thoroughly exposed as either gross exaggerations or outright deceptions. The most infamous symbol of the campaign—a red bus promising to redirect £350 million a week from the EU to the National Health Service—stands as a monument to political fantasy. The NHS today faces deeper structural crises and longer waiting lists than at any point in its history, severely exacerbated by the loss of European medical staff.

The pledge that trade deals with the rest of the world, particularly a comprehensive pact with the US, would effortlessly replace European commerce has collapsed under geopolitical realities. Furthermore, the central emotional pillar of the Brexit campaign—reclaiming absolute control over national borders—has yielded a supreme irony: overall net migration to the UK actually hit record highs post-Brexit, merely shifting in composition from European workers to non-EU professionals and student dependents.

This stark divergence between promise and reality has triggered a profound shift in British public opinion. Polling data indicates that a clear majority of Britons (consistently around 57 percent) now view the decision to leave the EU as a historic mistake. The number of people who believe Brexit has been an outright failure is five times greater than those who deem it a success. A significant generational turnover has accelerated this shift, as young citizens who were too young to vote in 2016 overwhelmingly favour European integration.

Yet, if a referendum to rejoin the EU were repolled tomorrow, its victory would be far from guaranteed. While a mathematical majority tells pollsters they wish to rejoin, that support plummets dramatically when confronted with the actual terms of modern re-entry. The British public remains fiercely opposed to accepting the euro, losing their historic budget opt-outs, or agreeing to the unrestricted free movement of people. Therefore, while 'Bregret' is a dominant cultural sentiment, it reflects a longing for a vanished past rather than a unified political will to endure the painful process of re-accession.

How do I prove my Indian citizenship

The exercise must be anchored in the maxim that the burden does not rest on the citizen

THE Ministry of External Affairs' assertion that the passport is not a "citizenship document" but a "travel document" has birthed a fundamental, unsettling question: if the passport is not proof of citizenship, what is?The vast apparatus of the Indian State dispenses benefits through myriad documents: ration card, health insurance enrolment, Kisan credit card and a host of similar instruments. These documents are, lock, stock and barrel, no proof of citizenship whatsoever.Then comes Aadhaar. Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, states unequivocally that the Aadhaar number/card neither confers nor is evidence of citizenship.The driving licence fares no better. It is a permit issued under the Motor Vehicles Act to a person who is not otherwise disqualified, authorising them to drive a motor vehicle.

The Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) sails in the same boat. Voting, a constitutional right, and not a fundamental right, is not an inalienable right available to every citizen by the mere fact of citizenship.

Furthermore, voter ID is issued not by the Central Government but by the Election Commission, whose plenary powers, broad as they may be under Article 324, do not extend to the determination of citizenship. This has been confirmed by the Supreme Court (SC) in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) case — Association for Democratic Reforms v. ECI (2026).Having ruled out these tokens of identity, we return to the passport. The government's reliance on Section 20 of the Passports Act, 1967, which enables the issuance of a passport even to a non-citizen in public interest, suffers from the fallacy of composition.Besides, it draws strength from the Passport Manual (Chapter 2, Paragraph 6.1), which states that "a passport provides evidence of the holder's nationality, but this is placed in the same category as any other evidence of the citizenship status of an individual." This gives birth to two distinct and necessary lines of consideration.First, for all Indian nationals who hold a passport issued not under Section 20 but under the general rule of Section 5(2), the passport is an assertion of citizenship. Section 6 mandates the passport-issuing authority to reject an application for a passport inter alia on the ground that the applicant is a non-citizen.The entire inquiry and verification apparatus is predicated on the applicant being a citizen.

The machinery of citizenship across borders is also anchored to the passport as the operational certificate of citizenship. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF), designed to assist overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency on a means-tested basis, is explicitly reserved for "Indian citizens," not for Persons of Indian Origin or Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).The government's own consular machinery requires the production of an Indian passport to establish the beneficiary's citizenship, and an endorsement on that passport is mandatory for accessing the fund.

Furthermore, the architecture of the OCI, under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, rests on this very edifice. An OCI cardholder, a former Indian citizen,

must prove one's own lineage of citizenship extending up to four generations to qualify. The primary, and often the only, document that establishes this former citizenship is a passport.In the same vein, children born abroad to Indian citizens are registered with Indian diplomatic missions to acquire citizenship by descent, and the parent's citizenship is proved by their Indian passport.At border trade posts like Tamu-Moreh in Manipur along the Myanmar border, interdependent communities of both nationalities traverse daily, depositing their IDs at the check-post in the morning and retrieving them upon return by sunset. Nationality is determined by these documents.Even Section 15 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, states that when a foreigner in India with a valid passport is recognised as a national by the law of more than one foreign country, the civil authority may treat that foreigner as the national of the country on whose passport he entered India. Thus, a passport is the determinant of nationality.

Although the SC, in State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. v. Commercial Tax Officer (1963), held that 'citizenship' and 'nationality' are not interchangeable, the judgment was made in the context that while juristic persons may be nationals for the purposes of international law, they cannot be citizens for the purposes of municipal law or the Constitution, which contemplates citizens as natural persons.

For natural persons, the conceptual distinction between nationality and citizenship, rooted in Roman law, has collapsed in the modern constitutional scheme. Roman law distinguished the nationals into civis (citizen with full political-civic rights), latinus (intermediate status), peregrinus (foreigner), servus (slave), and hostis (enemy) until all free subjects evolved into cives, leaving only foreigners and those stripped of citizenship outside the civic pale.An Indian national holding a passport issued under Section 5 (neither a slave, nor an enemy alien, nor a person deprived of citizenship) is a citizen simply because no other category exists to accommodate him.The second consideration flows from the Passport Manual: "any other evidence of the citizenship status". What document is such evidence?

Three successive questions provide the answer. First, is the issue of the document preceded by such rigorous process that it effectively requires adducing all evidence of citizenship? The passport application requires a declaration of citizenship, verification of place and date of birth, and parentage. Second, are citizens fundamentally entitled, and prospective citizens eligible, to apply for that document? The right to travel abroad, a fundamental right under Article 21, as laid down in Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978), is operationalised by the issuance of a passport.

A non-citizen, having no such fundamental right, may obtain a passport under Section 20, but the Section 5 route is a citizen's gateway. Third, is the issuing authority for a passport the Central Government and not any state government or any other instrumentality?

As things stand today, the standalone document that serves as practical proof of citizenship for a citizen by birth is a passport issued under Section 5. Certainly, it is not the only mode of proof but that is all a citizen has.

The ideal, of course, is a meticulously maintained National Register of Citizens (NRC), complemented by the National Population Register (NPR). Yet, the experience of Foreigners Tribunals and Illegal Migrants Determination Tribunals serves as a grim cautionary tale.

Any sincere citizenship determination exercise must be anchored in one unshakeable maxim: the burden to prove citizenship does not rest on the citizen; but the burden to rebut the presumption of citizenship rests on the State.

Roadside wrecks : Himachal HC rightly flags a civic hazard

Clearing accident-hit vehicles from public spaces is a basic administrative responsibility that protects lives

THE Himachal Pradesh High Court has done well to draw attention to an often-overlooked menace: accident-hit vehicles abandoned along public roads. The court's observations, prompted by damaged vehicles lying near the approach road to Shimla airport and around the Chakkar district courts, highlight the problem of wrecks being a threat to road safety, an environmental hazard and a glaring example of administrative neglect. In a hill state where roads are narrow, winding and vulnerable to landslides, every inch of the path matters. Abandoned vehicles reduce road width, obstruct visibility at sharp bends and hamper the movement of emergency services. They also create secondary accident risks, particularly during the monsoon, when slippery roads and poor visibility already test motorists. Public roads cannot be allowed to double up as scrapyards.The environmental cost is equally serious. Damaged vehicles often contain leaking fuel, engine oil, coolant, brake fluid and battery acid

that can contaminate soil and water bodies. In an ecologically fragile Himalayan region, such pollution carries long-term consequences. The problem persists because of poor coordination among the police, transport authorities, municipal bodies, insurance companies and the judiciary. Vehicles are not removed for long periods of time due to pending investigations, insurance disputes and the absence of designated storage facilities.The HC has rightly demanded a comprehensive action plan. Himachal needs dedicated impound yards, a digital inventory of seized vehicles, time-bound procedures for release and scientific recycling through scrapping centres. The Supreme Court, too, has repeatedly stressed that seized vehicles should not be left to rot indefinitely. Road safety is not only about enforcing traffic rules or improving infrastructure. Clearing accident-hit vehicles from public spaces is a basic administrative responsibility that protects lives.

Mookerjee, a lamp that still burns bright

The one ideal that defined Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life above all else was the indivisibility of India

July 6 is a special day for countless people who cherish the ideals of nationalism and selfless service. We commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose life remains a timeless example of courage and unwavering commitment to Maa Bharti. Few leaders in modern India embodied the seamless confluence of intellect, public service and moral conviction as profoundly as Mookerjee.The young Syama Prasad was born into circumstances that could have assured him a protected and comfortable life. His father, Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, was among the foremost educationists of his age. Yet, his conscience led him towards a life of sacrifice and national service. He did not remain a mute spectator to the turbulence of his times, be it fighting colonialism, communalism or humanitarian challenges. Along this journey, he endured profound personal tragedies, including the loss of an infant child and, later, his wife. These tragedies only deepened his commitment to serve.

The one ideal that defined Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public life above all else was the indivisibility of India. He stood firm during the upheaval of the Partition to ensure that West Bengal remained an integral part of India. A few years later, that conviction drew him to Jammu and Kashmir. Imprisonment did not deter him and isolation did not diminish him. His life came to an abrupt end in detention, far from the countless people, whose cause he had made his own. There are moments in history when an individual's final sacrifice transcends politics and enters the realm of national memory. Mookerjee's last journey is one such moment. Acharya Vinoba Bhave said Mookerjee sacrificed himself for a cause in which he had faith. Years later, the revocation of Articles 370 and 35(A) in 2019 was a fitting tribute to his martyrdom.Mookerjee put India first and Indian values first. And he did it by building institutions and nurturing systems that defied conventional mindsets of those times. He became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. He brought positive changes that were patriotic and futuristic. Addressing a conference of educators, Mookerjee put it wonderfully when he said, "It is incorrect to look upon educational institutions as factories to produce potential clerks and low-paid staff. We have to turn out students who are capable of providing leadership to our self-governing institutions, such as municipal corporations, provincial and central legislatures, and also of directing the affairs in various fields of life such as financial, commercial and industrial ones."

Under his leadership, Calcutta University undertook efforts to improve library infrastructure, boost research in sciences, encourage the study of artefacts and establish courses in agriculture. He drew attention to sports, teacher training and student welfare. To instil a sense of pride among students and alumni, he began the practice of marking January 24 as the foundation day of the university. He requested Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to compose a song for the university.Another example of this spirit can be seen in the later part of his life, when he decided to form the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. At a time when the Congress party was omnipresent, he felt that there was all the more reason for an alternative voice to speak up for India's progress while staying attached to our cultural roots. It was perhaps fitting that the party's symbol was the diya, the earthen lamp. A single lamp may appear modest, yet it possesses the power to dispel darkness far beyond itself. It is exactly what the Jana Sangh did, both during the years it was

active and beyond.Syama Prasad Mookerjee's tenure as India's first Minister for Industry and Supply reveals a statesman whose conception of development was remarkably comprehensive and humane. He viewed industry as a means of restoring dignity, opportunity and confidence to a newly independent nation. He respected wealth creation and value-addition. While laying the foundations of modern industrial India through pioneering initiatives, such as the Damodar Valley Corporation, the Sindri Fertiliser Plant and a robust industrial policy, he also ensured that India's traditional strengths were not neglected. Handlooms, cottage industries, artisans and textile workers found in him an equally committed champion.

Here, I would like to share a personal experience. The Sindri plant, which Mookerjee worked to establish with a vision of self-reliance, was ignored by those who ran the nation for several decades. I feel honoured that our government had the opportunity to contribute to its revival. It was indeed among the most special moments to have been there for that programme.

India's civilisational tradition has long celebrated dialogue and discussions. Mookerjee embodied this democratic spirit. He joined Pandit Nehru's Cabinet, believing that the task of nation-building in the early years transcended political differences. He served with sincerity and a constructive spirit. But when he felt that questions of national importance demanded a different course, he relinquished office with dignity and devoted himself to the political work he believed the nation required.Pandit Nehru brought the First Amendment 75 years ago. It was a direct assault on free speech. Mookerjee was among its staunchest critics. He understood what the Congress was capable of doing. And he was proven right. Those who had brought the First Amendment imposed the Emergency in 1975, and 50 years ago, brought the 42nd Amendment Act, which again struck at the core of liberal democratic values.

Mookerjee also stood out for his humanitarian efforts. When the tragic famine struck Bengal in 1943, Mookerjee ensured that several canteens and relief centres were opened to feed people. On the one hand, he was deeply shaken by the plight of his people while on the other, he was repulsed by the insensitivity of the colonial rulers. He even wrote a book, 'Panchasher Manwantar', in which he expressed his angst. When a super cyclone hit Medinipur in 1942, his efforts to restore normalcy were lauded.

Odisha moves to digitise land registration with paperless, cashless system

Bhubaneswar. (Agency)

Odisha has decided to digitise its land registration services by introducing a fully paperless and cashless registration system across all registration offices in the state, in a major reform enhancing transparency, efficiency and accountability.

Reviewing the proposed reforms, the Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said the new system would make the registration process transparent, citizen-friendly and virtually free from corruption by minimising physical interface and eliminating cash transactions.

Buyers and sellers will no longer have to visit registration offices to submit applications after finalising a land transaction. Instead, the entire application process will be completed online, with the parties required to appear before the registering authority only for identity verification and execution of the deed, as mandated under law, the minister informed. The government has also decided to abolish the existing provision permitting cash payments of up to Rs 15,000 towards registration-related charges.

J&K trucker convicted in Tripura under NDPS case

Agartala. (Agency)

The Additional Sessions Judge in North Tripura convicted a resident of Jammu & Kashmir, after finding him guilty in a drug peddling case, and awarded him 12 years rigorous imprisonment.

According to the judgement, the convict, Manjoor Ahamed Chachi, has also been imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh, and if he fails to pay this amount, he faces an additional six months of Rigorous Imprisonment. He was booked under Sections 20(b) (ii) (C) and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in February 2022.

The incident occurred on the morning of February 1, 2022, when police executed a special vehicle inspection at Churaibari Naka Point in North Tripura, along Assam border. During this operation, a truck going out of the state was stopped, and during the search, 260 kg of dry cannabis was recovered from a hidden chamber of the vehicle.

The truck's driver, identified as Manjoor Ahamed Chachi, was apprehended at the scene and charged under the NDPS Act. A comprehensive investigation led to the submission of a charge sheet on July 31, 2022. After a prolonged trial, the Additional Sessions Judge found the accused guilty and awarded punishment.

Tea sector sets target to formalise Rs 726 cr investment in Tripura Business Conclave

Agartala. (Agency)

The tea industry in Tripura is set to receive proposed investments of Rs 726 crore from four private companies, demonstrating their interest in expanding operations within the state, said Chairman of the Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC) Samir Ranjan Ghosh here on Wednesday.

The investment proposals are expected to be formalised through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) at the Destination Tripura Business Conclave scheduled for July 9 and 10. It is anticipated that the proposed investments will lead to the creation of approximately 4,000 jobs, marking a significant milestone in Tripura's tea sector.

According to Ghosh, the companies expressing interest are Monoworld Recycling Private Limited, Itibachak Barta Foundation, Infidirect Tech Solutions Private Limited, and NDR Infrastructure Private Limited for the development of small tea grower clusters and various initiatives in research, skill development, digital technology adoption, branding, marketing, and tea tourism.

NDR Infrastructure plans to invest Rs 500 crore in developing integrated tea estates, MSME units, value-addition facilities, and an export facilitation hub. Monoworld Recycling intends to invest Rs 100 crore in advancements for the tea sector, while the Itibachak Barta Foundation has proposed an additional Rs 100 crore towards the modernisation of tea gardens and factories.

'Corrupt Punjab cop' at heart of US crackdown on Jaggu Bhagwanpuria syndicate

Federal indictments unsealed in Los Angeles as part of 'Operation Hard Ball' show how corruption at the local level in Punjab enabled global criminal enterprises to thrive across continents.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

In a major revelation emerging from a sweeping international law enforcement operation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the US, an alleged "corrupt Punjab police officer" has been directly implicated in fabricating murder charges and running extortion rackets on behalf of a ruthless India-based transnational crime syndicate.

According to federal indictments unsealed in Los Angeles as part of 'Operation Hard Ball', Gurinderjit Singh, a law enforcement officer in Punjab, worked hand-in-glove with members of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria organised crime group to target perceived rivals with false accusations and demands for money. The

details, laid bare in US court documents, show how corruption at the local level in Punjab enabled global criminal enterprises to thrive across continents. A US Department of Justice official made these revelations in a press statement in California late on July 7.

In April 2026, Gurlal Singh, a 22-year-old illegal immigrant from India living in Stockton, California, and an alleged member of the Bhagwanpuria syndicate, provided the name and details of a victim (identified in court papers as Victim 2) to Gurinderjit Singh, who is believed to be a police inspector posted as a station house officer in Punjab at the time.

Gurinderjit then allegedly contacted the victim's father and threatened to implicate the entire family, including the victim's sister, in the January 2026 murder of a man identified as "B.S.". As per the FBI, on April 13, 2026, Gurinderjit told the victim's father that charges would be filed against him for the murder.

On April 16, he allegedly demanded payment, warning that failure to pay would result in all three family members being named as accused. In May 2026, following a press conference in Punjab where Indian authorities publicly accused the family, Gurinderjit allegedly continued pressuring the victims for money, explicitly referencing instructions from Gurlal Singh and complaining that "they didn't pay us the whole amount what was agreed upon".

When contacted, Gurinderjit said he was aware of the development through social media but had not received any formal notice.

NFR Completes Redevelopment of Historic Haldibari Railway Station under ABSS

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 8th July: Northeast Frontier Railway has successfully redeveloped Haldibari Railway Station in West Bengal under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), transforming the station into a modern, accessible and passenger-friendly transport hub while preserving its regional heritage. One of the oldest railway stations in North Bengal, Haldibari has historically served as an important gateway connecting Eastern and North-Eastern India. Originally commissioned in 1878, the station regained strategic importance with the reopening of the Haldibari – Chilahati rail link between India and Bangladesh in 2020, strengthening regional connectivity and cross-border trade. The redevelopment works, completed in March 2026, include renovation of the station building and waiting halls, modernization of toilets, construction of a new 12-metre-wide Foot Over Bridge, additional platform shelters, resurfacing of platforms with granite and Kota stone, installation of

two lifts, development of a spacious circulating area with improved drainage and parking facilities, façade enhancement, landscaping and beautification through graffiti art. Special emphasis has been laid on passenger convenience and inclusivity through Divyangjan-friendly facilities such as ramps, tactile pathways, accessible toilets, improved signage, and upgraded passenger information systems. Modern telecom and security infrastructure has also been installed to enhance operational efficiency and passenger safety. The redevelopment has addressed longstanding challenges such as congestion at the station entrance, inadequate parking, waterlogging and ageing infrastructure. A new entrance porch, better traffic circulation, expanded waiting areas, modular toilet facilities, improved lighting, and enhanced platform amenities now provide passengers with a safer, cleaner and more comfortable travel experience. The upgraded station is expected to significantly benefit passengers, tourists, and the local community by improving connectivity, supporting economic growth, promoting regional products through the 'One Station One Product' initiative, and further strengthening the historic India–Bangladesh railway corridor. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, Northeast Frontier Railway is redeveloping 92 stations across its jurisdiction as part of Indian Railways' nationwide initiative to modernize 1,337 railway stations, providing world-class passenger amenities, sustainable infrastructure, and enhanced connectivity.

WB Baruipur rape-murder case: Prime accused killed in police firing during crime scene reconstruction; fourth suspect arrested

Kolkata. (Agency)

The investigation into the alleged gang rape and murder of 12-year-old girl in Baruipur took a dramatic turn in the early hours of Wednesday after the prime accused, Prabhas Mondal, was killed in police firing while allegedly attempting to escape during a crime scene reconstruction.

According to police, Mondal, the first person arrested in connection with the case, was taken to the crime scene at Suryapur around 12.45 am on Wednesday as part of the investigation.

Senior investigating officers and other policemen accompanied him to reconstruct the sequence of events.

Police claimed that during the exercise, Mondal allegedly snatched a firearm from police personnel and attempted to flee. Officers tried to restrain him, following which he allegedly opened fire at the police. The police then retaliated, critically injuring the accused. Mondal was immediately taken to Baruipur Sub-Divisional Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Huge central forces surrounded the hospital to prevent any untoward incidents.

Police officials said the reconstruction was considered necessary as the accused had allegedly been giving misleading and inconsistent statements during interrogation and was not cooperating with investigators. The minor girl's body was recovered from a pond in the Suryapur area on Sunday morning.

Police suspect that she was sexually assaulted before being murdered. The incident triggered widespread outrage in the locality, with residents demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible and exemplary punishment for the culprits.

No let-up in rain in Surat, Navsari; hundreds displaced, 3 more dead

Agartala. (Agency)

Three more people, including an 11-year-old, died in rain-related incidents in Surat and Navsari districts even as officials claimed that hundreds had been relocated as heavy rain continued to pounce these parts of Gujarat on Tuesday.

Rishita Mistry, a 22-year-old woman, was struck by lightning when she was on the terrace of Sukun Apartments in Surat's Katargam. Even as an ambulance arrived for help, she was declared dead on the spot. "As per the neighbours, Rishita had gone to the terrace to get wet in the rain when she was struck by lightning," said Katargam police inspector LR Gohil.

In another incident in Surat, 11-year-old Alina Shaikh was electrocuted when she was returning home in Mandarwaja, Salabatpura from a nearby madrasa. She was climbing the metal stairs of her house when she suffered an electric shock, police said, adding power officials inspected cable lines after the incident. Both their bodies were sent to the New Civil Hospital for post-mortem.

In Navsari district, one Walter Herman Topnu (25) was struck by lightning while trying to feed shrimp in a pond in Jalalpore, Maroli police sub-inspector V J Patel. A native of Jharkhand, Topnu was employed to work at the shrimp pond and stayed nearby.

Meanwhile, officials said 270 people were relocated in Navasari alone and dozens of others in Surat. The downpour has crippled movement on several roads, including the main road connecting the two districts. City bus services had been halted.

On Tuesday, schools, colleges and several commercial establishments remained closed on account of severe waterlogging and rain. At several places, shopkeepers were seen moving their goods as water entered their shops in the commercial complexes.

Dissident camp maintains distance as Bhupesh Baghel holds meetings at Punjab Congress Hqs

The day started with Baghel holding a breakfast meeting with Verka, following which, the latter paid a visit to Channi. While Verka was tightlipped about what transpired at the meeting he emphasised that there were no differences between him and Channi.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Tensions within the Punjab Congress continued Tuesday as the dissident faction, primarily led by former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, maintained a distance from key organisational meetings convened by AICC General Secretary in-charge Bhupesh Baghel at the Punjab Congress headquarters.

Out of the three newly appointed working presidents, only two — Raj Kumar Verka and Sukhwinder Singh Danny — attended the meeting called by Baghel while Channi loyalist Sangat Singh Gilzian stayed away. There were also notable absentees from the meeting of the district presidents called by the Baghel, with at least five staying away, even as state Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring tried to play down their absence.

The day started with Baghel holding a breakfast meeting with Verka, following which, the latter paid a visit to Channi. While Verka was tightlipped about what transpired at the meeting he emphasised that there were no differences between him and Channi.

"Elections are approaching, and we are preparing for it. If anyone wishes to express their views, they may do so; if anyone has a grievance against a specific individual or feels a decision was incorrect, they can voice their concerns to Baghel. If someone wants to speak directly to Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, or KC Venugopal, they will be called there. I have met Channi. No one should harbor the misconception that I am at odds with Channi. Channi is with me, and I am with Channi. All of us are with the Congress," Verka said. The Punjab Congress headquarters in Chandigarh was a beehive of activity as party leaders from across the state trooped in for a show of strength for the beleaguered PCC president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

Speaking to media at the Congress office, Warring justified the absence of senior leaders of Channi group by saying that Channi had clarified the matter regarding his absence for a few days.

"There was a meeting of the chairpersons yesterday which was attended by Vijay Inder Singla and Dr Amar Singh, and Channi had informed everyone that he would be away for a day or two. He also spoke to Bhupesh Baghel yesterday, and when Bhupesh Baghel addressed the media in the evening, he clarified that Charanjit Singh Channi would be out for two days," said Warring.

US gangs and Punjab cops: Why FBI wants SHO extradited as part of OP Hard Ball

US authorities have said they will seek the extradition of Gurinderjit Singh, the SHO of Tanda police station in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, after charging him with allegedly extorting $400,000 from a Los Angeles-based family by framing their relatives in India in a fake murder case.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Authorities in the US are preparing to seek the extradition of an Indian police officer serving as the station house officer (SHO) of the Tanda police station in Punjab's Hoshiarpur after he was charged with allegedly attempting to extort $400,000 from a family in Los Angeles. The case forms part of Operation Hard Ball, an FBI-led international crackdown on "transnational organised crime groups" that has resulted in at least 24 arrests and 37 criminal charges across the US, Canada and Europe.

According to federal indictments unsealed in Los Angeles, Gurinderjit Singh, an SHO in Punjab, allegedly worked hand-in-glove with members of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria transnational crime syndicate to target perceived rivals through false criminal complaints and extortion demands. Prosecutors allege Singh attempted to extort $400,000 from a family in Los Angeles.

Operation Hard Ball is the culmination of a years-long FBI investigation into criminal syndicates allegedly involved in murder, extortion, drug trafficking, firearms offences and other organised crime activities spanning multiple countries.According to US broadcaster

Fox 11, American authorities plan to formally seek the extradition of several accused currently in Indian custody, including gang leaders Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria. In addition, US authorities are pursuing two other fugitives believed to be in India, one of whom was identified by First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli as Gurinderjit Singh, the Los Angeles Times reported.

WHY DOES THE FBI WANT TO EXTRADITE A PUNJAB COP?

According to a seven-count federal indictment unsealed by the US Department of Justice titled United States v Bhagwanpuria, et al, members of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria transnational crime syndicate allegedly collaborated with corrupt police officers in Punjab to carry out extortion schemes targeting victims in the US.

The indictment, part of the FBI-led Operation Hard Ball targeting three transnational organised crime groups, alleges that in April 2026, Gurlal Singh — an Indian national unlawfully present in the US and based in Stockton, California — threatened a victim in the United States and then shared the victim's identifying information with a corrupt Punjab police officer.Prosecutors claim the information was used to falsely implicate the victim, the victim's father, and the victim's sister in the January 2026 murder of an individual identified only as "BS" in court documents in India. The Punjab officer then allegedly leveraged the fabricated murder case to extort $400,000 from the family in exchange for dropping.

Man chases mother's live-in partner down the street, stabs him to death

New Delhi. (Agency)

A man has been arrested for allegedly killing his mother's live-in partner by repeatedly stabbing him in Gujarat's Rajkot district. The incident took place on Tuesday, July 7, with multiple onlookers present.The killing was captured on a nearby CCTV camera. The victim has been identified as 35-year-old Kamlesh Vaghela. The accused, 20-year-old Jayant Vaghela, is the son of his live-in partner, Neeta.

He was arrested within hours of a formal complaint being lodged by Kamlesh's younger brother, Kapil Vaghela (25).The video apparently shows the accused chasing the victim through an alley before getting hold of him and stabbing him multiple times with a sharp object.According to the police, Kamlesh and Neeta had been in a live-in relationship for the past 12 years.

In his complaint, Kapil said that Jayant held a grudge against his brother over the fact that the live-in relationship began while his father was still alive. He alleged that this was the motivation behind the crime.

The police said that Kamlesh arranged the marriage of Neeta's daughter during their relationship. The probe into the killing has revealed that he used to work as a labourer, an official said.Kamlesh suffered more than five stab wounds on different parts of his body in the fatal attack, the official added. The CCTV footage of the incident has gone viral o social media.

In the clip, Kamlesh is supposedly heard pleading with bystanders to save his life. He is also heard requesting Jayant to spare him, saying, "I have not done anything to anyone."

Rain lashes Delhi after dry spell, IMD sounds red alert

New Delhi. (Agency)

After weeks of sweltering heat, rain lashed the capital on Tuesday afternoon, bringing respite to residents. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has issued a 'red' alert for rain and strong winds across the city.

Similar weather conditions are likely on July 8, with light thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds expected in the afternoon. Earlier, the IMD had issued an 'orange' alert, warning of moderate rain at most places along with thunderstorms, lightning, but later upgraded it to 'red' for the city.The weather department had forecast moderate rain at many places and heavy rain at isolated places, accompanied by moderate thunderstorms and lightning, with wind speeds reaching up to 70 km/h.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature settled at around 37.2 degrees Celsius. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 30 degrees Celsius -- the highest since July 2, 2024, when the mercury settled at a low of 30.7 degrees Celsius.

The IMD said the "feels like" temperature at 8.30 am was 44.7 degrees Celsius as relative humidity stood at 79%, making for uncomfortable weather.

The Lodhi Road weather station recorded a minimum temperature of 30.4 degrees Celsius, Palam 28.3 degrees Celsius, Ayanagar 28.6 degrees Celsius and the Ridge 24.9 degrees Celsius.As heavy rain inundated many parts of the city, people witnessed waterlogging in many areas of Delhi NCR, like Noida and Gurugram.

A large tree fell onto a moving Mercedes and another passing car on a busy road in southeast Delhi's East of Kailash on Tuesday afternoon. However, no injuries were reported, officials said. The Delhi Fire Services personnel said, "Three people were trapped inside a moving car after the tree crashed onto the road. All of them were safely rescued, and no one was injured". They stressed the need for regular pruning and periodic health assessment of trees in the area.

Fake profiles, marriage promises: Government warns of rising matrimonial fraud

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Ministry of Home Affairs' Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has warned people against a sharp rise in online matrimonial frauds, saying cybercriminals are exploiting matrimonial websites and apps by posing as wealthy professionals or NRIs, gaining victims' trust with promises of marriage and then duping them of large sums of money.

In an advisory, the agency said the growing popularity of digital matrimonial platforms has created fresh opportunities for fraudsters, who often create fake profiles claiming to be doctors, engineers, businessmen, Army officers or professionals working abroad.

After building emotional connections through regular conversations, they begin seeking money on various pretexts, including customs charges for gifts, travel expenses, visa fees or medical emergencies.According to the agency, the fraud typically follows a predictable pattern. The accused first create attractive fake profiles with fabricated credentials and photographs to impress prospective partners. After establishing trust over days or weeks of conversations, they express a desire to marry before introducing financial requests.

The advisory noted that many victims transfer money believing they are helping their prospective partner. Once the payment is made, the fraudsters either disappear or continue demanding additional funds using new excuses.The agency also outlined measures users can take to protect themselves and flagged several warning signs that should not be ignored while interacting on matrimonial platforms.

Supreme Court Questions Centre Over Blanket Ban On Pregnant IPS Officers During Probation Training

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the Centre over a 1993 government policy that bars pregnant Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers from undergoing training, observing that a beneficiary provision introduced for women cannot be used to deny them opportunities if they are medically fit.Hearing a petition filed by IPS officer Urvashi Sengar, the court sought the Centre's response by Thursday and asked it to clarify whether she could be permitted to join the Phase-II training programme, which commenced in June this year.

"This is a beneficiary provision under law for protection of women and not to take away the right to undergo training if they are fit for it," the bench observed while examining the validity of the Ministry of Home Affairs' 1993 Office Memorandum (OM).

The court further asked the Centre, "When the purpose of this OM is to enable training of a fit woman, then why are you stopping her if she is fit?"

The bench also observed that a blanket rule may not be appropriate, noting that while some women may be fit to resume training within nine months of childbirth, others may require much longer. It indicated that such cases should be assessed individually rather than through a rigid policy.

Delhi HC denies bail to alleged Indian Mujahideen operative in 2008 blasts case

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday denied bail to alleged Indian Mujahideen operative and head of its media cell, Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, in the 2008 Delhi serial blasts case, holding that national security takes precedence over personal liberty.

A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Madhu Jain noted that Peerbhoy played a central role in transmitting an email titled 'Message of Death' just minutes before the blasts, claiming responsibility for the attack.

The court was hearing an appeal against a trial court order dated July 19, 2025, denying him bail. The serial blasts in Delhi on September 13, 2008 took 26 lives and injured more than 100 people.

"Such a level of coordination, planning and logistics was possible only through the deployment of skilled technology, and the appellant was, prima facie, at the centre of it," the bench said.

Rejecting the accused's argument that he had spent 17 years in jail as an undertrial prisoner, the bench said, "For such brazen and blatant acts of terrorism, for which the appellant has been charged, the allegations against the appellant pertain to offences of the gravest nature, for which the law prescribes severe punishments, extending even to the death penalty in appropriate cases."Therefore, the bench asserted on the matter of bail, "...the long period of incarceration, in the opinion of the court, would not by itself be sufficient to grant bail to the appellant," the bench said.

According to the prosecution, Peerbhoy, a software engineer, was a key member of the banned Indian Mujahideen, whose primary role was not in planting the bombs but in providing technological support to the conspiracy. Minutes before the explosions, he allegedly drafted and sent emails to media organisations claiming responsibility for the blasts.

Congress occupied 24 Akbar Road headquarters without authorisation since 2013: RTI

The RTI reply, furnished by the Directorate of Estates, which falls under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, states that Bungalow No. 24, Akbar Road was allotted to the Congress party on August 7, 1992. However, its allotment was cancelled with effect from June 26, 2013.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress party has remained in "unauthorised occupation" of its former headquarters at 24, Akbar Road since June 26, 2013, and the government has not received any rent for the bungalow during this period, according to a Right to Information (RTI) reply accessed by India Today. The Centre has also said that the party's outstanding dues are "under review and yet to be determined."

The RTI reply, furnished by the Directorate of Estates, which falls under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, states that Bungalow No. 24, Akbar Road, located in Lutyens' Delhi, was allotted to the Congress party on August 7, 1992. However, its allotment was cancelled with effect from June 26, 2013, and the bungalow has remained under the party's unauthorised occupation ever since, according to the government.

NO RENT RECEIVED SINCE 2013

In its response to the RTI application, the Directorate of Estates said no rent has been received for 24, Akbar Road since June 26, 2013. It added that the outstanding dues of the Congress are under review and yet to be determined, indicating that the government is yet to assess the amount recoverable from the party.

The RTI applicant also sought copies of notices, if any, issued by the government asking the Congress to vacate the bungalow. The Directorate declined to provide the information, stating that such records are not maintained in a compiled form and that compiling them would disproportionately divert the resources of the public authority under Section 7(9) of the RTI Act.

The latest disclosure assumes significance in light of an earlier RTI reply accessed by India Today in 2018, in which the Directorate of Estates had said the licence fee for 24, Akbar Road had been revised to Rs 3,920 per month with effect from July 1, 2017. That reply had also enclosed the 2013 cancellation letter issued to the Congress and noted that the party's request for retention of the bungalow and charging of the normal licence fee was under consideration.

NEWS BOX

Archer fires subtle dig at IPL over easy pitches: Back to normal in England

New Delhi. (Agency)

England fast bowler Jofra Archer said bowling in English conditions feels like a return to "normal" after spending months adapting to the "easy wickets and smaller boundaries" in India, particularly during the IPL.Archer made the remarks after starring in England's crushing 125-run win over India in the third T20I at Trent Bridge on Tuesday. The right-arm quick returned figures of 3 for 29, while Josh Tongue claimed 4 for 38 as India were bundled out for just 76 in 11.4 overs while chasing 202, their biggest defeat by runs in T20I history.When asked whether facing Indian batters in England required a different approach after competing against many of them in the IPL, Archer said the conditions allowed bowlers greater room for error.

"I think it goes back to normal here," Archer said at the post-match press conference."You try to bowl the ball straight on a good length. Whereas over there, because the wickets are so easy and the boundaries are so small, you have to be really, really particular. Here, I feel your margin for error is a little bit bigger."

200 ISN'T ALWAYS SAFE IN IPL

Archer also highlighted the contrast between English conditions and the IPL, saying England's total of 201 was always going to be difficult to chase at Trent Bridge."At the IPL, sometimes 200 isn't safe. With 200 on the board on that wicket, I don't want to say we were confident, but I felt it would have taken a really special innings to chase it down," he said.

It was atrocious: Shreyas Iyer shuns cliches after India slip to new low in T20Is

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shreyas Iyer remains winless five matches into his T20I captaincy. Elevated to the national team on the back of incredible success in franchise cricket, Iyer is yet to translate that form onto the international stage A jittery start to a captaincy tenure would have been understandable if this star-studded Indian side had at least shown signs of a fight. But on Tuesday night, thousands of miles away in England, things turned ugly.Shreyas Iyer's India, fighting to keep the series alive, imploded. Chasing 202 at Trent Bridge, they were bowled out for just 76.The highest score on Tuesday

came from a 15-year-old.Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made 13 off five balls before a searing Jofra Archer bouncer forced him into a hook that ended in Jos Buttler's gloves. Earlier, he had audaciously sliced Archer over third man for six, refusing to be overawed by one of the quickest bowlers in world cricket.t is understandable that the youngster, inexperienced in international cricket, got out trying to take on his IPL teammate.But what excuse did the rest of the Indian team have?

A three-time T20 World Cup-winning team. The first team to defend the World Cup title. The first team to win it on home soil. Yet they surrendered against Harry Brook's England, who took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Nice to play 90 mins: Djokovic's cheeky Messi quip is viral after Wimbledon marathon

After a historic five-hour Wimbledon marathon, Novak Djokovic delivered a cheeky nod to fellow 39-year-old icon Lionel Messi, joking that he envies football's strict 90-minute limit after enduring his own open-ended epic.

New Delhi. (Agency)

On a remarkable Tuesday evening that belonged entirely to the resilience of two 39-year-old athletes, Novak Djokovic and Lionel Messi provided the sporting world with twin masterclasses in longevity. Hours after Messi galvanised Argentina to a dramatic 3-2 comeback victory over Egypt in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 in Atlanta, Djokovic was enduring a marathon of his own on the lawns of Sw19.The seven-time Wimbledon champion survived the longest quarter-final in the tournament's history, outlasting Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime across five hours and 15 minutes of gruelling, high-octane tennis.When the press corps in London later invited Djokovic to reflect on the synchronicity of two global icons defying Father Time on the same evening, the Serb offered a wry, instantly memorable response: "It would be nice to play 90 minutes like him."On the surface, it was a classic piece of Djokovic wit, delivered with the easy charm of a man who had just booked his place in yet another semi-final. Yet, beneath the humour lies a fascinating dual interpretation that captures the distinct realities of modern elite sport.To take Djokovic literally is to understand the sheer physical toll of modern baseline tennis. After five hours of brutal lateral movement on a fading Centre Court grass, the concept of a definitive 90-minute whistle must feel like an

absolute luxury. In football, the clock is an absolute boundary; in Grand Slam tennis, the boundary is only found when one man breaks. Djokovic's quack was a nod to the gruelling, open-ended nature of his craft, where a single match can demand the physical output of three consecutive football fixtures.

However, there is a deeper tactical appreciation embedded in his words. To play 90 minutes like Messi is not merely about duration; it is about sustained, calculated intensity. Messi's genius at 39 relies on the economy of movement—walking for periods to read the pitch before exploding into pockets of space with devastating precision.

For Djokovic, an athlete whose entire defensive mastery is built on perpetual movement and kinetic coverage, the ability to govern a game with such quiet, bursts of high-intensity authority is the ultimate sportingThe triumphs in Atlanta and London were a poetic reminder of what remains when peak youth fades. Messi, facing an organised Egyptian side that threatened a historic upset, relied on pure footballing intellect and leadership to orchestrate Argentina's escape. The defending champions eventually beat Egypt 3-2 to secure their passage into the quarterfinals, thanks to Messi's assist and goal.

Two 39-year-olds, Messi and Djokovic, prove it's never over till it's over

New Delhi. (Agency)

"These are the kind of moments that I still play tennis for, for sure," said Novak Djokovic, barely able to stand on his own legs. He had just played five hours and fifteen minutes, the longest quarter-final in Wimbledon history, against an opponent 14 years his junior. Meanwhile, he is 39 years and 44 days old and won it in a fifth-set tie-break.His opponent, World No. 4 Felix Auger-Aliassime, was one of us by the time he reached the net. A fanboy, shaking his head, still not able to comprehend what the old man had conjured on a Centre Court that has staged more than its share of such moments.This was London, close to

midnight. A few hours earlier in Atlanta, USA, a footballer had offered his own lesson in refusing to give up. Lionel Messi. Another 39-year-old. He had inspired a comeback that looked, for long stretches, entirely improbable, as Argentina beat Egypt in the Round of 16 of the FIFA World Cup.

"These are the kind of moments that I still play tennis for, for sure." Djokovic said t"These are the kind of moments that I still play football for, for sure." Messi And these were the moments that kept fans up on a Tuesday evening, watching two champions who have nothing left to prove put their bodies on the line anyway, absorbing the agony of pressure just to pull off the improbable one more time.

Egypt coach Hossam Hassan booked after anti-racism gesture in World Cup loss to Argentina

New Delhi. (Agency)

Egypt coach Hossam Hassan was shown a yellow card after making FIFA's anti-racism gesture during his side's dramatic 3-2 defeat to Argentina in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 on Tuesday.Hassan's actions came during a chaotic closing phase at Atlanta Stadium, where Egypt surrendered a 2-0 lead as Lionel Messi-inspired Argentina fought back to reach the quarter-finals and keep alive their bid to retain the World Cup title.

Argentina vs Egypt, FIFA World Cup: HIGHLIGHTS

With emotions running high, several Egyptian players and members of the coaching staff were booked by French referee Francois Letexier. One member of the Egypt bench was also sent off in second-half stoppage time as tempers flared following a contentious VAR decision that ruled out what would have been Egypt's second goal.Amid the protests, Hassan stood in front of Letexier and crossed his arms to form

an "X" symbol, the gesture introduced by FIFA as part of its universal anti-racism protocol. Under the guidelines, players, coaches or team officials can use the signal to alert the referee to alleged racist abuse during a match.

If acknowledged, the referee can activate FIFA's three-step procedure, which begins with temporarily stopping play. If the abuse continues, the match can be suspended and, in extreme cases, abandoned.Instead, Letexier showed Hassan a yellow card and play continued. Neither FIFA nor the match officials immediately explained why the Egypt coach was cautioned.

The controversy added to Egypt's frustration over a pivotal VAR intervention earlier in the second half. Mostka Ziko appeared to have doubled Egypt's lead after combining brilliantly with Mohamed Salah, only for the goal to be overturned after Letexier reviewed an earlier incident and ruled that Argentina defender Lisandro Martinez had been fouled in the build-up.

Switzerland beat Colombia on penalties to reach first quarter-final since 1954

Vancouver. (Agency)

Switzerland ended a 72-year wait for a place in the World Cup quarter-finals after beating Colombia 4-3 on penalties following a goalless 120 minutes in Vancouver on Tuesday, with Ruben Vargas converting the decisive spot-kick to set up a last-eight clash against defending champions Argentina.

Gregor Kobel emerged as Switzerland's hero in the shoot-out, saving Cucho Hernandez's penalty after Davinson Sanchez had earlier struck the crossbar. Although Manuel Akanji blazed his effort over the bar to briefly hand Colombia hope, Vargas kept his

composure to send the Swiss into their first World Cup quart

The victory was all the more remarkable given the circumstances. Murat Yakin's side were without breakout star Johan Manzambi through injury, had Vargas carrying a knock and managed just two shots on target across 120 minutes. Yet they found a way to survive against a Colombia side that carried the greater attacking threat for much of the evening.Switzerland vs Colombia Round of 16, FIFA World Cup: Highlightser-final since 1954.COLOMBIA ASK QUESTIONS

Backed by a sea of yellow inside BC Place, Colombia looked the more dangerous side from the opening whistle as they chased only the second World Cup quarter-final appearance in their history.Their best chance of the opening half arrived in the 21st minute when Gustavo Puerta curled a strike towards the far corner, only for Kobel to produce a brilliant diving save to preserve parity.

Is FIFA favouring Argentina? Egypt coach's rigged World Cup charge divides opinion

FIFA World Cup 2026: Egypt coach Hossam Hassan accused officials of rigging his side's dramatic 2-3 defeat to Argentina after the defending champions staged a stunning late comeback in Atlanta. His allegations drew contrasting reactions from Thierry Henry, Roy Keane and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, reigniting the debate over VAR consistency and refereeing standards.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Egypt's dramatic 3-2 defeat to Argentina in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 has sparked a fierce debate over refereeing standards and VAR, after coach Hossam Hassan claimed his side had been "cheated" and alleged the tournament was being tilted in favour of the defending champions.Hassan launched a scathing attack on the officials after Egypt squandered a two-goal lead in the closing stages in Atlanta, describing the contest as "clearly a rigged match" and suggesting external forces had influenced the outcome."I do not want to put it nicely and talk about hard luck. We have been cheated unfairly today, we have suffered injustice," Hassan said in his post-match press conference."I will say what's on my mind regardless of the

consequence. This was clearly a rigged match, and the whole world saw it."And I want to say one more thing. If they want Argentina to win so badly, why call everyone to come and participate?"Hassan repeated those allegations in a separate interview with BeIN Sports, claiming the officials had come under pressure to keep Lionel Messi and the reigning champions alive in the tournament.Perhaps they wanted to keep the world champions in the competition. Perhaps they wanted Messi to stay in the running," Hassan said.

"In football, there are sometimes external factors that go beyond the technical aspects. The world champions received support at every level."

Stock markets climb in early trade on foreign fund inflows

New Delhi. (Agency)

On a remarkable Tuesday evening that belonged entirely to the resilience of two 39-year-old athletes, Novak Djokovic and Lionel Messi provided the sporting world with twin masterclasses in longevity. Hours after Messi galvanised Argentina to a dramatic 3-2 comeback victory over Egypt in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 in Atlanta, Djoorable response: "It would be nice to play 90 minutes like him."On the surface, it was a classic piece of Djokovic wit, delivered with the easy charm of a man who had just booked his place in yet another semi-final. Yet, beneath the humour lies a fascinating dual interpretation that captures the distinct realities of modern elite sport.To take Djokovic literally is to understand the sheer physical toll of modern baseline tennis. After five hours of brutal lateral movement on a fading Centre Court grass, the concept of a definitive 90-minute whistle must feel like an absolute luxury. In football, the clock is an absolute boundary; in Grand Slam tennis, the boundary is only found when one man breaks. Djokovic's quack was a nod to the gruelling, open-ended nature of his craft, where a single match can demand the physical output of three consecutive football fixtures.

Rupee rises 15 paise to 95.28 against US dollar in early trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

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However, there is a deeper tactical appreciation embedded in his words. To play 90 minutes like Messi is not merely about duration; it is about sustained, calculated intensity. Messi's genius at 39 relies on the economy of movement—walking for periods to read the pitch before exploding into pockets of space with devastating precision.

RBI backs crypto ban again, tax department cites tracking and tax risks: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's cryptocurrency policy remains uncertain, but internal government documents show that key authorities continue to favour tighter restrictions on digital assets. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has once again backed a policy that leans towards banning cryptocurrencies, while the Income Tax Department has raised concerns that trading through overseas exchanges is difficult to monitor, according to the documents reviewed by Reuters.The document suggests that although the government has not yet decided whether to regulate or ban cryptocurrencies, important agencies remain worried about the risks linked to virtual digital assets.

RBI WANTS STRONGER RESTRICTIONS

The RBI has repeated its long-standing view that India's crypto policy should be "leaning towards prohibition".According to documents from May and June, the central bank believes banks and other financial institutions should not be allowed to hold, trade or have exposure to cryptocurrencies or privately issued stablecoins. It believes such steps would reduce the risk of problems spreading A source familiar with the RBI's thinking told Reuters that the central bank prefers keeping cryptocurrencies outside the regulated financial system. The source spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly.to the wider financial system.Although there is currently no rule stopping Indian banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies, most major lenders have stayed away from the sector following repeated warnings from the RBI.

The hidden tricks making you spend more online: Why Sebi may finally step in

A study found dark patterns on most listed consumer transaction platforms and urged Sebi to seek self-declarations. The report casts deceptive design as both a consumer protection issue and a corporate governance risk.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The next time you're shopping online, pay close attention. If a countdown timer pressures you to complete your purchase, extra charges appear only at the final payment page, or cancelling a subscription feels almost impossible, you may not be making a completely free choice.A LocalCircles survey says these manipulative tactics, known as dark patterns, are now so widespread that 95% of listed companies with consumer-facing online platforms use them. The finding has sparked calls for Sebi to step in and make companies declare themselves "dark pattern free."According to the report, 95% of publicly listed companies in India with consumer-facing online transaction platforms continue to use one or more dark patterns, prompting calls for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to make companies declare themselves "dark pattern free" before listing or remaining listed.

WHAT ARE DARK PATTERNS?

Dark patterns are digital design techniques that influence consumers into making choices that benefit the company rathThese could include automatically adding products to a shopping cart, making subscription

cancellations deliberately complicated, displaying misleading discounts, hiding charges until the final payment page or repeatedly nudging users with messages suggesting that an offer is about to expire.While many consumers experience these tactics regularly, most do not realise there is a formal term for them—or that regulators are increasingly viewing them as deceptive business practices.er than the user.The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) first issued guidelines against dark patterns in 2023. More recently, Sebi proposed a Common Advertisement Code (CAC) for entities it regulates, specifically banning the use of dark patterns in financial advertisements and investor communications.

95% OF LISTED COMPANIES FOUND USING DARK PATTERNS

The LocalCircles study analysed more than 310 digital platforms using consumer complaints, public social media feedback and its proprietary AI-powered dark pattern detection engine.

New EPFO portal is here. What does it mean for your PF account?

EPFO has given its digital platform a major upgrade, bringing all key PF services under one roof. But how will this benefit crores of EPF members? Let's have a look.

New Delhi. (Agency)

If you've ever struggled to navigate multiple EPFO portals or wondered why your PF claim was taking so long, there is some good news. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has rolled out its new centralised digital platform, making it easier for members to access services and manage their provident fund accounts. The organisation is also set to begin crediting more than Rs 1.44 lakh crore as interest for the financial year 2025-26 to over 34 crore accounts within the next week.essi's assist anThe upgraded system is expected to offer a smoother and

faster experience for members. Full implementation of the new platform will begin this week after the completion of the scheduled 'blackout period'.

A MAJOR SHIFT FROM THE OLD SYSTEM

Until now, EPFO operated through a decentralised system, where regional offices functioned independently. Members often had to depend on the specific regional office where their account was maintained to access services or resolve issues.

With the launch of the new platform, that system has changed. EPFO has moved to a centralised model, allowing member services to be processed at any EPFO office across the country. This is expected to make service delivery faster and reduce delays caused by office-specific processes.d goal.

PF INTEREST CREDIT PROCESS HAS BEGUN

The organisation has also started the process of crediting interest on Employees' Provident Fund deposits for the financial year 2025-26.

ITR filing alert: 7 tax rules every intraday and F&O trader should know

New Delhi. (Agency)

Buying and selling shares has become easier than ever. Many people now actively trade in stocks, while others try their hand at intraday trading or futures and options (F&O) to earn extra income. But when it comes to filing income tax returns, trading income is treated very differently from normal investment gains.

For Assessment Year (AY) 2026-27, traders need to be more careful than before. The Income Tax Department has introduced additional disclosure requirements in the latest ITR forms, especially for those earning through intraday and F&O trading. Filing the wrong return or reporting income incorrectly could lead to notices, delays or unnecessary compliance issues later.Here are seven important tax rules every intraday and F&O trader should know before filing their income tax return.

PICKING THE RIGHT ITR FORM IS THE FIRST STEP

One of the biggest mistakes traders make is selecting the wrong ITR form.If you earn income from intraday trading or F&O transactions, you will generally have to file ITR-3. This is because the Income Tax Department treats intraday trading as speculative business income, while income from F&O trading is considered non-speculative business income.

ITR-2 is meant for taxpayers who only have capital gains from investments, while ITR-1 is available only for taxpayers meeting specific eligibility conditions. Choosing the wrong form can delay processing of your return and may invite further queries from the tax department.

UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR TRADING INCOME IS CLASSIFIED

Not every stock market transaction is taxed in the same way.If you buy shares and sell them later as an investment, the profit is normally taxed under capital gains.

AI boom turns into gloom: South Korea slips into bear market, falls 20% from peak

New Delhi. (Agency)

Not long ago, South Korea and Taiwan were the biggest stars of the global artificial intelligence (AI) rally.Investors were piling into semiconductor stocks, betting that the AI boom would continue to fuel explosive earnings growth. The rally was so strong that Asian markets overtook India as some of the world's best-performing equity markets this year.South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index entered bear market territory on Wednesday after falling more than 20% from its record closing high of 9,114.55 on June 22. The benchmark tumbled over 5% during the session as investors dumped AI-linked chip stocks despite Samsung Electronics reporting record profits.The selloff wasn't confined to Seoul. Technology stocks dragged Wall Street lower overnight, with the Nasdaq Composite falling 0.6% and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index losing nearly 5%, extending its decline to around 13% over the past month.The sharp reversal suggests investors are beginning to question whether the AI rally that has powered global markets for the past year can continue at the same pace.

FROM AI DARLING TO BEAR MARKET

The speed of the correction has caught investors by surprise.On June 22, the KOSPI had closed at an all-time high of 9,114.55, fuelled by optimism surrounding AI infrastructure spending and booming demand for advanced memory chipLess than three weeks later, the benchmark has fallen more than 20% from that peak, a level widely considered by market participants to confirm that a market has entered bear territory.

Trading was extremely volatile on Wednesday. The KOSPI initially recovered to trade as much as 1.8% higher before reversing sharply to fall as much as 6.1%, forcing authorities to trigger a "sidecar" trading curb that temporarily halted algorithmic trading.s.

US-Iran tensions are back: So, is gold going up?

Whenever tensions flare up in the Middle East, gold usually grabs investors' attention. But with the US-Iran conflict back in focus, is the yellow metal finally gearing up for a rally?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Whenever there is geopolitical uncertainty, gold is usually the first asset investors turn to. So, with fresh hostilities between the United States and Iran making headlines again, many expected the yellow metal to rally. But that hasn't happened yet. Instead, gold prices have remained under pressure as traders weigh rising oil prices, inflation worries and expectations around US interest rates.

At around 12.15 pm, MCX Gold was trading at Rs 1,45,121 per 10 grams, down Rs 271 from the previous close, showing that investors are still taking a cautious approach.as a classic piece of

Djokooal.

WHY ARE GOLD PRICES UNDER PRESSURE?

Market sentiment weakened after reports of fresh strikes by both the US and Iran raised fears of another escalation in the Middle East. The conflict has once again brought attention to the possibility of disruptions in the region's oil supplies.

As crude oil prices climbed, concerns over inflation returned. Higher oil prices often feed into overall inflation, which can prompt central banks to keep interest rates elevated for longer. That has made investors rethink their bets on gold.At the same time, the US dollar has strengthened, making gold more expensive for overseas buyers and limiting demand.

INFLATION FEARS ARE OUTWEIGHING GOLD'S SAFE-HAVEN APPEAL

According to Dr Renisha Chainani, Head – Research at Augmont, the recent geopolitical developments have changed market expectations around inflation and interest rates.

"Gold and silver are trading on a weaker footing, as worries about inflation and higher interest rates resurfaced after fresh US strikes on Iran pushed oil prices and the dollar higher, just ahead of the Fed's June meeting minutes. This fresh flare-up put the interim US-Iran peace deal at risk and sent oil prices climbing, reviving inflation concerns and boosting the case for another rate hike," Chainani said.She added that investors were also waiting for more clarity from the US Federal Reserve.

"Investors were also waiting on the minutes from the Fed's June 16-17 meeting, due later today, for fresh clues on where interest rates are headed under Chair Kevin Warsh. Markets have now pushed up the odds of a September rate hike to over 63%, up from around 57% just a day earlier," Chainani said.The expectation of higher interest rates has reduced gold's appeal in the short term, despite rising geopolitical tensions.

Kriti Sanon

Reveals Why She Froze Her Eggs While Gaining Weight For Mimi: 'Best Gift You Can Give Yourself'

Actor Kriti Sanon has opened up about choosing to freeze her eggs, revealing that she made the decision while preparing for her National Award-winning film Mimi. The actor shared that she underwent the procedure during a phase when she had to gain weight for the role, making it easier to deal with the physical changes that come with egg freezing.

Speaking to Karishma Mehta on the Humans of Bombay podcast, Kriti revealed that the decision had been on her mind for some time after someone encouraged her to consider it. “I am saying this for the first time. I froze my eggs. Very smartly, I did it during that time when I had to gain weight for Mimi. It makes you bloat, and I was anyway gaining weight. I spoke to someone who told me this is the best thing you can do for yourself if you can. It’s the best gift that you can give yourself. It stayed on my mind. Then, when I was told to gain weight, I thought this was the right time to do it," she said.

Why Kriti Chose That Time

Kriti said freezing her eggs while preparing for Mimi made practical sense. The procedure involves hormonal injections, which can cause temporary bloating. Since she was already gaining weight for the film, she felt it was the right time to go ahead with it.She said the decision had been on her mind after someone advised her that egg freezing was “the best gift" she could give herself if she had the option. When Mimi required her to put on weight, she decided to do it then.

What Is Egg Freezing?

Egg freezing, or oocyte cryopreservation, is a medical procedure in which a woman’s eggs are collected, frozen and stored for future use. Many women choose to freeze their eggs to preserve fertility and keep the option of having biological children later in life.

About Mimi

Released in 2021 and directed by Laxman Utekar, Mimi follows the story of a young aspiring actor who agrees to become a surrogate mother for an American couple in exchange for money to fulfil her dreams. However, her life takes an unexpected turn when the couple decides not to take the baby after learning about a possible medical complication during the pregnancy. The film also starred Pankaj Tripathi, Sai Tamhankar and Manoj Pahwa and received praise for its emotional storytelling and performances. Kriti’s performance earned her the National Film Award for Best Actress at the 69th National Film Awards, making it one of the biggest milestones of her career.

Neha Dhupia's

Debut International Project '52 Blue' To Open The London Film Festival On July 9

Actor Neha Dhupia is all set to mark a major milestone in her career as her first international feature film 52 BLUE gears up to open the prestigious London Indian Film Festival with its European premiere at BFI Southbank on July 9.The film has received an overwhelmingly positive response for Neha’s striking transformation and powerful performance. Audiences and critics alike have praised the emotional depth of the film, making 52 BLUE one of the most anticipated showcases at the festival this year.

Adding to the excitement, globally celebrated football icon Lionel Messi is also associated with the film, further amplifying international attention around the project. The film’s global appeal, coupled with its emotionally rich storytelling, has made it a standout title on the festival circuit.

Neha Dhupia will be attending the grand premiere in London alongside acclaimed actor Adil Hussain and the ensemble cast of the film. The premiere is expected to draw international cinema lovers, industry veterans, and members of the South Asian film community from across the globe.

Speaking about this special moment, Neha Dhupia shared, “52 BLUE will always be an incredibly special film for me because it marks my first international project, and to see it opening a festival as prestigious as the London Indian Film Festival feels surreal. As actors, we constantly seek stories that move us, challenge us, and stay with us long after the camera stops rolling, and this film did exactly that for me. The response to the trailer has been deeply encouraging, especially the love coming in for my character and performance. It reassures you that audiences are connecting with the emotional world of the film."

She further added, “To have our European premiere at the iconic BFI Southbank is a huge honour for the entire team. Sharing this moment with such talented co-actors like Adil Hussain and the rest of the cast makes it even more memorable. The association of someone as globally admired as Lionel Messi with the film has also brought an incredible spotlight to the project internationally. I genuinely cannot wait to experience the audience reaction in London and celebrate this journey with everyone who has been part of bringing 52 BLUE to life."

Punjabi Singer Jasbir Jassi Claims Satluj Was Downloaded 'Multiple Times' On WhatsApp In US

Even after being removed from Zee5 in India, Diljit Dosanjh-starrer Satluj continues to find viewers outside the country. Punjabi singer Jasbir Jassi has now claimed that the film is being circulated widely through WhatsApp, especially among audiences in the United States.

Speaking to Jassi said that while Satluj is no longer available on Zee5 India, people in the US and other countries are still able to watch it. He also claimed that the film has been downloaded and shared extensively on WhatsApp.

Jasbir Jassi Says Satluj Is Being Shared Widely On WhatsApp

Jasbir Jassi said that the film has reached people through informal sharing after its removal from the OTT platform in India.“People in America can watch it, and so can viewers in the rest of the world. I’ll also tell you that people have shared it on WhatsApp so extensively and downloaded it so many times that I don’t think any film has ever appeared on people’s WhatsApp 10, 12, or even 15 times," he said.

His comments come amid the ongoing outrage over the film being pulled down from Zee5 India shortly after its release.

Jasbir Jassi Questions Satluj’s Removal In India

Jassi also questioned why Satluj was removed in India. According to him, there was nothing in the film that justified such a move.“I don’t understand why it was banned. There was nothing in the film that warranted a ban. If any government, agency, or police department believes it portrays the police as helpless, then I would say it is not about helplessness, but about incompetence and serious misconduct," he said.

The film, directed by Honey Trehan, is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra and has remained surrounded by controversy for years.

Satluj Was Earlier Titled Punjab 95

Originally titled Punjab 95, the film was submitted to the Central Board of Film Certification in 2022 but remained stuck in the certification process for nearly three years.

'Shah Rukh's Commitment Was With Farah Khan': Ahmed Khan On Why His Film With SRK Never Happened

It was in 2004 that choreographer Ahmed Khan marked his directorial debut with Lakeer: Forbidden Lines starring Sunny Deol, Suniel Shetty and John Abraham. But not many know that his first film as a director was supposed to be produced by and star Shah Rukh Khan. Speaking exclusively to News18, Ahmed spills the beans on the plot of the film and why it never got made.

“At that time, before Lakeer, I had written a film called Sabr. The film was supposed to star him in a double role. AR Rahman also agreed to compose the music. It was a story of a grandfather and a grandson – when he was born, his grandfather was no more but he knew everything about him as he had heard stories of him when he was in his mother’s womb. It was an emotional story," he says.

Shah Rukh was set to play both the parts in the film. And that year, the superstar was set to launch both him and Farah Khan. “When I told Shah Rukh about it, he said he would want to do the film. I was in a haste to make it. Shah Rukh was launching two choreographers as directors under his production that year – Farah and me. At that time, it was called Dreamz Unlimited," he recalls.

They story had instantly struck a chord with him. “Shah Rukh heard my script and he loved it. It was a serious film. Rahman had begun working on its music. It was supposed to star two other heroes," Ahmed shares. But what happened after that? “His commitment was towards Farah first. Basis my understanding, my film would happen only after Farah’s. I couldn’t jump the queue," he says.

“But her film kept getting pushed. It got delayed by about two years because Shah Rukh had other commitments to fulfill, and making a film takes a lot of time. I was getting restless. I was all set to start my film. And then, finally, Main Hoon Na went on floors. It would’ve easily taken them a year or a year-and-a-half to finish it. I couldn’t have waited that long," Ahmed adds.

While Shah Rukh had requested Ahmed to wait a little longer, the latter couldn’t and he left and began working on Lakeer.

“I remember speaking to Shah Rukh and him telling me, ‘Don’t go anywhere. Your first film has to be with me.’ He spoke to me like an elder brother would and his words touched my heart," states the Baaghi 2 and Welcome To The Jungle director.

Can your Beauty Salon harm you?

If you're planning on some post party indulgence, here's why you should think twiceIf you're planning on some post party indulgence, here's why you should think twice

The quickest way to pamper yourself is to indulge at the salon. However, a recent study claims that a simple fish pedicure that involves tiny toothless carp nibbling away at dead skin could spread deadly infection and disease. And that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. So, if you have intentions of stopping by the salon for a beauty treatment, read on.

Skin-tillating? ...not at all! If you have a weak immune system, or condition like diabetes and psoriasis in particular, experts advise you to stay away from your local beauty parlour. They warn of the dangers of contracting Hepatitis C from the use of unsterile scissors (through a nick during a haircut or even a manicure). A website even reports how American singer Paula Abdul suffered a long and painful thumb infection she picked up at a Los Angeles nail salon and testified before legislators in support of a bill to increase nail salon health standards.

"If a person is already infected with a bacterial or fungal infection and warts or molluscum (viral) and bleeds into the water in the tank, then there definitely is a very chance this could be passed to another client, either via the fish or contaminated tank water; if this not taken care of it can be harmful," says skin expert Dr Krupa Amonkar. In addition, there is a danger of contracting the Hepatitis c virus from unsterile scissors either through a nick during a haircut or during a slip that draws blood in a manicure. A website reports how singer and American Idol judge Paula Abdul suffered long, painful thumb infection that she apparently picked up at a Los Angeles nail salon and testified before legislators in support of a bill to increase nail-salon health standards. Mike Comins, chairman of the British Association of Cosmetic Doctors, says: "Hepatitis C is a robust virus that can live outside the body for quite a long time and may not display any symptoms at all. It can linger for decades, increasing your risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer. It's very contagious and not routinely tested for." Adds skin doctor Rita Shah, "One has to be careful. If the instruments are not sterilised properly, there's a risk they could spread blood-borne infections." Hair and now! Ever thought a simple blow dry could nix it for you? That's apparently that case.

You can actually suffer 'asphyxiation' from a Brazilian Blowdry as a major ingredient in the straightening treatment dubbed the Brazilian, or permanent, blowdry is said to be formaldehyde. And inspite of certain restrictions on the amount of the chemical that can be used, and new formaldehyde-free formulations, certain firms are still selling products that can cause breathing difficulties and other unpleasant side-effects. That's a scare, not counting smaller woes like head lice from dirty brushes! And don't forget hot wax has the potential to be seriously dangerous if it's not handled properly or even a stroke from a washbasin! If you have managed to just end up to with a crick in your neck and shoulder after a shampoo, count your blessings. Research indicates that the position in which you have to hold your neck while being shampooed over a basin could, in a few cases result in a stroke, known as Beauty Salon Stroke Syndrome. The result can be dizziness, facial numbness, and even a blood clot in the brain. This is especially dangerous for those with high blood pressure. The warning signs are out, next time you might want to do a re-think before your hairdo or manicure.

Tattooing

etiquette and tips for newbies

If you belong to that shrinking breed of people who've never been inked, you're probably still contemplating that oft-repeated question of tattoo virgins: Does it hurt? Get past the temporary pain once you've set your mind on getting inked, and decide on the design.

Finding a good tattoo artist is half the job done, yet there are things even the most professional ones might withhold from you. Here are some of them:

Tattoos hurt... a little The pain you will experience while getting a tattoo is relative, and a lot of it is in the mind. Says tattoo artist Lama, "I've had body builders who start crying once the needle pierces the skin and middle-aged women who doze off while they are getting a tat." If you are confident in your artist and excited about the design, experts say that you're more relaxed and the pain is miniscule. It also boils down to the skill of the artist. If he doesn't know the levels to push the needle, is too rough or doesn't know the level of thickness of the skin's layers, it could cause bleeding and scarring. The tattoo needle shouldn't make you bleed.

Asking for the shop minimum is an insult

The shop minimum at a tattoo parlour is the overhead costs that it takes to get you tattooed. Keeping the equipment clean and sterile costs money. This includes needles, ink and workstations. Asking your tattoo technician a question like, 'What's your shop minimum?' can dampen his mood.

Never get a tattoo in summer

Tattoo ink is made up of pigments that can fade easily when exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays. With the weather hot all year-round in Mumbai, you can't deprive yourself of tattoos. So, while your tattoo is healing, cover it up. Wear clothing while walking in direct sunlight and avoid the beach.

White tattoos are a waste

Transparent and white tattoos are a growing trend that will almost always leave you with regret. Says tribal tattoo expert Mo Naga, "You're going through the pain and healing for something that is sort of invisible. White ink falls out, gets splotchy and yellow over time. It usually ends up looking like a scar or birthmark." You don't want to go through the entire process of healing for something that looks good only for a day.

Machine users aren't tattoo artists

"There are many people around calling themselves tattoo artists because they know how to use the equipment," says tattoo artist Sunny Bhanushali. A tattoo machine is just a tool, knowing to use it doesn't make a person tattoo artist. While choosing the tattoo artist, always ask to see his finished work. A good tattoo artist will be very good at drawing, painting or any other art form. So the easiest way to find the right artist around you is to look at his tattoo portfolio and drawings.

Don't tattoo the name of anyone besides your parent or child Tattooing the girlfriend's name on your arm is risky business so hold off on name tats. Brash youthfulness, saving broken relationships, and even branding a partner as yours makes name tattoos a cover-up job. After his split with long-time girlfriend Winona Ryder, Hollywood actor Johnny Depp had to change the tattoo on his right arm from 'Winona Forever' to a weird 'Wino Forever'. The bottom line is: Young love ends, the tattoo stays.

All inks should be in disposable caps Ink, cream and other materials must be divided into separate containers for each client. Visit a tattoo parlour and you will see rows of tiny white caps on a tattoo artist's work station. Tattoo ink is placed into these caps because throughout the tattooing process, the artist has to constantly dip the tattoo needle into the colour of ink. Like old fountain pens, tattoo needles retain a tiny amount of ink on the tips that have to be constantly replenished. If they were to keep dipping the tattoo needle into a central, main pot of ink, it would cross-contaminate every client.

Have your concept ready

Says Sunny, "You need to have some concept for your tattoo. The artist will convert your idea into a creative design. If you don't have any idea about what exactly you want on your body, the artist will be at a loss about what to suggest and you might get something you regret." Also, amateur tattoo artists in the city download ready designs from internet. Don't settle for clones. Demand a custom design. It's your right to ask your artist to draw something specially for you.