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CJP protesters near Parliament, face barricades, lathicharge, tear gas

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Chaotic scenes erupted across central Delhi on Monday as security forces fired tear gas shells, resorted to lathi charges and deployed anti-riot vehicles after protesters participating in the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) 'Chalo Sansad' march attempted to breach security barricades in the high-security zone surrounding Parliament. The protest, which coincided with the opening day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, witnessed repeated clashes between demonstrators and police as authorities enforced one of the largest security operations in the national capital in recent months. The initial scuffle broke out near Jantar Mantar after protesters breached police barricades to begin their march towards Parliament. As the protest intensified, agitators attempted to push through multiple barricades erected in the high-security area near Parliament. A scuffle ensued, during which several protesters and police personnel sustained minor injuries. Protesters and police clashed at

multiple locations, including Jantar Mantar, Constitution Club, Rail Bhawan, Shastri Bhawan, Janpath, Connaught Place and near the Reserve Bank of India, as thousands of demonstrators converged on central Delhi despite extensive security arrangements.



Near Shastri Bhawan, security forces fired tear gas shells after several protesters attempted to break through barricades to reach Jantar Mantar and join the Parliament march. With the Monsoon Session underway inside Parliament, security was further intensified around the Parliament complex. Rail Bhawan, located adjacent to Parliament, witnessed a

massive deployment of Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel as protesters attempted to move towards the high-security zone. Security forces used tear gas shells to disperse demonstrators and prevent them from advancing towards Parliament, while multiple layers of barricades remained in place to secure the route. Visuals from Rail Bhawan showed tense scenes as large crowds gathered while police repeatedly made announcements asking protesters to disperse. As sections of the crowd attempted to move past barricades, security personnel intensified crowd-control measures, using tear gas and later resorting to lathi charges to push back demonstrators. Clashes also broke out near the Constitution Club, where security personnel baton-charged protesters and fired tear gas shells to disperse the gathering after demonstrators attempted to march towards Parliament. Another group of CJP protesters reached the area near the Reserve Bank of India, close to Parliament, where they raised slogans before security personnel used mild force to disperse them and prevent them from entering.

Assam floods worsen as 57,000 affected, Army and Air Force on standby

Guwahati. (Agency)

The flood situation in Assam worsened on Sunday, with one person dying and the number of affected people rising to more than 57,000 across seven districts, officials said. The state government has asked the Army and the Air Force to remain on standby for possible evacuation and rescue operations in the worst-hit areas.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said four ministers have been sent to Upper Assam to supervise rescue and relief work in the three worst-affected districts.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the latest death in Sivasagar has taken this year's flood toll in the state to five.

The ASDMA said more than 57,100 people have been affected by the floods in Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts. Charaideo is the worst hit with nearly 24,000 people affected, followed by Dhemaji with 22,000 and Dibrugarh with 4,000. Till Saturday, nearly 24,000 people were affected across four districts.

In a social media post, Sarma said the government had requested the Army and the Air Force to stay ready to support the state administration. "As the flood situation in Sivasagar, Charaideo and Jorhat continues to worsen, the Assam government has requested the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force to be on standby to support evacuation and rescue operations, if required," he said.



Man accused of killing 4-year-old shot dead in encounter after attack on police

Anand. (Agency)

A man accused of kidnapping and murdering a minor girl was killed in an encounter in Gujarat's Anand district after he allegedly attacked police personnel with a concealed knife while trying to escape from custody, an official said on Monday. Two policemen were injured in the attack on Sunday night. The accused, whom the police shot in self-defence, later died during treatment, Inspector General of Ahmedabad Range Raghavendra Vatsa said.

"A person accused of kidnapping and killing a minor girl has been killed in an encounter as he tried to escape after attacking police with a concealed knife on Sunday night. Two policemen received injuries in the knife attack," Vatsa told reporters.

Police identified the deceased as Suresh Parmar, in his late 20s. He was accused of kidnapping and murdering a four-and-a-half-year-old girl from Vasad in Anand district.

Kerala man handed death sentence for killing 2 while out on bail in murder case

Chennai. (Agency)

A court in Kerala on Monday awarded the death penalty to a 61-year-old man convicted in the sensational 2025 Nenmara double murder case, describing the crime as falling within the "rarest of rare" category.

Palakkad Additional Sessions Judge Kenneth George sentenced Chenthamara to death for the January 27, 2025, murders of his neighbour Sudhakaran and Sudhakaran's mother, Lakshmi, at Pothundi near Nenmara. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 20 lakh on the convict. The court found Chenthamara guilty under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for murder and Section 126(2) for wrongful restraint. While pronouncing the sentence, the court observed that the case warranted capital punishment as the convict had killed multiple members of the same family.

The double murder took place shortly after Chenthamara was released on bail in January 2025 in connection with another murder case. He had previously been arrested for the 2019 killing of Sudhakaran's wife, Sajitha, whom he allegedly held responsible for his marital problems.

DMK MLA arrested over remarks against CM Vijay; party cries 'political vendetta'

Chennai. (Agency)

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)'s MLA, GV Markandayan, was arrested on Monday after a complaint alleged that he made defamatory and threatening remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay during a recent public meeting. Markandayan, a three-time MLA, was taken into custody by police from his residence in Thoothukudi district, triggering protests by his supporters, who raised slogans against the police action. He was later formally arrested.

The case stems from a complaint filed by a



functionary of the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), who alleged that the legislator made derogatory and threatening comments against the Chief Minister while addressing a public

gathering in Kovilpatti on July 18.

Police registered an FIR against Markandayan under Sections 351(3) (aggravated criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult intended to provoke a breach of peace), and 353(2) (statements or false information promoting enmity, hatred or ill will among groups) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A video of the arrest, which has circulated widely on social media, shows Markandayan telling police that he could not be arrested without the permission of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker because he is a sitting MLA.

How BJP has got Congress, SP to speak language of Sanatan ahead of UP polls

Just months ahead of the 2027 UP polls, the alleged Ram Mandir donation theft has given the Congress and Samajwadi Party a potent weapon. But in trying to corner the BJP over Ram and the Ayodhya temple, the Opposition is fighting on the issue that the saffron party turned mainstream.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The road to power in Lucknow in 2027 is not only passing through villages, caste equations and welfare schemes, but it is winding through the temple town of Ayodhya. There's an addition to the chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and the stories of karsevaks — the alleged donation embezzlement at the Ram Mandir. Uttar Pradesh's upcoming Assembly election is still months away. The political vocabulary is taking shape. Now, even the opposition in the state, the Samajwadi



Party (SP), and the Congress are speaking about Sanatan Dharma. The only question remains who is going to get to define it. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

has treated Hindutva as an emotional thread that stitches together welfare, governance, and political identity. From the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya to the revival of pilgrimage centres, from projecting Yogi Adityanath as a saffron-clad administrator to presenting Uttar Pradesh as the epicentre of India's civilisational resurgence, the BJP has successfully shifted the state's political conversation. The opposition stood firm and opposed the BJP's ideology for decades, but they were forced to engage with it.

Feeling fine, allow me to leave and join CJP march: Sonam Wangchuk to hospital

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sonam Wangchuk, in a handwritten note to Safdarjung Hospital, said he was feeling 'very fine' and that his health parameters were normal, urging the authorities to allow him to leave so he could join the CJP's Parliament march.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday wrote to the authorities at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, saying he was feeling "very fine" and requesting permission to leave the hospital, even if temporarily, so that he could participate in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)'s 'Sansad Chalo' march to Parliament. In a handwritten letter addressed to the Director of Safdarjung Hospital where he has been admitted since July 18 after being shifted from Jantar Mantar on the 21st day of his fast, Wangchuk said his health parameters were normal and urged the authorities to allow him to join the protest. "This is to state that I am feeling very fine today and my health parameters are also showing as quite normal. Hence, I request you to kindly allow me to

leave the hospital, even if temporarily, so that I can join the March to the Parliament, Sansad Chalo this morning," Wangchuk wrote.

"I shall be most grateful," he added. Sharing



the letter on social media, he questioned why restrictions had been placed on his movement if the police maintained that the activist had not been detained.

"Sonam Wangchuk is trying hard to see you all! Just submitted a letter to the hospital as his health is good and they claim he is not in detention. So why the restrictions?" a message on his X handle read. The letter came shortly after the Safdarjung Hospital authorities said, in a medical update, that Wangchuk's vital parameters remained stable, while his blood parameters continued to require close clinical observation.

"Sonam Wangchuk continues to receive comprehensive medical care at VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital. His vital parameters remain stable. Blood parameters continue to warrant close clinical observation. Wangchuk remains under continuous medical management and the close supervision of a multidisciplinary team of experts," the latest health bulletin said.

News box

Construction of public toilet stalled, locals seek restoration of greenbelt in Gurgaon Sector 5

Noida.(Agency)

After construction of a public toilet in the greenbelt at the entrance of Sector 5 was halted following objections from residents, they are now pushing for the partially built structure to be entirely demolished and the greenbelt restored. Residents said they do not want the project to resume at any point.MCG began construction in March but halted work after residents argued that the proposed site was part of the sector’s greenbelt and should not be used for permanent construction. Work, however, resumed last week, prompting residents to write to the civic body again. An official from MCG said, “The work has been stopped. No decision has been made on the demolition of this structure. We will hold discussions with residents and try to reach an amicable solution.”Former RWA president Dinesh Vashisht said residents are not against the idea of a public toilet, but the location chosen for building one. “We want the greenbelt restored and the toilet shifted to a more suitable location, for instance, the market area close by,” he said. “Just like the conditions of many other public toilets in the city, if the facility is not managed well or remains neglected, it could lead to unhygienic conditions and safety concerns for residents,” Vashisht added. Another resident, MG Yadav, said leaving the structure in place could result in resumed construction and reassented that the civic body should choose an alternative location after consulting the residents. “The greenbelt is an important public space and should be preserved. MCG should remove the structure completely and identify an alternative site after consulting residents,” he said.

4 months & counting: Botanical Garden, not Kashmere Gate, is Delhi Metro’s busiest station

Noida.(Agency)

Botanical Garden has overtaken Kashmere Gate to become the busiest station in the Delhi Metro network, signalling a shift in commuter movement towards Noida.The Blue Line-Magenta Line interchange recorded an average daily footfall of 2.7 lakh passengers in June, ahead of Kashmere Gate’s 2.6 lakh, while Rajiv Chowk ranked third at 2.1 lakh. Officials said the surge reflects Noida’s growing importance as a residential and employment hub, with ridership expected to rise further once the station is linked to Aqua Line.For decades, Kashmere Gate and Rajiv Chowk dominated the rankings because of their central location and multiple interchanges. But expanding residential neighbourhoods, corporate hubs and seamless regional connectivity have steadily pushed commuter traffic towards Noida.

The trend has been building fo months. DMRC data shows Botanical Garden has held the top spot since March. It recorded average daily ridership of 2.6 lakh in March, 2.8 lakh in April, 2.6 lakh in May and 2.7 lakh in June, consistently staying ahead of Kashmere Gate and Rajiv Chowk.

Civil rights activists, academicians express solidarity with labour movement

Noida.(Agency)

Civil rights activists, academics, students and artists on Sunday demanded the release of Noida and Gurgaon workers, along with students and artists arrested by UP Police in connection with the April 13 labour agitation.

At a convention in Delhi, participants resolved to pursue the workers’ cause through legal and social channels, and discussed forming a coalition of labour unions and student organisations to carry the campaign forward.

The gathering, ‘Workers’ Movement in Noida and Gurgaon – Labour Rights, State Repression and the Challenges Ahead,’ was organised by Campaign for Release of Workers and Activists of Noida (CaRWAN) at HKS Surjit Bhavan. Participants also backed the ongoing students’ movement led by Cockroach Janta Party at Jantar Mantar demanding govt action on the NEET paper leak.

Retired JNU professor Nivedita Menon said the core issue went beyond wage demands to the basic dignity of workers. Citing findings by independent researchers Navsharan Singh, Atul Sood and Rakhi Sehgal, she described conditions inside factories as “inhumane”. “From making the stand on the tables to restricting a woman worker going to the washroom even when she is menstruating, the stories of these workers are heart-wrenching,” she said.Bhavana Industrial Area Workers Union and Delhi Domestic Workers Union sent written messages of support read out at the convention.

Long-stalled Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway link widening gets govt’s nod

Noida.(Agency)

Haryana govt has given the go-ahead to a crucial road project that has remained stalled for nearly a decade. The widening of the arterial road connecting Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway with Naurangpur is finally set to begin, with chief minister Nayab Singh Saini approving the proposal for construction of the master road between sectors 78 and 80.The work is expected to commence in the first week of Aug after the project is awarded to a contractor, officials said. The project — costing Rs 29 crore — includes a six-lane main carriageway, service roads on both sides, a central verge, footpaths and

roadside surface drains to improve stormwater management. The main carriageway will be 9.9 metres wide, while each service road will measure 5.5 metres. Officials said the project is expected to take at least two years to complete.The 2.4-km road links Naurangpur with Rampura Chowk on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and serves as the primary access route for residents of sectors 78, 79 and 80. Despite being critical arteries, the existing road is only about 5.5 metres wide, resulting in frequent traffic bottlenecks, safety concerns and long delays as vehicular movement increased rapidly over the years. Under the approved plan, the corridor will be developed with an 84-metre

right of way. The stretch also carries heavy traffic bound for Tauru and Nuh, making it one of the busiest connecting roads along the NH8 corridor.The decision was taken at a meeting of the high-powered purchase works committee held late on Monday evening. Officials said the project is expected to substantially improve connectivity between the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and the rapidly developing residential sectors in New Gurgaon while easing traffic movement towards Tauru and Nuh. A senior GMDA official told TOI, “The govt has granted the financial approval for the project. We will now award the work to the agency. Once completed, the widened road will

improve connectivity to the new sectors. At present, the road is narrow, with some stretches reducing to just five metres in width. It will now be developed into a six-lane corridor. The issue of waterlogging will also be addressed through the construction of surface drains.”Residents have welcomed the govt’s decision, saying the widening was long overdue. Dhirender Singh, a resident of Mapsko Mount Ville, said the existing road infrastructure has failed to keep pace with rapid urban development in the area. “The project has been pending for years. People have been allowed to move into these sectors, but the road was never upgraded, causing daily inconvenience.

Clogged drains, stagnant water trigger dengue fear in Indirapuram

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Abhay Khand in Indirapuram have expressed growing frustration over deteriorating civic conditions, blaming incomplete work by GMC for escalating public health risks. They alleged that contractors have abandoned ongoing projects, leaving clogged drains, stagnant water, poor drainage and accumulated waste that could trigger dengue and malaria outbreaks.“The contractor has abandoned the work midway, leaving conditions ripe for the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes. Water is pooling during the rains, causing inconvenience to residents and leading to severe traffic jams on the road,” said Sanjay Kumar, a resident of the area.“When GMC took over, we anticipated a prompt and

effective resolution to our long-pending grievances, from overflowing sewers and waterlogging to dilapidated roads and rampant encroachment,” said Rajendra P Joshi, RWA general



secretary of Abhay Khand. “Regrettably, nearly 24 months later, we are confronting a reality that is far grimmer: our infrastructure and safety have deteriorated significantly, not improved.”He added that sewer

overflow problems have worsened, drains are clogged and sanitation arrangements are inadequate.Many residents now believe GDA would have handled essential tasks more effectively. The growing sentiment reflects a deepening loss of faith in GMC’s civic management.With frustration growing, residents are urging all RWAs, social groups, and citizens to come together and find a practical way to solve these urgent problems. “If these issues are not resolved promptly, we must consider conveying our concerns to the administration and elected representatives through proper channels,” said Joshi. He added that residents want more than promises — they expect quality work from civic authorities to make their neighbourhood livable again.

Garbage piles, broken benches: Greater Noida park lies in neglect

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Alpha 1 in Greater Noida have raised concerns over the deteriorating condition of Ashok Vatika, saying the once-popular neighbourhood park has fallen into neglect over the last two years. They cited heaps of garbage, broken benches, poor lighting and inadequate security, adding that the park’s condition reflects the poor upkeep of public spaces across the city.“There was a time when people from many nearby sectors used to come here for walks. Today, there is no gardener, no lighting, no toilets, and no security. Out of sheer necessity, we are pooling funds to water the trees ourselves,” said Ramsharan Nagar, a resident of



Alpha 1.Members of the local social body Active Citizens Group (ACG) recently conducted an inspection of the park, finding that it was in a state of dismay. Greater Noida Authority and elected representatives have turned a blind eye to the matter, and residents have been left to maintain the premises by themselves as a result, the ACG members said.“The lack of

maintenance has led to deteriorating conditions, including drying trees and crumbling infrastructure,” said NC Sharma, another resident and a member of the ACG team.Manish Dawar, another resident, said that the park that once felt like paradise is now home to mountains of garbage. Resident Pawan Goyal said the park has turned into a refuge for anti-social elements after dark, making it unsafe for families. “Our mothers and sisters are afraid to step out. Is this the development of a ‘Smart City?’” he asked.Residents demanded that a special cleanliness drive be organised to address the garbage and accumulated leaves, repairing broken benches, footpaths, and the boundary wall.

Haryana maps 31 sacred groves for conservation, Mahendragarh tops list

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana’s initiative to conserve sacred groves has gained momentum, with six districts proposing 31 sites for recognition under the state’s Pavitr Upvan plan, announced in the 2026-27 Budget. The programme aims to formally recognise forests and woodland patches preserved for generations through religious belief, cultural tradition and community stewardship.Mahendragarh leads the list with 21 sites — more than the other five districts combined. Its proposals include temples, samadhis, ashrams and mazars across villages such as Madnola, Pali, Paladi, Dhosi, Sehma, Garhi Mahasar and Kanwi, reflecting the district’s strong legacy of community-protected sacred landscapes.Gurgaon has put forward three sites — Mata Bhuvaneshwari Devi temple at Bhondsi, Bhakt Puranmal temple at Kasan, and Baba Bilasiya Dargah at Gairatpur Bass. Officials have documented each for its religious significance, ecological value and history of traditional

protection.Faridabad’s two nominations include Mangar Bani, linked to Baba Gudariya Dass Maharaj and regarded as one of the last surviving patches of relatively undisturbed Aravali forest in the Delhi-NCR region, long shielded by customary bans on tree-felling and hunting. The second site is Narsingh Dham at Primala village.Palwal has also named two groves — 74-hectare Anajni Kund/Chameli Van at Bhulwana, tied to Lord Hanuman and 84 Kos Brij Yatra and Sati Temple at Hodal, said to have been built by Maharaja Surajmal and known for its annual fair and mature neem and peepal trees.Nuh’s two proposals, Nalhar Mahadev temple in Nalhar and Jhir forest in Jhir, are both linked to Shiva worship and span roughly three acres each. These have been flagged as forest patches sustained by local custom. Rewari has identified a single grove — Shiv Mandir Talab at Behrampur Bharangi village.

This marks Haryana’s first comprehensive attempt to inventory its sacred groves. Forest divisions

have been asked to record each site’s geographic coordinates, area, associated deity, ecological value, dominant vegetation, rituals and festivals, customary restrictions, panchayat resolutions, revenue status and recommendations from biodiversity management committees before any site is considered for notification.Documentation is still underway even as several districts have already submitted their lists. “We are compiling the data. We have received the details relating to biodiversity, local customs,” said KC Meena, Haryana principal chief conservator of forests.Environmentalists say the move could give overdue recognition to forests that have endured through faith rather than law. “Besides preserving native biodiversity, many of these groves also protect water bodies, provide habitat for wildlife and serve as repositories of traditional ecological knowledge,” said ecologist Sunil Harsana.Once notified as Pavitr Upvan, the sites will gain formal status while remaining under

community management — pairing cultural heritage.

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Delhi Govt rolls out major pothole repair drive before monsoon

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: In a major pre-monsoon preparedness initiative, the Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) on Sunday carried out a special city-wide pothole repair drive, targeting more than 2,000 identified potholes across the capital to ensure safer and smoother roads

for commuters during the rainy season. PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma personally inspected repair work at several locations and reviewed the progress of the drive. Despite it being a Sunday, engineers, field staff and maintenance teams remained deployed across Delhi to complete

priority repairs before the onset of heavy rainfall. According to PWD records, a total of 14,757 potholes were identified on PWD-maintained roads between January 1 and June 4, 2026. Of these, 12,762 potholes had already been repaired. To address the remaining locations ahead of the mon-

soon, the department launched the special drive on Sunday. Speaking during the inspection, Verma said, "PWD remains vigilant throughout the year in addressing complaints related to potholes and road maintenance. With the monsoon approaching, our focus is to ensure that roads

are in the best possible condition before the rains begin. Today's special drive reflects that commitment. More than 2,000 identified potholes are being repaired across Delhi so that commuters can travel safely and comfortably during the rainy season." The minister said the government was committed to improving the quality and durability of road infrastructure while ensuring greater accountability in construction and maintenance work. He further stated, "Road infrastructure must be built on the foundations of quality, accountability and long-term durability. Many of the potholes being repaired today are on roads constructed several years ago, where quality standards were not adequately maintained. We have strength-

ened quality-control measures and introduced greater accountability. New roads being constructed by PWD are covered under a five-year maintenance provision, under which contractors are responsible for rectifying any defects that arise during the warranty period." The Delhi

Government said the special repair drive is part of its broader pre-monsoon preparedness strategy aimed at improving road conditions, enhancing commuter

NIA conducts raids across 10 states in online radicalisation case

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted nation-wide searches across 10 states in a case of online terror radicalisation aimed at establishing an Islamic state in India through violent jihad against the democratically elected government. This was being done by promoting the ideology of ISIS and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) terrorist organisations. Law Enforcement As many as 20 locations were searched in a coordinated action by NIA teams in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi. Wednesday's searches led to the seizure of several digital devices, which will be forensically examined for further clues into the radicalisation conspiracy. Eleven accused and one juvenile have so far been arrested in the case, which the NIA had taken over from Vijaywada police in May this year. The Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh) police had originally registered the case in March following a search at the residence of key accused Rehmatullah Sharif Mohammad that resulted in the recovery of incriminating materials related to the banned terrorist organisations AQIS (Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent) and ISIS (Islamic State). The locations searched today were chosen on the basis of detailed technical analysis of the digital devices seized earlier, along with connectivity analysis of the arrested accused and other investigation findings. NIA, which is working to identify others involved in the plot to destabilise the country and establish 'Caliphate', has found that the arrested accused and their aides were engaged in indoctrination of vulnerable youth across the country through violent jihadi content and misinformation.

The accused were also in online contact with their foreign handlers to propagate the jihadi ideology and

NAME CHANGE

I MOHD SUBHAN S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN R/O 2706 MOHALLA NIYARIYAN ALJMERI GATE DELHI 110006 CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD SUBHAN

NAME CHANGE

I KADAM VIJAYA PANDHARINATH legally mother of Army No - 281240SL, Rank - Sep, Name - KADAMAJINKYA PANDHARINATH, Presently Residing, At - Nagatane Post- Nagatane, Dist - Satara, Dist - Satara, State- Maharashtra, Pin - 415519 have changed my name from KADAM VIJAYA PANDHARINATH to VIJAYA PANDHARINATH KADAM for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/02/1969 instead of my correct date of birth as 31/01/1972 Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I KIRAN ASHOK GAIKWAD legally wife of Army No - JC 462376 X, Rank - NB SUB, Name - Gaikwad Ashok Trimbak, Presently Residing At - Pimparkhed

Post- Pimparkhed, Teh - kannad, Dist - Aurangabad State- Maharashtra

Pin - 431104 in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/06/1986 instead of my correct date of birth as 31/01/1986 Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I SNEHA ASHOK GAIKWAD legally daughter of Army No - JC 462376 X, Rank - NB SUB, Name - Gaikwad Ashok Trimbak, Presently Residing At - Pimparkhed

Post- Pimparkhed, Teh - kannad, Dist - Aurangabad State- Maharashtra

Pin - 431104 in my father service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 30/08/2005 instead of my correct date of birth as 30/08/2005 Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I KASABAI legally mother of Army No - JC 462376 X

Rank - NB SUB, Name - Gaikwad Ashok Trimbak, Presently Residing At - PIMPERKHED POST - Pimparkhed, Teh kannad, Dist Aurangabad State - Maharashtra

Pin - 431104 have changed my name from KASABAI to KASABAI TRIMBAK GAIKWAD for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 09/01/1951 instead of my correct date of birth as 1939 Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NARESH SAINI S/o RAMPAT R/o R-98, 1Ind Floor, Khirki Extension, PO - Malviya Nagar, Dist. South Delhi, Delhi - 110017 have Changed the name of my minor daughter PRIYANSHI SAINI aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as PRIYANSHI.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as VANI JAIN alias VANI AGARWAL D/o RAMESH CHANDRA AGARWAL W/o AMIT JAIN R/o B C - 90 3rd Floor, West Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110089 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VANI AGARWAL.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PARVEEN KUMAR S/O PITAM SINGH R/o H. No. - C - 128, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi, Dist : North East, Delhi - 110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAVEEN KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, AMAR KUMAR SHARMA S/O Niklu Thakur R/o H.No.117/D, Gali No.2, Bhagat Singh Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad-121004, have changed my name to AMAR SHARMA permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto Known as PREM SHANKAR S/O RAJESHVER CHOUHDARY Residing at RZ G House No. 132 B, Nihal Vihar, Rangoli, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PREM SHANKAR CHOUHDARY.

NAME CHANGE

I, GOVIND S/O KANWARPAL SINGH R/O H.NO-530, NARHERA(44), GURGAON, HARYANA-122503, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GOVIND SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SHARIG S/O MUBEEN AHMED R/O H.NO- 146, Gali No- 10, Jafraabad, New Seelam Pur, DIST: North East Delhi - 110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHD SHARQUE.

NAME CHANGE

I SAYARA BANO W/O ABDUL MOHSIN R/O 1229- 32.2 ND FLOOR, FARASH KHANA DELHI 110006 have changed my name to SHAIRA KHATOON Permanently for the all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RENUKA alias RENUKA BASOYA daughter of Shri YASHPAL TANWAR, and wife of Shri AJEET BASOYA residing at H.No. 54, UGF, Kh. No.602, Near Church, Chattarpur Ext., Birla Block-A, Chattar Pur, PO: Chattarpur, District: South Delhi, Delhi-110074, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENUKA BASOYA.

NAME CHANGE

I NASHAT W/O SAMAD KAIFI R/O 1229/32 FARASH KHANA LAL KUAN DELHI 110006 have changed my name to NISHAT AFRIN Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I ZAKARIA S/O INAMULHAQ R/O H.NO 48 OLD BRIJ PURI KHUREJI KHAS KRISHNA NAGAR PARVANA ROAD DELHI-110051 have changed my name to MOHD ZAKARIA Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I SURESH SANWARIA S/O KISHORI LAL R/O I-2-194 MADANGIR AMBEDKAR NAGAR NEW DELHI-110062 have changed my name to SURESH KUMAR Permanently for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, SIKANDER PRASAD Y Father of No-15694620WV, Rank-HAV Name- SANDEEP KUMAR

SUMAN residing at VILL-ORKITTA, PO-BASBITTA, TEHSIL-SHAMBHUGANJ, DIST-KHESAR BAKA, BIHAR-813207, have changed my name from SIKANDER PRASAD Y to SIKANDAR YADAV for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1949 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1954, Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK KUMAR S/O R/O SEC-02ND FLOOR, RISHABH VIHAR, KARKARDOOMA, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110092, Have Changed My Name To DEEPAK JAIN.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAMARITY KUMARI daughter of No-15694620W Rank-HAV Name-SANDEEP KUMAR residing at VILL-ORKITTA, PO-BASBITTA, TEHSIL-SHAMBHUGANJ, DIST-BAKA, BIHAR-813207, have changed my name from SAMARITY KUMARI to SMRITI SIKHA for all future purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Vikas is the owner of House on land admeasuring 325 Sq. Yds. (10 Marla), vide Property ID No.7CVTE9L2, carved out of Khewat No.473, Khata No.664, Khasra No.221(1-13), situated in the revenue estate of Village Kharkhoda, Tehsil Kharkhoda, District Sonapat (Haryana); vide Transfer Deed (within blood relation) dated 17.03.2023 which is duly registered vide Document No.4223, Book No.I, Volume No.137/2520, pages 185.75/77 to 79, at Sub-Registrar, Kharkhoda, on 17.03.2023 and intend to mortgage the said property with Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly known as Shriram Housing Finance Limited). That the Original Transfer Deed (within blood relation) dated 22.06.2016 executed by Mr. Mehr Singh S/o. Mr. Bharat Singh in favour of his grandsons Mr. Munish & Mr. Vikas in respect of Kabristan land admeasuring 325 Sq. Yds. (i.e. 10 Marla), carved out of Khasra No.221(1-13), which is duly registered vide Document No.721, Book No.I, Volume No.87/1879, pages 64/29 to 41, at Sub-Registrar, Kharkhoda, on 22.06.2016 is Lost/Misplaced. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person, if anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100, 1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

NAME CHANGE

I,REYAZAHMAD IQBAL HUSSAIN FAROOQI, HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT R2330563 ISSUED AT DUBAIAUE ON DATE OF 12/03/2017,PERMANENT RESIDENT OFROOM NO 2 SHIVAJI WELFARE SOCIETY MOHILI VILLAGE PIPE LINE SAKINAKA MUMBAI 400072 AND PRESENTLY RESIDING AT VILLA NO 30 AL GHILAL STREET AL WATBHIA NORTH ABU DHABI UAE, DO HEREBY CHANGE MY NAME REYAZAHMAD IQBAL HUSSAIN FAROOQI TO 'REYAZ AHMAD FAROOQI', WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

NAME CHANGE

I, Surendra Singh Gousain S/O Shyam Singh R/O G-I-73A Sai Enclave Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, D.K. Mohan Garden, S/O, West Delhi, Delhi - 110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Surendra Singh

NAME CHANGE

No.2701704P Rank- Havldar Patil Vitthal Ankush of unit 4 Gdr S/O Ankush Patil r/o Gat No. 1 Plot No.06, Block No. 04 shalini Nagar pimplra, Dist - JALGAON Tahsil- Jalgaoon, Post-Jalgaoon pin-425001 declare that I want to correct name of my wife as UJJWALA PATIL in the place of UJJWALA VITTHAL PATIL in my army service records

NAME CHANGE

I, NAEED RAUNAQ NISA R/O 235, GALI GARHAIYA MATIA MAHAL, JAMA MASJID, DELHI-110006, Have Changed My Name To NAEED NISA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that, I, NEMICHAND RATHORE, S/o RAMPRAKASH RATHORE, permanently residing at KHAJOORI, AMBAHI, DIST-MORENA, MADHYA PRADESH-476111, presently residing at RZF-1/122, GALI NO-1, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI, DELHI-110045, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as REENA in my minor son's namely PRABAL RATHORE, aged 13 years in his school records. The actual name of my wife is REENA RATHOR, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice

I, Masood, son of Saeedul Haq, r/o J-381, Sunder Nagari, Delhi 93, declare that in some old documents my name is erroneously recorded as Masood-ul-Haq, whereas my correct name is Masood, which is also recorded in my Aadhar Card No. 965809910810. In future, I should be known only by the name Masood for all purpose.

Sd/-

NAME CHANGE

I, SYED MOHAMMED QASIM S/O MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN R/O 963/E TULSIPUR WASIYABAD ALLA-HABAD PRAYAGRAJ UP-211003 have changed my name to SYED MOHAMMAD QUASIM JAFRI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as CHIDIANA PRADHAN W/O LATE GANGA DIN R/O 8/275, RAJENDRA NAGAR, SECTOR-3, LAJPAT NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHIEDANA.

NAME CHANGE

I, PARDEEP KUMAR S/O CHANDER MOHAN MOHAN residing at H NO-2587, MANDIR WALI GALI, SHADIPIUR MAIN BAZAR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, have changed my name to PARDEEP SACHDEVA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-900017-N, Rank-JWO, Name-BIR BAHADUR SINGH residing at VILL-KOLKA, PO-GHANDHIR, DIST-BILASPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH-174029 have changed my wife's name from JYOTI SINGH to JYOTI KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I,VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA S/o Mohinder Pal Gupta R/o Flat No.42, GH-17, Citizen Apartments, Sector-46, NHPC Colony, Faridabad-121010, Haryana, have changed my name to VIJAY GUPTA permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I,MANSI COIRAM DHARPOYMCA HANUMAN LANE NEAR 15 ARYA SMAMAJI MANDIR HANULMAN ROAD NEW DELHI 110001, CHANGED MY NAME TO MANSI DHAR

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJU KUMAR S/O JEETA RAM R/O RAMANA RAMANI KARNAL HARYANA 132116, CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJEEV KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, NARFAM DEVI mother of No-15693200K, Rank-HAV, Name-SAN-TOSH KUMAR residing at LODIPUR, CHANDMARI, PATNA, DANAPUR, BIHAR-801503 have changed my name from NARFAM DEVI to NIRMALA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NASSER SIKANDER R/O 235, GALI GARHAIYA MATIA MAHAL, JAMA MASJID, DELHI-110006, Have Changed My Name To NASIR AHMED.

NAME CHANGE

I, FEHMINA NADEEM KHAN D/O NADEEM KHAN R/O 4270/3 ANSARI ROAD GALI NO 3 DARYAGANJ DELHI 110002, CHANGED MY NAME TO FEHMINA KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAGAR SINGH S/O MADAN SINGH BISHT R/O 284/A-22 NEHRUGALI, MANDAWALI FAZALPUR LAXMI NAGAR DELHI 110092, CHANGED MY NAME TO SAGAR SINGH BISHT.

NAME CHANGE

I satyanarayan goyal s/o dungar mal goyal r/o-50 3rd floor indrapuri new delhi -110012 changed my name to satyanarayan aggarwal

NAME CHANGE

I MOHD ZAHID S/O MOHAMMAD YASIN QURESHI R/O H NO-49 GALI MASJID WALI CHHATTA LAL MIAN DARY GANJ DELHI-110002 have changed my name to MOHD ZAHID QURESHI for all future purpose.

Public Notice

I,Priya Sharma D/O Vijay Kumar. resident of House No- 494, Gali No-4, adarshnagar, Near Nar jyoti School,Ballabgarh, Faridabad Haryana -121004 do hereby undertaking that I Priya Sharma want to change my name to Piyush Sharma. And My Gender as Male. I, Priya sharma henceforth Be known as Piyush Sharma S/O Vijay Kumar . The above statement made by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any legal issue arises in this regard at any stage, I shall be personally responsible for the same, and the Department of Publication shall not be liable for any consequences arising therefrom.

(BEDAKHAL)

I, JAI PAL Son of Shri KHACHERU RAM declare under notice that I disowned my son's RISHABH from my all movable/immovable/Patrick properties/assets for his wrong behaviour. I shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by him in money or transactions and police cases and criminal activity illegal and property purposes in the future. That he debarred from entering my premises situated at house no-45, BLOCK-14, KALYAN PURI, CHILLA SARODA KHADAR, NEW DELHI-110091.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kulwant S/o Shri Hukam Chand, R/O A-444, Gali No-2, Krishna Basti, Nabi Karim, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, S.O. Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 have changed my name from KULWANT to KULWANT KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I HADDER ALI S/O GULFAM R/O E-382 GALI NO-12 CHAND MASJID SHASTRI PARK DELHI 110053 have changed my name to HADDER for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I MOHD GULFAM S/O ISMAIL R/O E-382 GALI NO-12 CHAND MASJID SHASTRI PARK DELHI 110053 have changed my name to GULFAM for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Tajinder Singh Sabharwal, S/O Rattan Singh, R/O BE-156 Hari Nagar New Delhi —110064 I Have Changed My Name To Tajinder Singh For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE

I Pawan Singh Raparia, S/o Omprakash, House no 128, Gandhi Nagar, panchi road, ward No. 15, Ganaur, Sonapat, Haryana- 131011, I have changed my name to Pawan Singh

NAME CHANGE

I, KM. TRIPITI W/o RAM KUMAR R/O RZ-212, Gali No.16, Near Tara Apartment, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name to TRIPITI MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE

I, Udayvir Singh Pal, R/O A-27/13 C, Mata Mandir Gali No-4, Mauipur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed the name of my minor son from KANISH PAL to KARTIKEYA PAL for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 20/07/2026 sworn before the Notary Public at Delhi. In all future dealings and documents, he should be recognized and addressed by his new name, KARTIKEYA PAL.

NAME CHANGE

I GEETA W/O SUSHIL KUMAR R/O 24,M.S BLOCK RANAJI ENCLAVE PART 3RD NAJAFGARH DELHI 110043 CHANGED MY NAME TO GITANJALI.

Public Notice

It is for general information that I, RASHEEDA D/O MOHD NAIMUL HASAN ANSARI W/O MOHD SAMEER ANSARI R/O B-42, FOURTH FLOOR, BACK SIDE, SHAHEEN BAGH, JAMIA NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110025, declare that name of mine and my father's has been wrongly written as RASIDA KHATUN and MD NAMUL HASAN in my 10th & 12th Class Educational Documents, the actual name of mine and my father's are RASHEEDA and MOHD NAIMUL HASAN ANSARI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, K G M Siraji alias Khandakar G Mohiuddin Siraji S/O MD Motiur Rahman R/o P- 88-89, Top Floor, Right Side, Nafees Road, Batia House, Okhla, Jamia Nagar, PO: New Friends colony, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi - 110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as K G M Siraji

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mrs. Shabnam Choudhary W/o Mr. Usman Choudhary is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential House of area measuring 50 Sq. yds., i.e., 41.805 Sq. Mtrs., total covered area 104.5 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 632, situated Ali Prem Garden Village Pasonda Pergana Loni, Tehsil Loni, District Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Gift Deed Dated 26.05.2026, Vide Doc No. 7206, Book No.01, Vol No. 23757, on Page No. 21-40, on Dated 26.05.2026, SR, Sadar II Ghaziabad in the chain documents below mentioned document not available i.e., SMC of Late Mr. Islam died on 08.08.2025. 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 Rohini 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

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED, MR. DEEPAK JAIN AND MRS. VIMLA DEVI ARE OWNERS AND IN POSSESSION OF "ONE SHOP ON GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ITS ROOF RIGHTS WHICH IS RIGHT HAND SIDE OF PROPERTY NO. C-318, ADMEASURING 22.55 SQ. METERS KHASRA NO. 374 SITUATED IN C-BLOCK, GALI NO. 14, BHAIJANPURA, VILLAGE GHONDA GUJRAN KHADAR, ILLAQ SHAHDARA, DELHI-110053" AND ACQUIRED THE SAID SHOP VIDE SALE DEED DT. 20.05.2016 EXECUTED BY MR. MOHD. SHAHNAWAZ QURESHI AS GPA OF MRS. KISHWER BEGUM IN F/O MR. DEEPAK JAIN AND MRS. VIMLA DEVI (D.O. 841, VOL. NO. 4749, Pages 37-48 IN SRO-4-DELHI). NOW MR. DEEPAK JAIN AND MRS. VIMLA DEVI ARE GOING TO MORTGAGE THE SAID PROPERTY WITH PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST LOAN. 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 / 9958996885.

E-AUCTION FOR WATER VENDING MACHINES

E-auction catalogue for Water Vending Machines. Details are as under. **Description:** Installation, Operation & Maintenance of Water Vending Machine. **Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots):** 12:00 hrs. on **31-07-2026; Auction Close Date & Time : 15:00 hrs. on 31-07-2026. Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No.: WVVM-RNY-26-10			
Seq No.	Lot No./Category		Trips/Days
AA/1	MSS-RNY-PBL-WVM-30-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services - Water Vending Machines)		1826
AA/2	MSS-RNY-BNGN-WVM-22-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services - Water Vending Machines)		182

NEWS BOX

Andy Burnham will become UK prime minister after a meeting with King Charles III

MOSCOW.(Agency)

The moment for Andy Burnham has finally come.After weeks as U.K. prime minister-in-waiting, Burnham will take office on Monday, succeeding the departing Keir Starmer, and Britain's political turbulence will give way, at least temporarily, to smooth choreography. Burnham will become the seventh U.K. prime minister since 2016 in a now well-rehearsed handover after replacing Starmer as leader of the center-left governing Labour Party on Friday. A spokesperson said Burnham will say in his first speech as prime minister he's "acutely aware" of how many changes of leader the country has been through in the past decade, and will pledge to restore stability.Starmer said much the same when he took office two years ago. Last month he announced he would resign after missteps and judgment errors that eroded his standing with his party and the public.Burnham was the only candidate in a contest to become the party's new leader, securing nominations from 379 of the 403 Labour lawmakers in the House of Commons. On Monday morning Starmer will travel the mile from Downing Street to Buckingham Palace to formally tell King Charles III that he's resigning. Soon after, Burnham will go to the palace and Charles will ask him to form a government. He will officially become prime minister in a ceremony known as "kissing hands." The king's role harkens back to a time when the monarch exercised supreme power and chose a prime minister to run the government. Today, the king has no political power, but the monarch still officially offers the job to the leader of the party that can command a majority in the House of Commons. No hand-kissing is involved.Britain's parliamentary democracy allows governing parties to change leaders, and thus prime ministers, without the need for a general election.

A ferry carrying 133 people capsizes off Guyana’s coast, leaving dozens missing

GEORGETOWN.(Agency)

Guyana: A government ferry carrying 133 passengers and crew capsized in Guyana with 67 people rescued so far, authorities said Sunday, as a massive search and rescue operation tried to find the dozens of people still missing. The MV Barima was sailing from the capital, Georgetown, along the North Atlantic coast to Port Kaituma, said Guyanese Prime Minister Mark Phillips, who is leading the government's response.Phillips said the group that had been rescued included 41 men, 11 women and 15 children. He did not say whether authorities feared the missing passengers were dead or not. Helicopters, planes and fishing vessels are scanning a 1,000-square-mile area in search efforts.The MV Barima departed shortly after 3 p.m. on Saturday and ran into trouble shortly before midnight, officials said. A distress call was received at 11:01 p.m. (0301 GMT), which prompted a search and rescue operation involving state and private boats, Public Works Minister Juan Edghill said on Facebook.Authorities said the vessel, which makes weekly trips to the largely Indigenous communities near Venezuela, capsized near the Pomeroon River.

Pakistan Turns To Terror Playbook Amid Taliban Troubles, Crisis In PoK

world.(Agency)

From insurgency in Balochistan and uprising in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to relentless attacks by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Islamabad is battling security threats on multiple fronts. And to deal with the brewing crisis, the security apparatus under Defence Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, seems to have turned to its old playbook of cultivating terror proxies, deploying them selectively, and then performing just enough counterterrorism theatre to retain international legitimacy.Recent reports have suggested that Islamabad is extending patronage to Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), also known as ISIS-K or Daesh Khorasan, to tackle Taliban and Baloch rebels. And evidence of this was seen on June 30, with reports claiming cross-border activity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, centred on the alleged hideouts of the ISKP. "Such incidents have occurred repeatedly in recent years as Pakistan has created a plan to counter the Taliban through the other terror proxies in the region," according to the report in Tanzania-based The Citizen.

The Palestinian economy is struggling. In the West Bank, the problem is too much cash

The excess liquidity stems from a conflict between the Bank of Israel and the Palestinian Monetary Authority, which oversees Palestinian banks and financial institutions.

RAMALLAH.(Agency)

A gas station customer pulls out a wad of bills to pay for a fill-up. The cashier refuses the money, explaining that the station's bank has stopped accepting notes and coins as deposits because it already is drowning in cash.In most places, cash is king. But in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, having too much is gumming up the machinery of daily life. The Palestinian banking system has more Israeli shekels than it can

manage. As a result, paper money has gotten harder for residents to spend and for businesses to put into their accounts.The excess liquidity stems from a conflict between the Bank of Israel and the Palestinian Monetary Authority, which oversees Palestinian banks and financial institutions. Israel limits the amount of physical currency it takes back from the West Bank. Palestinian officials say the cap has not kept pace with growth and is one mechanism used to keep the territory in a state of economic crisis.Unlike in Gaza, where years of an almost total blockade have caused cash shortages, banks in the West Bank are running out of vault space to store stacks of shekels. With Bank of Israel refusing to accept more notes and coins, commercial banks can't convert the money into electronic balances to pay suppliers or

process transfers on behalf of their customers."The banks have been



shackled" in their ability to deal with the crisis, Mohammad Manasra, the deputy governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "What is being practiced in the West Bank is economic warfare."More cash enters the West Bank than Israel allows outCentral banks in most countries take back cash from commercial banks and

credit them electronically so they can settle payments and meet customers' needs. But in the occupied West Bank — where Palestinians have no say over monetary policies guiding the shekel — the economy runs differently.The territory has relied predominantly on the Israeli shekel for decades and depends on Israel to facilitate trade, collect taxes and process payments for imported goods under agreements dating to the 1990s. A surfeit of cash accumulates because the Palestinian economy runs almost exclusively on physical currency, and more enters from Israel than can exit.Why? Employers in Israel and its settlements pay Palestinian laborers in cash, and Palestinian citizens of Israel often purchase goods like cigarettes and fuel in the West Bank, bringing in even more shekels.

17 US service members have died in the Iran war, Drones target Moscow region, at least two wounded: authorities

BRIDGEWATER, N.J.(Agency)

The US military said Sunday that another American service member was killed as part of the war with Iran, bringing the total number of deaths to 17.The deaths reflect the complicated reality that American boots don't need to be on the ground for there to be lethal risks in a conflict that involves drones, missiles and airplanes. American forces are arrayed across the Middle East, making other nations targets of Iran as the fighting has escalated after a breakdown in peace talks.Presidet Donald Trump has said the war is necessary to stop n from developing nuclear weapons.First fatalities came soon

after the war startedShortly after the war began on Feb. 28, an Iranian drone strike at a civilian port in Kuwait killed six American soldiers. The soldiers were part of a supply and logistics unit based in Iowa who were working at a shipping container-style building that had no defenses.A seventh soldier died more than a week after being wounded during a March 1 attack by Iran on the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.Later in March, six service members were killed when a KC-135 refueling aircraft supporting US military operations against Iran crashed in Iraq. The aircraft was in "friendly" airspace when an unspecified incident involving another aircraft

took place, according to US Central Command.On Monday, the US military said a Navy pilot died in a helicopter crash in the Arabian Sea. The Navy initially described the July 1 crash as an emergency landing and said there was "no indication the emergency was caused by hostile action." The remaining three sailors aboard the helicopter were rescued.Drones and missiles still claiming livesOn Saturday, the US Central Command said two service members were killed in Jordan on Friday while defending against Iranian ballistic missile and drone attacks. A third service member was missing after that attack, and the military said Sunday that "unidentified remains.

MOSCOW.(Agency)

Most of the over 400 drones that targeted the Moscow region overnight were intercepted, but at least two people were wounded, authorities said Monday.Kyiv has in recent months intensified its strikes on Russian territory, describing them as retribution for more than four years of bombardments against its territory."From 8:30 pm (1730 GMT) until 5:00 am, more than 400 enemy drones were flying in the direction of Moscow region. Most were neutralised by air defence forces



at distant approaches. 85 UAVs were destroyed on approach to Moscow," Mayor Sergei Sobyenin wrote on the state-backed MAX platform. Capital region governr Andrey Vorobyov reported damage in Podolsk, Domodedovo and Odintsovo, saying that private houses and civilian infrastructure was hit."According to preliminary information, one person was wounded in Domodedovo as a result of a fire at a private house, and another on the M-4 highway, where a drone fell near a vehicle," Vorobyov said.Domodedovo Hospital also reported on Monday that six people, including three foreigners, were hospitalised with blast wounds in the Moscow region.It was unclear if those injuries were the same ones described by the governor, and whether they were linked to the drone attacks.Domodedovo is to the south of Moscow and home to an international airport serving the Russian capital.On Sunday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said that "Russia carried out one of its largest ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv" the night before, which killed one person and wounded 16.

Taiwan says 'significant' rise in China maritime activity near island

A total of 263 Chinese ships, including coast guard, rescue and research vessels, were detected in waters around Taiwan.

TAIPEI.(Agency)

Taiwan detected a sharp rise in the number of Chinese ships entering waters around the island democracy last month, a Taiwanese coast guard official said, as Beijing intensifies pressure on Taipei.China deploys military aircraft, warships and coast guard vessels around Taiwan on an almost daily basis to assert its claim of sovereignty over the island --



which Taipei rejects.Data show a "significant increase" in the number of Chinese ships conducting "grey zone harassment" in June, a Taiwan coast guard official said on the condition of anonymity in order to share the information with the media. The remarks were embargoed until Monday.A total of 263 Chinese ships, including coast guard, rescue and research vessels,

were detected in waters around Taiwan and its outer islands in June, compared with 200 a month earlier, and 171 in June 2025.The figures do not include warships."Whether in terms of the types or the number of government vessels involved in these grey-zone activities, there was a significant increase," the official told reporters.China launched "law enforcement" patrols in waters east of Taiwan last month, which Taipei has branded as "provocative" and "expansionism in disguise".Until June, China Coast Guard's presence in the Western Pacific had been largely limited to participation in military drills around Taiwan.

Russian President Putin meets with North Korean foreign minister in latest high-level diplomacy

North Korean state media said Choe departed for Russia on Saturday at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov but has yet to comment on the purpose of her visit.

SEOUL.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with North Korea's foreign minister and thanked Pyongyang for supporting his war against Ukraine, in the latest high-level diplomacy between the countries, Russian state media reported. The visit by North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui comes without an obvious occasion, such as a multilateral diplomatic event or state

anniversary, and has raised speculation that she may be coordinating a possible visit to Russia by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. North Korean state media said Choe departed for Russia on Saturday at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov but has yet to comment on the purpose of her visit.Yoon Min Ho, spokesperson for South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles affairs related to North Korea, said Monday that Seoul was closely monitoring the meetings but declined to assess whether Moscow and Pyongyang were discussing another summit between their leaders. Russia's Tass news agency said Putin during his meeting with Choe at the

Kremlin on Sunday praised the countries' bilateral relations and reiterated his "gratitude to the North



Korean leadership and people" for supporting his military operations against Ukraine. Choe told Putin that Kim remains committed to the "comprehensive development" of

relations with Russia, Tass said. Kim traveled to Russia's Far East for summits with Putin in 2019 and 2023. Putin invited Kim to visit Russia again during their summit in Pyongyang in June 2024, where the leaders signed a strategic partnership agreement pledging mutual aid if either country faces aggression.Kim in recent years has made Russia the priority of his foreign policy, sending thousands of troops and huge supplies of weapons to support Putin's war in Ukraine, possibly in exchange for economic aid and technology transfers that some experts say are helping advance North Korea's military capabilities.

Machinery malfunction kills labourer at pvt plant in Ennore; second industrial accident in one week

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 45-year-old contract worker died after a machine malfunctioned at a private fertiliser company in Ennore on Saturday evening. The deceased was identified as G Dharanitharan of Tiruvallur, who had been working at the company for the past one-and-a-half-year. According to the Ennore police, Dharanitharan was working on the inside of the machinery when it malfunctioned, causing its conveyor belt to move abruptly. “He sustained severe spinal injuries and collapsed,” a police officer said. Fellow workers rushed him to Government Stanley Hospital where he was declared dead. The police recovered the body and sent it for autopsy. “Based on a complaint, we have registered a case and a probe is under way to ascertain whether any safety lapses led to the accident. The contractor is being questioned,” the police officer added. Meanwhile, the company is in talks with the victim’s family with regard to compensation. Dharanitharan is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son, the police said. This is the second industrial accident this week within Chennai and its outskirts. On Tuesday, a 24-year-old worker from Bihar died and seven others were injured after a boiler exploded at a scrap recycling unit in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate located in Gummidipoondi in Tiruvallur.

MTC bus overturns in Sholinganallur; driver, four passengers injured

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) bus (route 99) bound for Tambaram from Adyar veered off the road and toppled in a marshland in Sholinganallur on Sunday afternoon, leaving five people, including the driver, with minor injuries. According to Pallikaranai Traffic Investigation Wing, the accident occurred around 2 pm on Perumbakkam High Road, where one carriageway has been converted into a two-way stretch due to ongoing roadworks. Police said the driver swerved left to avoid an incoming lorry and lost control of the vehicle. The bus, carrying 20 passengers, plunged nearly five feet off the road into the marshland and fell on its side. On information, the fire and rescue services personnel rushed to the spot and rescued those trapped inside. While three of the injured are undergoing treatment at a private hospital, the driver and another passenger have been admitted to the Tambaram Government Hospital. Police said none of the injuries are life-threatening. The bus was later retrieved using cranes, while traffic on the stretch remained disrupted for over an hour.

Shamshabad police book protesters for attack during bullet train land survey

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Shamshabad police registered a case against several individuals for allegedly attacking police personnel and other government officials during a protest against the proposed takeover of around 650 acres of land for a bullet train project. According to the complaint lodged by sub-inspector P Vanaja, police were deployed on July 18 to provide security to Revenue and HYDRAA officials carrying out fencing work on government land in survey Nos 28 and 62 at Bahadurguda village in Shamshabad mandal. Police said a group of protesters, who had erected a tent at Lakshmi Thanda, allegedly pelted stones and chairs at officials, threw chilli powder into the eyes of police personnel and obstructed them from discharging their duties. The complaint further alleged that while SI Vanaja was informing other personnel about the incident through her government-issued Very High Frequency (VHF) communication set, some protesters forcibly snatched it from her. During the inquiry, police identified some of the accused as Jatavath Ravinder, Jatavath Kamli, Jatavath Mani, Pamena Gayathri, Mudavath Neelamma, Elugani Jyothi and Devender.

‘Unable to achieve goal’, Kanpur B.Tech gold medallist dies by suicide; father says was addicted to online games

He graduated in electrical engineering from a college and also completed an apprenticeship at a private firm, says family

Mumbai.(Agency)

A 24-year-old B.Tech gold medallist preparing for competitive examinations died allegedly by suicide after hanging himself at his residence in Kanpur, police said. The victim, Anand Kumar, was alone at home when the incident occurred, it is learnt. Police said they recovered a purported suicide note from the room in which Anand, addressing his parents, wrote that despite repeated efforts he had been unable to achieve his goal and therefore decided to end his life. The note also stated that no one should be held responsible for his death. Police added that Anand had been distressed over his inability to secure a government job, particularly as his elder brother and sister were both employed in government



Originally from Buxar district in Bihar, Anand had moved to Kanpur and was living in Govind Nagar area for the last several years. “The family told us that Anand had been preparing for government recruitment examinations but was unable to clear them.

Police keep eagle eye on rowdy sheeters in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

To curb the activities of rowdy elements, the Bengaluru City Police have been conducting surprise raids and invoking stringent laws such as the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act, Goonda Act and externment proceedings against them. The police are also closely monitoring 2,381 active rowdy sheeters out of the 6,815 rowdy sheeters listed across the city as part of an intensified drive to curb organised crime and anti-social activities. In the last six months, the police opened 172 new rowdy sheets. According to data from the police, the city has 11 police divisions, with the East Division having the highest number of active rowdy sheeters at 518, followed by Southwest Division with 355 and West Division with 275. Speaking to , City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said the police are conducting simultaneous surprise visits to the houses of rowdy sheeters in two or three divisions at a time. This strategy is aimed at

preventing rowdy sheeters from fleeing to other areas after being alerted about police checks. During the inspections, the police verify the current occupation of rowdy sheeters, the vehicles they use and other relevant details. The Central Crime Branch also keeps a close watch on rowdy sheeters



and shares intelligence with the respective police divisions. The commissioner added that the police have initiated Preventive Action Register proceedings against rowdy sheeters by binding them with bonds to ensure good behaviour. Legal action has also been initiated against those who violated the bond conditions, he said.

Fugitive of 27 years wanted for killing 2 cops cut off all contact with Agra family, assumed new identity

Lucknow.(Agency)

He evaded arrest for 27 years by assuming a new identity in Madhya Pradesh, cutting off all contact with his Agra-based family who eventually presumed him to be dead. The decades-long hunt for Bhura, now 48, wanted for killing two police constables in 1999, ended on Saturday with his arrest from Bhopal district, police said. Acting on a tip-off, a police team travelled to Bhopal last week and placed the suspect, who had assumed the name Jamil, under surveillance for several days, officials said. He lived along with his wife and son, they added. “After an extensive search to track him down, we established his real identity. During interrogation, he admitted he is Bhura,” said Aditya, Deputy

Commissioner of Police (DCP), Agra. The DCP said police would seek his remand for further questioning, as they are still trying to recover one of the three rifles allegedly looted during an attack on police personnel in 1999.



Two of the firearms were recovered during the course of the investigation, he added. Bhura never contacted his family nor visited them during this period, police added.

Though Bhura initially denied that he was the fugitive the police were searching for, he caved in after prolonged interrogation, the officials said. According

to police, Bhura told during questioning that he had been a member of the Ramesh Kushwaha gang. In 1999, he and four other gang members, including Ramesh Kushwaha and Dhadhu, travelled to Agra in a jeep to carry out robberies and dacoities, they added.

The gang spotted three police personnel with service rifles warming themselves around a fire near Nagla Kamal crossing, the officials said, adding the criminals decided to snatch the firearms.

50 spotted deer translocated from Sasan Gir to Mandvi forest to increase prey base, reduce human-wildlife conflict

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Aimed at mitigating incidents of human-wildlife conflict, the Gujarat Forest department has translocated 50 spotted deer from the Sasan Gir Wildlife Division to the Mandvi Forest Range in Surat district. The initiative is intended to strengthen the natural prey base for carnivores, enhance biodiversity, and support long-term ecological balance in South Gujarat, an official release said on Sunday. “The translocation was carried out in three phases between May and June this year. A total of 21 spotted deer were released on May 23, followed by 16 on June 18 and another 13 on June 24, taking the total number to 50,” the release said.

Conservator of Forests (Surat Circle) Puneet Nayyar said that forest officials had carried out detailed habitat assessments to identify sites capable of sustaining the released animals. “To ensure year-round water availability, the department has developed 10 permanent water points across the release area, providing reliable drinking water for the deer,” Nayyar said. “The Forest Department has also established an intensive post-release monitoring programme. Dedicated forest guards and trained trackers are conducting continuous field monitoring, while strategically placed camera traps are being used to assess the deer’s movements, habitat use, health,



and survival in the wild,” the release said. Quoting Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia, the release stated, “...the Gujarat Forest Department

natural prey base in forest habitats is a key component of this strategy. The translocation, carried out under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, is part of the state’s long-term efforts to restore ecological balance by increasing herbivore populations in suitable forest landscapes.” Minister of State for Forest and Environment Pravin Mali said, “A healthy prey base enables predators to meet their food requirements within forest habitats, reducing the likelihood of their movement into human-dominated areas in search of prey. This, in turn, can help lower the incidence of human-wildlife conflict.”

Bengaluru: UGCET application window open till July 24

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has created a fresh application link for candidates in the state who have participated and qualified in the NEET for admissions to medical courses, but are yet to apply for participation in the Undergraduate Common Entrance Test (UGCET). The application window will remain open till July 24. Candidates who have not submitted their UGCET applications at all so far can now apply through the newly released link. KEA executive director H Prasanna said a separate link will soon be provided for candidates who have already applied for UGCET and qualified for admissions via NEET, to link their NEET roll numbers with their UGCET applications. Admissions to Medical (MBBS), Dental (BDS), Ayurveda (BAMS), Unani (BUMS), and Homeopathy (BHMS) courses will be based on NEET ranks, according to Prasanna. The KEA will soon publish details on its website (<https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/>) regarding newly registered candidates who need to attend document verification. Candidates who do not belong to Karnataka must also register on the KEA portal, pay the required application fees, and enter their higher secondary marks. They can also upload their mark sheets online; such candidates do not need to attend document verification.

Ammonia gas leak reported at Kasimedu ice factory



CHENNAI.(Agency)

A minor ammonia gas leak was reported at an ice factory in Kasimedu on Sunday evening, causing eye irritation to people in the vicinity. No injury was reported, police said. According to the Kasimedu police, the incident occurred around 7 pm. Police and personnel from the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (TNFRS) rushed to the spot after receiving information.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that a malfunction in the factory caused liquid ammonia to leak from one of the machines. A worker who noticed the leak allegedly attempted to dispose of the liquid by emptying it into a sewage drain, which resulted in the release of ammonia gas. Police said an investigation is underway to determine the cause of the machinery malfunction that led to the ammonia leak.

Race to the podium: And then there were four

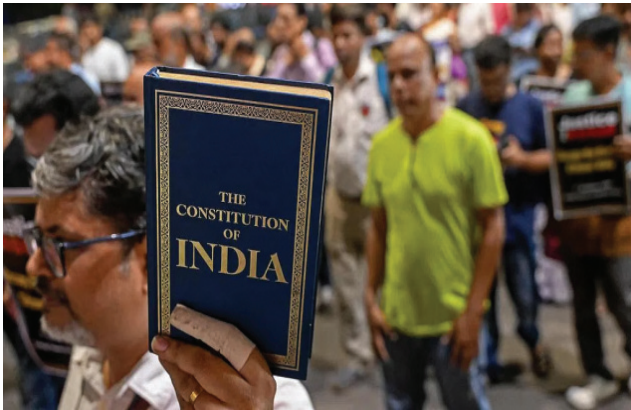
A hundred and two matches down and only two to go. Let’s bring on the countdown, the excited announcer, the tacky music and the inevitable Trumpian overtones for the last couple of times. Will Lionel Messi and his gravitational aura, for one last time, bend the arc of history Argentina’s way, or will Spain—often so frugal, at times so gossamer—further cement the current epoch as theirs?The final 90 minutes on Sunday night will be so layered, so luminous and powered by so much stardust that the spectacle itself may ultimately feel understated. That is, unless Messi & Company re-engineer the joyride of the last World Cup final, when Argentina’s talisman went head-to-head with Kylian Mbappé in a superlative six-goal thriller. This time, Messi faces the teenager Lamine Yamal, who is yet to fully explode at the tournament. What better time than the final?The showpiece event is, however, instructive for another reason. The Old World still has a firm grip on the World Cup, even in its supersized 48-team form. The scale, length, debutants, locality—three North American nations—and some early results had suggested a shift in power, or at least that the outlines of a different future. But ultimately, the illusion faded and the powerhouses reasserted authority. Nine out of 10 African teams progressed from the group stages. While that seemed a testimony to their progress, one by one they fell in the round of 32—except for Morocco. The continent’s last representative exited in the last-eight stage. The Moroccan Football Association is well-resourced and organised. Their quarter-final run proved that Morocco’s third-place finish in Qatar was no fluke. There was no shame in their elimination by France, but the makeup of Morocco’s squad highlighted part of the structural problems facing African football: 19 of the 26 players were born outside the country. Just one player of their starting XI against Brazil was born in Morocco.Congo, Tunisia and Algeria also fielded rosters with more than half the players born abroad. Tournament sensation Cape Verde selected 14 diaspora players and took Argentina to extra-time in a valiant defeat. Fifa held up the Cape Verdians as proof that they are living up to their mission statement by distributing development money. Yet, before the tournament, manager Bubista had told me that there was still a vast amount of work to do on the ground to develop the domestic league and infrastructure in the island nation. Under Fifa president Gianni Infantino, more than \$5 billion has been distributed in development money to the 211 member associations. It’s a strategy replicated from Sepp Blatter and is key to his political survival: in return for financial support, Infantino receives votes. African nations are a generous beneficiary of Fifa development money. In the 2016-2022 report on Forward Development funds, African member associations were the largest recipients, receiving \$518 million in total. But with such a heavy reliance on the diaspora to bridge the qualitative gap with Europe, it begs the question of how African federations run their national team setups and football at large in their countries. Crucially, the audits of these forward development funds are never made public.At least, Africa had a proper presence in the knockout phase. Japan had enjoyed gushing reviews from the world media, but for all their perceived mobility, agility and speed, they could not dislodge a disjointed Brazil in the round of 32. The Samurai Blues failed to defend a 1-0 lead and, as Asia’s last representative, exited ignominiously. Perhaps Japan have stagnated in recent years and Asian football at large has failed to progress. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, Uzbekistan—and even South Korea, whose campaign collapsed amid internal strife—had little business at this tournament.

The constitutional amendment we aren’t debating

Like earlier constitutional amendments linked to delimitation, the one being proposed reaches into Clause (3) of Article 81, which determines the census to be used. None touches Clause (2)(a), which determines the relation between a state’s population and its representation

The BJP wants to amend the Constitution. The 131st Amendment Bill and its companion Delimitation Bill do essentially one thing. They change which census we count. Seats today are frozen to the headcount of 1971.The Bill will be fought clause by clause, state by state, party by party. Parties are being broken to find a two-thirds majority. Everyone is arguing about which census, whose headcount. Whichever way the vote falls, we will not have debated the one sentence that decides the outcome. Article 81 in the Constitution is the reason for this major upheaval in India’s politics. The BJP wants to amend it to reflect an increase in total number of seats that would automatically trigger a delimitation exercise.Clause (2)(a) of Article 81 says: seats shall be allotted to each state so that “the ratio between that number and the population of the state is, so far as practicable, the same for all states”. That is the engine. Clause (3), that all parties are debating, is merely the footnote—it tells you which census the word “population” happens to point to.Now look at what we have actually amended in 75 years. The Forty-second. The Eighty-fourth. The Eighty-seventh. Every one of them reached into Clause (3) and changed a census year. Not one has ever touched Clause (2)(a). The current Bill before Parliament does the same thing again. We are about to hold a constitutional war over the definition of a word.The word is not the problem. The rule is. Article 81 does not merely say population matters. It says population—and nothing else—decides a state’s voice in Parliament.Why should that be so? Begin with what Parliament is for. Its first power is the power of the purse. The Union cannot raise a rupee or spend a rupee without Parliament’s sanction, and Parliament’s central task is to scrutinise both halves of that—how the money comes in, and where it goes. Population is a fair proxy for one half. A state with more people needs more schools, more trains, more grain. That is real, and it should count. But it is a proxy for one half only. On the other side of the ledger sits the question of who actually fills the kitty—and there, population is not a good proxy. Over the four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26, Maharashtra averaged 21.7 percent of India’s total

GST collections while carrying 9.1 percent of its people. Karnataka: 8.8 percent of the tax, 4.8 percent of the people. Tamil Nadu: 8.8 and 5.5. Now run it the other way. Uttar Pradesh, with 17.1 percent of Indians, contributes 6.7 percent of GST. Bihar, with 9.3 percent of the population—one in eleven Indians—contributes 1.9 percent. Madhya Pradesh, 6.3 percent of people, 2.7 percent of tax. So Parliament exists to watch how the Union’s money is raised and spent. Its composition reflects only the spending side. The raising side—the entire other half

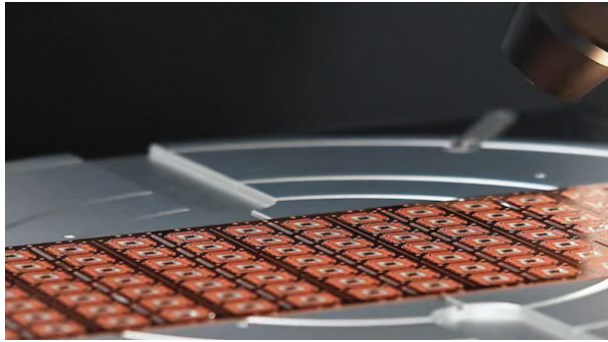


of its own mandate—counts for zero. Why should one side of the ledger be worth everything and the other worth nothing?uppose it were not. Suppose Article 81(2)(a) allotted seats on two factors instead of one, weighted equally: a state’s share of the population, and its share of what it puts into the national tax pool. I did the arithmetic—population as projected for 2026, GST averaged over the last four years, 50-50.The Lok Sabha would look like this. Maharashtra 84 seats, up from 48. Uttar Pradesh 65, down from 80. Gujarat 39, up from 26. Karnataka 37, up from 28. Bihar 30, down from 40. West Bengal 32, down from 42. Telangana 19. Kerala 15. And Tamil Nadu—39 seats. Exactly what it holds today.Look at what leaps out of this exercise: it is not a southern story. The biggest gainer by a mile is Maharashtra, and much of that is Mumbai booking tax the rest of India generates, an artefact of where head offices sit rather than where value is made. Gujarat and Haryana gain too. Kerala and Andhra still lose. Any

New mission hits right note with boost for chip design, research

The country's much-ambitious Semiconductor Mission 2.0 is a humble attempt to shift India from a services-led design base to be a creator and producer of microchips that drive everything from devices to defence equipment

India's ambitious microchip production plans got a second wind with Semiconductor Mission 2.0. At ₹1.28 lakh crore, the sum is nearly twice the allocation in the first phase and extends the mission to a wider ecosystem, from design to fabrication and packaging. Importantly, it will focus on domestic production of chips and related materials, along with the development of Indian intellectual property. The latter is crucial given that over a fifth of the world’s chip design workforce is in India; it will help elevate our standing in the global technology space. Moreover, if the first phase established the foundational infrastructure for fabrication and assembly, the second shifts focus towards deepening domestic capabilities through indigenous design, specialised materials and industry-led research centres. It means, Semiconductor Mission 2.0 is a humble attempt to shift India from a services-led design base to be a creator and producer of microchips that drive everything from devices to defence equipment.



During phase one, the scheme attracted about four fabrication units, though production is expected to begin only after 2028. Besides, all the planned units will produce chips built on a 28-nanometre process, as against the 3-7 nm range needed by advanced technologies including artificial intelligence and supercomputers. Though the proposed production line is not cutting-edge,

domestic production of even 28 nm range will help withstand supply shortages like those seen during the pandemic when global pipelines stalled for a few weeks caused massive losses. Now, the global semiconductor market is witnessing a massive, AI-driven supercycle that is projected to exceed \$1-1.5 trillion in size. China, South Korea and Taiwan dominate the production chain at present, operating specialised, capital-intensive foundries, while the Indian market is projected to surge to over \$100 billion by 2030.For a growing market, local production offers security and scale. In particular, India’s critical aerospace and defence industries will benefit as several semiconductor parts for their equipment are currently imported. But as a recent Niti Aayog report noted, our semiconductor ecosystem is not equipped to meet domestic demand and efforts to strengthen local manufacturing need significant capital. Currently, the government is offering over 50 percent subsidy for chip production plants. But besides capital, efforts should be made to ensure policy continuity..

Should Sonam Wangchuk be left to die

➤THE GREAT GAME: He continues to fast at Jantar Mantar, unmoved by the political shenanigans around him

ABOUT a stone’s throw away from Jantar Mantar in the heart of Delhi, where Sonam Wangchuk is on a hunger strike, sits the Parliament of India, now preparing for its monsoon session on July 20. Wangchuk’s fast, aimed at securing the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, has entered its 21st day today. He could die “in two days,” said a public interest litigator two days ago, if he doesn’t get any food inside his system soon. A medical team is now at hand, several Opposition leaders are telling Sonam to end his strike, saying he’s made his point, but a heavy silence continues to hang in the heart of Delhi.Should Sonam Wangchuk be left to die? After all, no one asked him to go on a fast-unto-death, demanding Pradhan’s resignation. Some would say the strike has the flavour of blackmail, others that it’s a cry of hopelessness in a world ruled by powerful people. Certainly, Wangchuk & Friends believe that someone should be held responsible for the avoidable NEET mess which has affected lakhs of students. That some heads should roll — otherwise what was the point of all the sound and fury if it was going to signify nothing?In Wangchuk’s vicinity, at the same Jantar Mantar space, on the day the monsoon session begins, Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is planning a day-long protest over Delhi’s refusal to commit to statehood. Omar hasn’t got permission yet to hold the protest. Moreover, his party MP from Srinagar, Agha Rihullah Mehdi, has just accused Omar of going back on his promise to fight for the return of Article 370. Special status for Kashmir, Mehdi has thundered, is far more important than statehood.Blame it on the weather. It’s so hot that cynicism reigns, especially when the rains fall, as they seem to be doing. Perhaps the gods are angry. There’s been thieving in Ayodhya too.Does Mehdi’s rant, then,

indicate that he’s so angry with Omar he may even split the National Conference (NC)? Maybe Mehdi will bide his time and hope to flip the coin on dynasties. Or he could remain inside the NC, but vote in favour of the BJP whenever it plans to bring back the Delimitation Bill that seeks a 33% women’s quota in an expanded Parliament — make no mistake, the Bill seeks to reshape constituencies and therefore how India votes, including a fundamental overhaul of the Lok Sabha.To undertake such an overhaul, a cursory reading of the Constitution will tell you, the BJP-led NDA needs a two-thirds majority — this means 360 out of 543 seats in the Lower House, of which today it has 293. If it wants to bring back The Bill, which was defeated on the floor of the House only in April, it needs to persuade another 67 to fall in line.And as the one and only Chanakya once said, everything is fair in love, war and politics. That’s why the decimation of the TMC helps — as many as 20 MPs out of 28 have floated an independent party that will support the BJP from outside; as does the annihilation of the Shiv Sena (UBT), where six out of nine MPs have left to join the pro-BJP Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena; while the awful fear persists in Sharad Pawar’s NCP that it will be destroyed if it doesn’t vote in favour of the Delimitation Bill. That’s how, even though the monsoon clouds have failed to gather, the 18th Lok Sabha has already been significantly recast. When the monsoon session opens on Monday, it will look very different from the one that

was elected two years ago by we, the people, and all without firing a ballot.In some states, like in J&K, the story is easier. The NC only has 2 seats out of 5 in the state — 2 belong to the BJP and one, Engineer Rashid



from Baramulla, is an Independent MP. If Mehdi is amenable and Engineer Rashid can be persuaded — who in their right minds this 21st century isn’t in favour of gender equality? Note that Rashid has been given permission by the Delhi High Court to attend Parliament only two days ago.Perhaps it’s time to re-read your favourite Julius Caesar. Back in Bengal, TMC leader Madan Mitra, who swore fealty to Mamata Banerjee and called the leader of the TMC breakaway faction Ritabrata Banerjee names that would make animals in the animal kingdom blush — has, one day later, jumped

ship and joined Ritabrata Banerjee. It reminds me of stories of why Punjab’s MPs who once belonged to AAP, quietly caved in. (They wanted to live happily ever after.)Mitra denies his great leap forward has anything to do with the fact that the Enforcement Directorate questioned his family the day before he jumped. TMC MPs, the few that remain, say the ED has been busy in Bengal. Certainly the ED has been busy in Punjab, slowly wiping out corruption, one politician at a time — former AAP minister Sanjeev Arora has just been charged with a huge scam in mobile phones.As for Sharad Pawar, if he’s nervous about what the next 24 hours will bring and whether he will be left holding the rump of the NCP, Omar Abdullah has come out and accused the BJP of trying to break his party, saying MLAs are being offered Rs 20-30 crore to switch sides. The BJP has responded by sending him a legal notice for Rs 100 crore.Meanwhile, Sonam Wangchuk continues to fast at Jantar Mantar, unmoved by the political shenanigans around him. The rest of the nation, bewildered by this real-life demonstration of satyagraha, is being forced to turn its attention towards this man — who is he, anyway? And could he die if some food doesn’t go inside his system?As for Rahul Gandhi, this much must be said for the Congress party’s most powerful leader. After returning from a three-week summer holiday, he clearly has one thing in common with the BJP : Both have nothing to say on Sonam Wangchuk.

Five people killed, one injured as truck rams car near Wardha

Wardha. (Agency)

Five people were killed and one sustained serious injuries after an Eicher truck rammmed into a car from behind on the Samruddhi Expressway near Wardha district in Maharashtra on Monday, police said. The accident occurred at around 6 a.m. when the truck hit the car from the rear, leaving the vehicle badly mangled. Four occupants of the car, including the driver, died on the spot, while another succumbed to injuries during treatment. One injured person has been admitted to a nearby hospital, where his condition is stated to be critical. Police, highway patrol personnel and rescue teams rushed to the spot, extricated the victims from the wreckage and shifted them to a hospital. A case has been registered and investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. The name of the deceased and injured couldn't be ascertained till the filing of the report. Further details are awaited.

Nurpur Police arrest woman proclaimed offender in two NDPS cases

Dharamshala. (Agency)

Nurpur Police have arrested a woman who had been declared a Proclaimed Offender (PO) in two cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, marking a major breakthrough in the district's anti-drug campaign. According to an official release issued by the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Nurpur, the district's PO Cell arrested Rajesh Kumari (50), wife of Rakesh Kumar and a resident of Tamota village in Indora tehsil of Kangra district, from Tibba in Ludhiana, Punjab, on July 18. The accused was wanted in FIR No. 123/2019 and FIR No. 38/2020, both registered under Section 21 of the NDPS Act at Indora Police Station. She had earlier been declared a Proclaimed Offender by the competent court.

Following her arrest, the accused underwent a mandatory medical examination at Civil Hospital, Indora. Her son was informed of the arrest over the telephone, after which she was handed over to the Investigating Officer at Indora Police Station for further legal proceedings. Police said the accused will be produced before the competent court on Monday. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Nurpur, said the drive against proclaimed offenders would continue and that no person attempting to evade the law would be spared.

Punjab: Debt-ridden farmer commits suicide in Sangrur,

Sangrur. (Agency)

A 45-year-old farmer, allegedly distressed over a debt of around Rs 20 lakh, died during treatment after consuming sulphas tablets in Punjab's Sangrur district, police said today. The deceased, identified as Darshan Singh, son of Dalip Singh and a resident of Khadial village, allegedly consumed the poisonous substance in his field. He was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Sunam, where he succumbed during treatment. According to the farmer's brother, Satnam Singh, Darshan Singh owned around three acres of agricultural land and is survived by his wife and three children. He said the farmer had borrowed money from banks, commission agents and other sources to meet cultivation expenses and family needs as farm income remained insufficient. The family alleged that the outstanding debt had mounted to nearly Rs 20 lakh, leaving him under severe financial stress for a prolonged period. Sub-Inspector Balkar Singh, in-charge of Mehlan Chowk police post, said proceedings under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were initiated on the statement of the deceased's son, Amrik Singh. Further investigation is underway, he added. Meanwhile, leaders of the Bharatiya Kisan union (Ekta-Ugrahan), Ram Saran Singh Ugrahan and Sukhpal Singh Manak Kanakwal, expressed grief over the incident and urged the Punjab government to waive the deceased farmer's entire debt and extend adequate financial assistance to the bereaved family.

25 transfers in 20 years: Meet Tukaram Mundhe, the IAS officer Mumbai's restaurants fear

Mumbai. (Agency)

Every working day between 4 and 5 pm, the door to the commissioner's office at Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Bandra Kurla Complex opens to anyone who walks in. On the afternoon The Indian Express visited, the owner of Noor Mohammadi, the century-old Mohammad Ali Road institution, was there with his son, the restaurant's fourth-generation custodian. Days earlier, the FDA had suspended their licence. They had come to understand how to get it revoked. Many who arrive with that question end up going to the commissioner himself. Getting an audience with Maharashtra's FDA Commissioner, Mumbai's food industry has learnt, is easy. Getting leniency is not. In his first official press

note after taking charge, Mundhe declared: "No leniency whatsoever will be shown by the administration to any person or establishment that plays with the health of the public." In the weeks since, the department's enforcement drive has sought to demonstrate exactly that. Since taking charge on May 25, the FDA has carried out 1,131 inspections across Maharashtra, averaging more than 20 a day. It has seized food stock worth Rs 49.57 crore, including 1.6 lakh litres of allegedly adulterated milk, invoked the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against organised gutkha networks, and suspended the licences of 56 restaurants. Not just any restaurants. Among those facing action were the 73-

year-old K Rustom & Co., Noor Mohammadi, Shalimar, Aditya Birla New Age Hospitality's Waarsa and Flint, run by chef Rahul Akerkar and most recently the

indiscriminate use of stringent criminal laws against small retailers. But for Mumbai, the arrival of its new FDA Commissioner was first visible not through inspections, but through WhatsApp. An almost-silent FDA media group suddenly began buzzing with a steady stream of press notes, photographs and videos documenting raids across Maharashtra. The first press note under Mundhe's charge issued on May 28, three days after he assumed office, announced a statewide drive against food adulteration. It referred to him as "Shri Tukaram Mundhe". Both details would prove telling.



110-year-old Parsi Dairy Farm. The crackdown has also prompted statewide protests by pan shop owners, who allege

Leopard spotted inside Ahmedabad housing society, rescue operation underway

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Panic struck a residential neighbourhood in the Ghuma area of Ahmedabad early Monday morning after a leopard was spotted roaming inside a housing society. Following the sighting of the big cat, emergency teams from the Gujarat forest department and Kankaria Zoo rushed to the spot to launch a massive rescue and capture operation. Confirming the development, Ahmedabad Mayor Hitesh Barot said the sighting occurred at Sharandeeep Society in Ghuma at the dead end of VIP Road. Speaking with The Indian Express, Barot said, "The leopard sneaked into the society late in the night. A girl from the society saw the leopard around 1 pm. After that, all the members of the society gathered. And eventually, the leopard was spotted in the CCTV of the society at around 2.45 pm."

"A team each from Kankaria Zoo and the state forest department rushed to the spot to carry out the search and rescue operation," Barot added. "The leopard was recently sighted near House No. 20 of the



society. The operation to safely trap and relocate it is currently underway and should be completed shortly." The mayor confirmed that no injuries to residents or domestic animals have been reported so far. Ghuma is a rapidly developing

residential hub of southwestern Ahmedabad adjacent to the Sanand town of Ahmedabad district which is emerging as auto and semiconductor hub of Gujarat. Rise in human-leopard conflicts

The sighting of the big cat comes at a time when instances of human-leopard conflict are increasing in Gujarat. In April, a man from a village in Chhota Udepur district wrestled a leopard with his bare hands, forcing open its jaws, and rescuing his four-year-old daughter from death. In January, a four-year-old girl was attacked by a leopard near her house in Dang district's Dahar village, and she died during treatment at the Valsad Civil Hospital later. In February, The Indian Express covered the issue of leopards on the prowl in detail, talking to several experts.

SIT to probe Ahmedabad blast & fire that killed 9, cracker unit owners held

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A day after nine persons were killed and six others injured in a blast and fire at a firecracker factory in Ramol area, the Ahmedabad city police on Sunday arrested three persons who were running the illegal unit. Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut said that the licence of the firecracker unit had expired in March and that the accused were illegally operating it for the past 20-25 days, taking advantage of police's preoccupation in the bandobast for Rathayatra (held on July 16).

The three arrested accused have been identified as Ramila Dodiya, her son Mehul and their partner Sadiq Saiyyed. They are expected to be produced before a court in Ahmedabad on Monday. Addressing a press conference, Gahlaut said Mehul was operating the firecracker unit and his mother Ramila was handling its administration. "This (unit) was ordered to shut on March 4, 2026. And it was completely shut. It was being checked from time to time. However, for the past 20-25 days, taking advantage of police's preoccupation in Rathayatra, they had brought labourers

from different parts of Dahod district and were making (firecrackers). ...they got orders of firecrackers from some places in connection with the upcoming immersion ritual of Lord Ganesha (Ganesh Visarjan). And these people were making (the firecrackers) from there. And the blast happened," Gahlaut said. "It has also come to notice that in 2014, when Ramilaben was operating a firework unit at the same place (from the year 2013), one person had died in a fire incident. She was arrested and her licence was cancelled.

Woman kills alcoholic husband, buries body beneath bathroom floor; skeletal remains found after 45 days

Chandigarh: In a chilling case from Uttar Pradesh's Agra, a woman has been arrested for allegedly murdering her husband, burying his body beneath the bathroom floor of their home and then allowing police to search for him for nearly 45 days after a missing person's complaint was filed. The accused, identified as Ruby Sharma, was arrested after police recovered the skeletal remains of her husband, Surendra Sharma (45), from beneath the concrete floor of the bathroom at their residence in Renuka Dham Colony under the Sikandra police station limits. According to police, Ruby allegedly killed Surendra on May 26 and buried his body in a pit inside the bathroom before sealing it with concrete in an attempt to conceal the crime. Assistant Commissioner of Police Amisha said the case took a dramatic turn during the investigation into Surendra's disappearance. Police had been probing the missing person's complaint when Ruby allegedly confessed to the murder, leading investigators to the hidden burial site. The skeletal remains have been sent for post-mortem examination to establish the exact cause of death. During interrogation, Ruby allegedly told investigators that she had suffered repeated domestic violence at the hands of her husband. Police said Surendra was unemployed, addicted to alcohol and frequently returned home drunk, allegedly assaulting his wife. The family reportedly relied on the pension of Surendra's mother for their household expenses. According to the police, Ruby claimed she decided to kill her husband after he allegedly assaulted her again on May 26. Following Surendra's disappearance, his brother, Anil Sharma, lodged a missing person's complaint with Sikandra police. Investigators continued searching for him for nearly recovered the skeletal remains. A neighbour, Gaurav Dixit, said the couple frequently argued and that Surendra, a native of Bharatpur, had been living with his family in Renuka Dham Colony for around nine years. Residents had repeatedly asked Ruby about her husband's whereabouts after he went missing, but she allegedly kept avoiding their questions, he said.

The three arrested accused have been identified as Ramila Dodiya, her son Mehul and their partner Sadiq Saiyyed. They are expected to be produced before a court in Ahmedabad on Monday. Addressing a press conference, Gahlaut said Mehul was operating the firecracker unit and his mother Ramila was handling its administration. "This (unit) was ordered to shut on March 4, 2026. And it was completely shut. It was being checked from time to time. However, for the past 20-25 days, taking advantage of police's preoccupation in Rathayatra, they had brought labourers

from different parts of Dahod district and were making (firecrackers). ...they got orders of firecrackers from some places in connection with the upcoming immersion ritual of Lord Ganesha (Ganesh Visarjan). And these people were making (the firecrackers) from there. And the blast happened," Gahlaut said. "It has also come to notice that in 2014, when Ramilaben was operating a firework unit at the same place (from the year 2013), one person had died in a fire incident. She was arrested and her licence was cancelled.

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER KATHIAR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KIR/Engg/32 of 2026; Dated: 13-07-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.1. Brief Description of Work:** ABSS- Aluabari Road Jn. Provision of Approach Road and improvement of Circulating Area at Main entry side. Tender Value: ₹4,77,46,752.08; Bid Security: ₹9,54,900.00. E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 10-08-2026 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 10-08-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 10-08-2026 in website <http://www.iरेps.gov.in> DRM (Works), Kathiar **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers with a smile"

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
E-Tender Notice No. DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-1R1-26-27 Dated: 16-07-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the president of India are invited for the works as detailed below: **Name of work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of VRF AC units for three years at Maligaon under SSE/AC/Maligaon. **Tender Value:** ₹1,58,84,650.44/- **Earnest Money:** ₹2,29,400/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** At 15.00 hrs. on 06-08-2026. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website www.iरेps.gov.in Dy.CEE/PS/MLG/HQ **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers With A Smile"

IMPROVEMENT OF STATION APPROACH ROAD AND DRAINS ETC.
E-Tender Notice No.: 29W-2/APDJ, Dated: 14-07-2026; E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.: 09-AP-III-2026; Name of Work:** Improvement of station approach road and drain at Carron, Nagrakata, Station circulating area at Malbazar with Mastic Surface, Replacement of PP shed roof with precast galvanized iron profile sheet roofing and toilet with overhead water tank at Odlabari. **Tender Value:** ₹2,86,49,470.30/- **Earnest Money :** ₹5,73,000/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** At 15:00 hours and opening of tender at 15:30 hours on 05-08-2026. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.iरेps.gov.in DRM (W), Alipurdwar Jn. **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers With A Smile"

DIVERSION & MODIFICATION OF HT AND LT LINE
Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/CON/NJP/08/2026. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. E-C-N-S-02-26-27-DL-RT. Name of work:** Diversion & modification of HT (33KV & 11KV) and LT line across and along the railway track at different locations between Aluabari Road Junction & Thakurganj railway station, Thakurganj & Siliguri Junction & New Jalpaiguri railway station for clearing electrical infringement with proposed double line. **Tender value:** ₹7,50,46,399/- **Earnest Money:** ₹15,00,900/- **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At 15.00 hrs. on 06-08-2026. The complete information and tender document of above e-Tender will be available at www.iरेps.gov.in Dy.CEE/CON/New Jalpaiguri **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** (Construction Organisation) **Serving Customers With A Smile**

BRIDGE WORKS
E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/06 /2026/MLG Dated: 15-07-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the president of India are invited for the works as detailed below: **Tender No. DCBL052026MLG. Name of work:** Fabrication, supply & Replacement of open web steel bridge girder of span of Br. No. 209 DN (7x45.7m) at km 178/7-179/0, Br. No. 240 DN (2x45.7m) at km 197/9-198/0, on the section Chautara-Jorai by 2ST Loading under. SSE/BR/ Bongaigaon. **Approximate Tender Value:** ₹28,75,35,417.20/- **Earnest Money:** ₹57,50,700/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** At 15.00 hrs. & opening at 15.05 hrs. of 07-08-2026 at Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge-Line/Maligaon, Guwahati-781011 (Assam). The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website www.iरेps.gov.in (NOTE: Girder for Br. No. 240 DN (2x45.7m) for a quantity of 268.66 MT will be fabricated from EWS/ Bongaigaon as per workshop bridge policy vide L/No: 2014/CE-III/BR/ Bridge workshop policy dated 08-06-2016). Dy.CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY** "Serving Customers With A Smile"

A Yo-Yo Monsoon In India Is Threatening Crops And Power Grid

El Nino and global warming are causing erratic monsoon rainfall in India, disrupting crop sowing, rural incomes and driving up power demand.

Delhi. (Agency)

An intensifying El Nino and global warming are driving a shift in India's monsoon rainfall, creating more erratic weather patterns that threaten to dent agricultural output and strain power grids. This year's monsoon opened with India's fifth-driest June on record and rainfall almost 40% below normal levels, followed by a sudden deluge early this month - when about a month's worth of precipitation was dumped on cities like Mumbai in a single week.

Since then, the weather system has stalled into another break, with national rainfall about 24% lower than usual for the time of year as of July 19. "The number of rainy days and how they are distributed used to be smoother. That's how farmers developed their crop calendars over the years," said Raghuram Murtugudde, visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and an emeritus professor at the University of Maryland. "Global warming combined with El Nino makes



the atmosphere act like a sponge that soaks a lot of water and then pours it all in one place." With roughly half of the country's farmland still dependent on rainfall for irrigation, swings between dry spells and violent downpours are disrupting

summer crop sowing, jeopardizing rural incomes and raising risks of higher food costs. At the same time, the sudden monsoon pauses are trapping urban corridors in stifling humidity, driving up power demand for cooling. "India's monsoon is a long season, so obviously it has a pulsating effect, but this time it's behaving a bit more aberrantly," said G.P. Sharma, president of meteorology at private forecaster Skymet Weather Services. "It has become a little mysterious." The erratic shifts are being dictated by steering currents 20,000 feet to 25,000

feet above sea level. Rain-bearing systems are encountering atmospheric blocking patterns at that altitude, causing monsoon depressions to stall or to deflect off course, according to Sharma. Unlike last monsoon, which largely traveled along its normal path, the current one is not following that track. It is getting blocked," he said. The prolonged breaks in typical monsoon rainfall are being exacerbated by the impacts of El Nino, which is forcing air over the subcontinent to sink rather than rise, according to Murtugudde.

UP minister stokes row with population remark after 5 killed in house collapse

New Delhi. (Agency)

A controversy has erupted over apparently insensitive remarks made by Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Dev Agarwal after he linked a fatal house collapse in Muzaffarnagar to concerns over population growth. His comments came after a mud house in the district caved in amid heavy rainfall.

A 52-year-old man and his four children were killed in the incident, which took place on Sunday. Those who lost their lives have been identified as Islamuddin and four of his children – eight-month-old Zeeshan, two-year-old Ahad, five-year-old Alshifa, and 12-year-old



Rukhsar. Two other children from the same family sustained serious injuries and are undergoing treatment at the hospital. While visiting the survivors at the hospital, Agarwal spoke to the media and said, "The population is increasing. People get permanent houses, and then another new family is formed. Now they have nine children, so the government also has its limitations." The comments triggered a controversy. He, however, said that the government was working towards providing permanent houses to everyone and said that fulfilling this objective was also a leading priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Janakpuri school faces regulator heat

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government has issued a show cause notice to the management of a private school in Janakpuri following safety violations, illegal branch operations, and financial irregularities. On April 30, a nursery class girl child was allegedly sexually assaulted in the school's pre-primary wing.



The government has directed the Directorate of Education (DoE) to take the strongest possible action against the school's managing trust and its leadership. The school has been given seven days to reply, failing which the proposed severe actions will be initiated immediately. A multi-phase official inquiry conducted by a DoE committees said that there was a complete breakdown of administrative, financial and moral responsibility at the school, besides covering up sexual molestation. When the police visited the pre-primary branch to investigate the crime, all 64 CCTV cameras installed on the premises were found to be non-functional. The school has been illegally operating its nursery and KG classes from a private residential building in Narang Colony without any authorisation.

SC stays HC order permitting Devangana Kalita to inspect unrelieved-upon documents in Delhi riots case

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Delhi High Court order allowing Delhi riots accused Devangana Kalita to inspect documents not relied upon in the alleged larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 violence.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi issued notice to Kalita on a plea filed by the Delhi Police challenging the June 5 high court order. "You will not conclude your arguments even in 10 years, and then you say there is delay in trial," the bench observed orally. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, submitted that Kalita is not entitled to any document until charges are framed.

"They can't ask for any other

document. What is the purpose of inspection at this stage?" Raju asked. Kalita's lawyer referred to a Supreme Court judgment and said the list of documents that are not relied on



must also be furnished prior to framing of the charge. After hearing the parties, the Supreme Court bench issued notice to Kalita and stayed the Delhi High Court order. The matter will now be heard after two weeks. On June 5, the high court had lifted its earlier stay on framing of charges

in the alleged larger conspiracy case related to the 2020 riots and allowed the trial court to pass a final order. The high court had vacated the court's order while dismissing Kalita's plea seeking direction to the police to provide her certain videos and WhatsApp chats in relation to the case. The court, however, allowed a separate petition by Kalita and permitted her to inspect unrelieved-upon documents in the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) case. Kalita had moved high court in 2023, claiming that Delhi Police had commissioned certain persons to record the February 2020 protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens, and the footage should be supplied to her before the trial court proceeds to hear the arguments as it would.

DDA plants over 6L saplings, logs 30% target under drive

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has achieved nearly 30 per cent of its target under its Mega Plantation Drive within days of its launch, planting over 6.62 lakh saplings, including more than 37,000 trees and 6.25 lakh shrubs, officials said.

The plantation drive is being carried out under the guidance of Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who has consistently emphasised ecological restoration, environmental sustainability and the expansion of Delhi's green

infrastructure. The progress of the drive is being closely monitored to



ensure effective implementation and the long-term survival of the saplings. The L_G has directed all departments to ensure continuous monitoring so that the planted saplings survive and

contribute to the city's green cover. The plantation campaign began in the first week of July and will continue till mid-September 2026. It focuses on planting native and climate-resilient species to improve biodiversity, strengthen carbon sequestration, enhance microclimatic regulation and increase ecological connectivity across Delhi's green spaces. According to the DDA, the initiative is also expected to improve air quality, support groundwater recharge, create habitats for wildlife and enhance the overall urban environment.

NGT pulls up authorities over illegal dairy farms on Yamuna floodplains

New Delhi. (Agency)

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the authorities concerned over the continued operation of illegal dairy farms on the Yamuna floodplains, observing that its earlier directions have not been fully implemented. A Bench comprising NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad directed the MCD and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to file fresh action taken reports after finding continued violations despite clear directions issued earlier. The order was passed on July 15 while hearing a petition alleging that authorities had failed to implement the Tribunal's April 2024 directions for the removal of illegal dairy farms from the



Yamuna floodplain, including those in Chak Chilla village near Mayur Nature Park. The Tribunal examined a status report submitted by the DPCC following inspections in the protected O-Zone, where no construction is permitted. During inspections below the DND Flyover, the Namu Bharat RRTS corridor and near New Friends Colony, officials found scattered encroachments, temporary cattle sheds, fodder, heaps of cattle dung and 50–60 bovine animals grazing in open grasslands. "The reply of the DPCC reveals that the order of the Tribunal has not been complied with," the Bench observed. During the hearing, the Delhi Development Authority submitted that demolition drives had been carried out repeatedly but encroachers resumed keeping cattle at the same locations or beneath the flyover. The DDA said the MCD and the Animal Husbandry Department were responsible for impounding the cattle, but no action had been taken despite the authorities being informed.

Yamuna floodplains shrank by a third in a century, study links it to higher flood risk

New Delhi. (Agency)

Yamuna's shrinking floodplains and increasing flood vulnerability in Delhi are the result of changes that have unfolded over more than two centuries, according to a study published in April this year in the Journal of the Geological Society of India by researchers from the University of Delhi (DU) and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal. Reconstructing the river's evolution using historical maps and satellite imagery, the study noted that barrages, embankments, and rapid urbanisation have altered the Yamuna's natural seasonal flow and

its ability to accommodate high flows during heavy rainfall. The study has estimated that rapid urbanisation has narrowed the river's channel by about 68%, reduced its long-term channel-maintaining, or formative discharge by nearly 89%, and disconnected around one-third of its floodplains. Formative discharge is crucial, as it provides the flow a river needs to naturally shape its channel, remove accumulated sediment, and maintain its capacity to safely accommodate heavy rains. "These changes in river width, discharge, and land use... have reduced the natural capacity of the river to adjust to extreme events,"

the authors wrote.

How the study was carried out

The study, authored by researchers Tanya, Sampat Kumar Tandon,



Kumar Gaurav, and Vimal Singh, analysed a 50-km stretch of the Yamuna flowing through Delhi using historical maps dating back to 1799, Survey of India records, and satellite imagery up to 2024. By tracing changes in the river's width

over time, the researchers reconstructed its hydrogeomorphic evolution, meaning how evolving landforms dictate water flow, and estimated changes in its formative discharge. In doing so, they studied the long-term average flow that shapes a river channel over decades. **Key findings** The construction of the Tajewala, Wazirabad, and Okhla barrages has been a key driver of the Yamuna's altered flow regime, according to the study. It noted that nearly 90% of the Yamuna's flow is diverted at the Hathnikund Barrage upstream, leaving the Delhi stretch of the river with very little freshwater during the lean season.

NEWS BOX

Messy, not Messi: 0 shots, 0 spark as Argentina great goes missing in final

New Delhi. (Agency)

The promise of every Lionel Messi match is wonderfully uncomplicated. Give him the ball often enough and, sooner or later, he would conjure some magic that nobody could have dreamt of in their wildest of imaginations.Spain did not spend the World Cup final in New York worrying about that possibility. They simply played their own game.By the end of the regulation 90 minutes, Messi had become less a conductor than a commuter, forever travelling between Argentina's midfield and attack in search of the pocket of space that had brought him eight goals, four assists and countless defining moments over the previous month. More often than not, by the time he turned to face goal, Spain already had their shape back and



another passing option had disappeared.That, perhaps, was the most impressive part of Spain's display. They were never consumed by the idea of stopping Messi. Instead, they trusted their structure, monopolised possession and forced Argentina to play the game on their terms. Messi still found the ball, but rarely in the places where who could pull off maybe another winner against England or Egypt.For one of the few times in his career, he looked like a player reacting to the game rather than controlling it.

HOW SPAIN STOPPED MESSI

You rarely judge Messi's influence by numbers alone, but this was one of those evenings when they painted an accurate picture.

Lionel Scaloni unlikely to continue as Argentina coach after World Cup heartbreak

New Delhi. (Agency)

An emotional Lionel Scaloni hinted that he may step aside from the Argentina job following the FIFA World Cup final loss to Spain on Sunday, July 19. Scaloni's side were beaten 0-1 in extra time as their bid to win a second consecutive World Cup ended in despair.Scaloni was appointed as the manager of Albiceleste in 2018 and guided them to two Copa America titles and a World Cup win in 2022. The former right-back was an emotional mess right after the loss, failing to complete his press conference. However, he spoke with the reporters later on.Scaloni was asked about his future and said that he would continue until the end of the year



and then talk to the federation president on which step to take next.While Scaloni admitted that it was his dream job, he also said that it will be fair for someone else to take over and continue the work and left the decision in the hands of the federation.No, no. I'll stay until December, and after that I'll most likely step aside. I'll continue until then, and afterward I'll speak with the federation president. The idea is to take a break and slow down a bit. That's the plan."

"This is an incredible place, a dream. I hope more people get the chance to experience it because any Argentine would love to be here. It has been a pleasure to be here, an honour beyond anything I ever imagined in my wildest dreams.""No, I hadn't really thought about it before.

FIFA World Cup Final: Luis de la Fuente takes Spain back to promised land

Luis de la Fuente completed one of international football's greatest managerial runs as Spain beat Argentina to win the FIFA World Cup 2026. The veteran coach hailed the unity and values of the Spanish squad that transformed a talented generation into world champions.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Spain have returned to the promised land. Sixteen years after Andres Iniesta's famous strike against the Netherlands delivered their first FIFA World Cup title, La Roja are champions once again. They dethroned defending champions Argentina 1-0 after extra time at the MetLife Stadium, capping a tournament that reaffirmed Spain's place at the summit of world football.At the centre of

it all stood Luis de la Fuente.At 65, the oldest coach to win the FIFA World Cup, De la Fuente has completed one of the greatest managerial runs in international football. Since taking charge of Spain, he has led the country to the UEFA Nations League, Euro 2024 and now the FIFA World Cup, with Spain also extending their unbeaten run to 38 matches, the longest ever by a European or South American national team.But for De la Fuente, Sunday's triumph was about much more than tactics or trophies."In the past people were surprised about footballers being talented and skilled and being good people," De la Fuente said after the match."We are the most united team and that is thanks to having people with solidarity and values."

Spain's football has long been admired for its elegant, possession-based style,



but this generation has added another dimension to it. The passing remains crisp, the movement relentless, but beneath it lies a team built on trust and togetherness.Long before these players became European and world champions, De la Fuente was working with many of them in Spain's youth setup. He guided a young generation featuring players who would go on to become senior internationals through the ranks, winning the UEFA Under-19 European

Championship in 2015 and helping shape the identity of the side that now rules world football.Players such as Unai Simon, Rodri and Mikel Merino grew under his watch before becoming the backbone of this Spain team."I'm so proud of this generation of footballers who have grown up with this philosophy, remained true to it, made it even better, and set an example as a team and a family. They're excellent, world-class footballers with exceptional talent," De la Fuente said."I'm very moved. Looking back and thinking about them, we've won everything, absolutely everything, with this generation of players."Spain's latest triumph came in fitting fashion. Theydominated possession against Argentina, limiting Lionel Messi's influence throughout the contest before substitute Ferran Torres struck the winner in the 106th minute.

Shoaib Akhtar enters Messi-Ronaldo GOAT debate. Cricket fans ask why

New Delhi. (Agency)

It is not often that you see cricket legend Shoaib Akhtar being on the panel of a football show analysing the FIFA World Cup 2026. But as a fan pointed it out, we got to see it before the release of GTA VI. Akhtar was on the panel of Tapmad and PTV for the World Cup final between Argentina and Spain decided to enter the Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi GOAT debate.Akhtar was pretty blunt with his assessment of both players, saying that Ronaldo is probably the biggest brand in football over the last 10 years, with FIFA and various leagues using his marketing value to prosper.

However, the Pakistan pace legend said that there is no comparison between Messi and Ronaldo when it comes to football, with the



Argentine maestro being well ahead of his Portuguese counterpart.There has never been a bigger brand in football than Cristiano Ronaldo. Take it or leave it. He is probably the biggest brand FIFA has ever enjoyed. For the last 10 years, FIFA has sold him. Leagues have marketed themselves through him as well."Now, if you look at Lionel Messi... I know I'm being a bit blunt here. But Messi is the biggest... yes, he's on another level. Ronaldo is nowhere close to Messi in terms of football. Just watch Messi's gravitational pull on the pitch. He gets knocked down, gets back up, and keeps going. Ronaldo is incredible too, look at the work he has done. But again, Messi is different," said Akhtar.

No noise, no fun: Rohit Sharma puts retirement rumours to bed in explosive interview

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former captain Rohit Sharma has emphatically dismissed persistent rumours surrounding his international future, delivering a defiant message to his critics following his historic century at Lord's on Sunday. Speaking after becoming the first Indian to hit an ODI hundred at the Home of Cricket, the veteran batsman made it clear that retirement is nowhere on his horizon.Speculation regarding Rohit Sharma's future in the ODI format had reached a fever pitch ahead of India's third ODI against England. Facing intense media scrutiny and whispers that the match at Lord's would be his final appearance in the blue jersey, Rohit responded in the most definitive manner possible: with his bat.Speaking to the BCCI in a

powerful post-match interview, Rohit drew a sharp line between the external chatter and his internal focus."My job is with the bat. Come and play, represent



my country. That's what I have been told to do since I made my debut. That's what I am going to do," Sharma stated flatly. "Since I made my debut, the noise was there. Till the time, I am going to be there, the noise will be there. Doesn't matter to me. What matters is what I do on the field. I want to try and contribute

to the success of the team. That's all my focus is."Rather than being weighed down by the intense public discourse, the veteran opener revealed that he thrives on the pressure that comes with representing India on the global stage."If there is no noise, there is no fun," Sharma added with characteristic candour. "My job is inside. Their job is outside. That's how I look at it."

A LORD'S SPECIAL

This philosophical shrug at the public pressure followed a masterclass with the bat. Chasing a daunting target of 388 set by a formidable England line-up, Rohit defied his detractors by smashing a magnificent 138 off just 110 deliveries. The innings, studded with 17 boundaries and five towering sixes, made him the first Indian batter to score an ODI century at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground.

Lamine hug, paparazzi poses: How Keyne Yamal celebrated Spain's World Cup win

New Delhi. (Agency)

Keyne Yamal was the heartthrob of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and he got to celebrate Spain's win like a champion, which included many viral-worthy moments. Keyne became Spain's lucky mascot and won over the fans with his infectious energy and cute moments. Keyne's most memorable moment came during Spain's Round of 32 clash against Austria, when he lit up the stadium after appearing on the giant screen enthusiastically shouting "Vamos!" from among the sea of La Roja supporters.Throughout the tournament, the youngster was always up for some playful antics whenever the cameras found him. Whether it was



waving to the crowd or pulling hilarious expressions, Keyne embraced the spotlight. In the quarterfinals, he even cheekily stuck his tongue out at the broadcast cameras, drawing a laugh from his older brother, Lamine Yamal.On Sunday, after Spain's 1-0 win over Argentina in the World Cup final, he was ready to celebrate and started

things off with a cute reunion with his elder brother. This was followed by some poses for the paparazzi.Keyne engaged in some football as well on the field, showing that there could be a new talent coming up from the Yamal household.The three-year-old's fun didn't end there as he found time to interact with a police officer on the field, who was sweet enough to let Keyne wear his officer's cap.LAMINE HAPPY WITH KEYNE'S STARDOM

Lamine has been happy to see his younger brother get all the adoration from the fans all around the globe. Both men are often captured dancing for videos and goofing around and Spanish star said that his little brother is more like a son to him.

I am not that ugly: Spain boss Luis de la Fuente says it is tattoo time for Cucurella

Marc Cucurella promised to tattoo Luis de la Fuente's face if Spain won the World Cup, and now the coach expects him to follow through. Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup final on Sunday, July 19

New Delhi. (Agency)

Marc Cucurella made a promise before the FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and Spain took place on Sunday, July 19. The Spanish defender is known to make such vows after he coloured his hair red after La Roja won

the Euros in 2024. But this time, he went a step further.Cucurella boldly claimed that if Spain won the World Cup final, he would get a tattoo of manager Luis de La Fuente on his body. The Spanish defender wanted to get it to thank his boss for the work he had done with the team and even revealed where he was planning to get it."I'm thinking about getting a tattoo if we win the World Cup. It will be the face of Luis de la Fuente, for everything he has done for us. It would be something truly wonderful.Now that the match is done and Spain have their second World title, De La Fuente isn't ready to let Cucurella go off the hook.Speaking after the win, De la Fuente said that the defender made a mistake in making that promise. The 65-year-old joked that he

wasn't that ugly and he will have to stick to his word."I am too old for tattoos but my players are men of their word and I



know they will stick to their word," De la Fuente told at the press conference, as quoted by Reuters. "They made a mistake and they will stick to it. I am not that

ugly."DE LA FUENTE PROUD OF SPAIN De La Fuente came in and, instead of taking Spain away from tiki-taka, helped them to evolve the philosophy and make it better. The Spanish tactician said that he was proud of his players for staying true to their mantra and setting an example as a team and a family."I'm so proud of this generation of footballers who have grown up with this philosophy, remained true to it, made it even better, and set an example as a team and a family – they're excellent, world-class footballers with exceptional talent," De la Fuente said."I'm very oved. Looking back and thinking about them, we've won everything, absolutely everything, with this generation of players."

Oil hits one-month high as West Asia war keeps investors on edge

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brent crude hit on Monday its highest price since June due to renewed fighting between the United States and Iran, while Asian equities were mixed as investors weighed the fallout of a prolonged West Asia war.Crude has surged over the past week as Washington and Tehran traded fire, raising fears of a sustained disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, which carries around a fifth of the world's seaborne oil.Both Brent crude and US benchmark West Texas Intermediate extended their gains after climbing more than four percent at the end of last week. Brent rose above \$91 a barrel, its highest price since June 11. The latest moves came afer another weekend of escalating fighting, with the United States carrying out fresh strikes on Iranian targets and Tehran responding with attacks on regional military assets in the Gulf.The conflicting signals have left investors struggling to gauge the outlook for markets.Higher crude prices have revived concerns that inflation could remain elevated and complicate the path to lower interest rates, but some analysts argue the broader economic backdrop is becoming more supportive."Markets are once again being forced to trade two seemingly contradictory stories on the same screen," said .

Rupee falls 12 paise to 96.42 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee weakened 12 paise to 96.42 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday due to a surge in crude oil prices and strong demand for the American currency amid the worsening West Asia crisis.Foreign capital outflows from domestic equity markets also weighed on the Indian currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened lower at 96.53 against the previous close of 96.30 to dollar. The local unit pared some losses to trade at 96.42 later, down 12 paise from its previous close.On Friday, the rupee gained 12 paise to settle at 96.30 against the US dollar, supported by positive domestic market sentiment and a decline in US Treasury yields. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally down by 0.05 per cent at 100.54.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 2.45 per cent higher at USD 90.26 per barrel in futures trade, as the US and Iran have inched closer to all-out war, as last month's interim deal meant to permanently end the fighting has crumbled and shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormu has largely stalled.

The United States conducted a new round of airstrikes early Monday targeting Iran after announcing the death of another American service member, and Iran fired missiles towards Jordan that risked widening the conflict into neighbouring Israel..

DoPT issues revised order on Children Education Allowance; here's what's new on hostel subsidy

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has issued a revised order on the Children Education Allowance (CEA) and Hostel Subsidy for central government employees. The amount of both the allowances remains the same but the new order clarifies how hostel expenses will be reimbursed. Under the revised rules, hostel subsidy will be reimbursed at Rs 8,437.50 per month per child or the actual expenditure incurred on boarding and lodging, whichever is lower. This replaces the wording used in the April 2024 order which had said that the hostel subsidy would be paid as a fixed amount irrespective of actual expenses.The corrigendum issued through an Office Memorandum dated June 30, 2026, revises a provision in DoPT's earlier order dated April 25, 2024. It is regarding the revision of rates of children education allowance and hostel subsidy consequent upon enhancement of Dearness Allowance (DA) to 50 percent.

What has DoPT clarified regarding reimbursement rules? According to the corrigendum, “The amount for reimbursement of Children Education Allowance shall be 2,812.50 per month (fixed) per child, irrespective of actual expenses incurred by the Govt employee. The reimbursement of Hostel Subsidy per child shall be 8,437.50 per month or the actual expenditure incurred on boarding and lodging, whichever is lower.”

Why has Apple increased music subscription prices in India?

Apple Music users in India will now have to pay more for their subscriptions. Why has the company decided to increase prices now?

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Apple has increased the prices of its Apple Music and Apple One subscription plans in India for both new and existing subscribers. The revised rates are already in effect across Apple's platforms and cover almost all subscription options, including Individual, Student and Family plans.The move comes less than two years after the company last revised Apple Music prices. It also

follows recent price increases for some of Apple's hardware products. **WHY HAS APPLE INCREASED SUBSCRIPTION PRICES?** Apple has attributed the latest price hike to rising music licencing costs. Music streaming companies pay licencing fees to record labels, publishers and artists to offer songs on their platforms. According to Apple, these costs have gone up, leading the company to increase subscription charges.Apart from the higher prices, Apple has not introduced any new features or additional benefits for subscribers. **HOW MUCH HAVE APPLE MUSIC PLANS BECOME COSTLIER?** The Apple Music Individual plan now costs Rs 139 per month, compared with Rs 119 earlier.The Student plan has been increased from Rs 59 to Rs 69 per month.

The biggest increase is for the Family plan, which now costs Rs 229 per month, up from Rs 179. The plan allows up to six family members to use



Apple Music through Apple's Family Sharing feature, with each user getting their own music library, playlists and recommendations. **APPLE ONE PLANS ALSO SEE A PRICE REVISION** Apple has also increased the prices of its Apple One bundles, which combine several Apple services under a single

EPFO pension stopped Submit your Digital Life Certificate from home in 6 easy steps

Has your EPFO pension stopped unexpectedly? One reason could be that your Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan) has not been submitted. Here's how to complete the process from home in six easy steps.

New Delhi. (Agency)

If anEPFO pension has stopped coming into your bank account, one possible reason could be that the Digital Life Certificate (DLC), also known as Jeevan Pramaan, has not been submitted. The good news is that pensioners no longer need to visit an office to complete the process. They can now submit the certificate from home or even book a free doorstep service.

EPFO URGES PENSIONERS TO SUBMIT JEEVAN PRAMAAN ON TIME

In a post on X, EPFO said, "Need to submit your Jeevan Pramaan? It's now easier than ever! Simply schedule a doorstep Jeevan Pramaan with a phone call and complete process from comfort of your home."In a video shared by the organisation, Alok Yadav, Regional

PF Commissioner at EPFO, explained that every EPFO pensioner must submit a Digital Life Certificate every year to



continue receiving pension without interruption.The certificate acts as proof that the pensioner is alive. Once submitted, it remains valid for one year from the date of submission.

HOW TO CHECK WHETHER YOUR DLC IS STILL VALID

Pensioners can check the validity of their Digital Life Certificate by visiting the Pensioner Portal on the

EPFO website. This helps them know when the next certificate needs to be submitted. **HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE FROM HOME** EPFO has explained that pensioners can complete the process using a smartphone.First, download the UMANG app and the Aadhaar Face RD app.Open the UMANG app and go to the Jeevan Pramaan Certificate section. Select Generate Life Certificate and choose the Face Authentication option.Enter your Aadhaar number and mobile number, then verify the OTP received on your phone.Next, fill in your PPO number, sanctioning authority, bank name and account number. Select the correct options for Re-employed and Remarried, tick the checkbox and allow permission for the Aadhaar Face RD app to access your camera.

SBI Funds Management IPO lists tomorrow with 18% GMP: Is it a long-term buy?

Kolkata. (Agency)

SBI Funds Management is set to make its stock market debut on July 21, and the IPO is already generating strong interest in the grey market. After receiving an overwhelming response during the subscription period, the company's shares are now trading at a healthy grey market premium (GMP), indicating a positive listing.The latest GMP stands at Rs 101 per share. Based on the IPO's upper price band of Rs 574, the estimated listing price is around Rs 675,

suggesting a potential gain of 17.6% over the issue price.IPO SUBSCRIBED OVER 41 TIMES The Rs 9,813-crore IPO was open for subscription from July 14 to July 16 and was subscribed 41.66 times overall.According to SBI Funds Management, the issue received bids for 5,18,95,41,032 equity shares against 12,45,63,536 shares on offer.Institutional investors led the demand. The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category was subscribed 140.11 times, while the Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portion was subscribed 22.51 times.

The Retail Individual Investor (RII) category was subscribed 3.60 times. The Employee Reserved category saw a subscription of 4.65 times, while the Shareholder Reservation portion was subscribed 9.52 times. Overall demnd for the IPO touched nearly Rs 2.98 lakh crore, making it India's fifth-largest IPO by total bid value. **WHY ARE ANALYSTS POSITIVE?** Geojit Investments believes SBI Funds Management is well placed to benefit from the long-term growth of India's mutual fund industry.

Why the government is cracking down on restaurant service charges now

The government has stepped up action against restaurants that add service charges by default. The move signals stricter enforcement after court backing and consumer complaints.

Kolkata. (Agency)

The government has stepped up its action against restaurants that continue to levy mandatory service charges, signalling that establishments flouting consumer protection rules could face stricter scrutiny.Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said restaurants cannot force customers to pay a service charge. His remarks came as the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) expanded its crackdown after receiving

complaints that several restaurants were automatically adding service charges to customers' bills.The CCPA has initiated suo motu action against 41 restaurants across the country based on complaints received through the National Consumer Helpline.

For many diners, however, the obvious question is: Wasn't service charge always allowed?The answer is yes, but only if it is voluntary. The confusion exists because service charges have appeared on restaurant bills for years, leading many customers to believe they are compulsory. In reality, the government has consistently maintained that restaurants cannot force customers to pay them.The issue first came to the fore in July 2022, when the CCPA issued guidelines stating that restaurants cannot automatically add a service charge to food bills. According

to the regulator, customers are legally required to pay only for the food they order, applicable taxes and any



charges authorised by law. A mandatory service charge, it said, amounts to an unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act.Restaurant associations challenged these guidelines in the Delhi High Court, arguing that service charges were part of their business model and that customers were

subscription.The Individual plan now costs Rs 195 per month, up from Rs 175. The Family plan has been raised from Rs 365 to Rs 445 per month. The Premier plan has seen the highest increase in rupee terms. It now costs Rs 595 per month, compared with Rs 499 earlier.Apple One includes services such as Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple Arcade and iCloud. Users can also choose different storage options based on their requirements, which affects the final subscription cost. **PRICE HIKES SEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES TOO** India is not the only market where Apple has increased subscription prices. Similar price revisions have also been reported in the UK, Europe and the US.However, the company has not issued an official statement on the latest price changes in these markets.

Half in salary, half as cash: Accenture introduces new pay model

New Delhi. (Agency)

Accenture has changed the way it gives salary hikes to employees. Under the new system, workers who receive an approved pay rise will get half of the increase added to their basic salary, while the other half will be paid as a one-time cash payout in June.

The revised compensation structure will be introduced as part of the company's June salary review and will apply to its global workforce, including around 3.5 lakh employees in India.HOW THE NEW SALARY HIKE MODEL WILL WORK

Under the new approach, 50% of an approved salary increase will be added to an employee's base salary. The remaining 50% will be paid separately as a one-time lump-sum amount. For example, if an employee is approved for a 3% salary hike, 1.5% will be added to the base salary, while the remaining 1.5% will be paid as a one-time cash payment in June.According to an internal memo cited by PTI, the company said the new model is designed to give employees more cash immediately while allowing it to extend base salary increases to a larger number of employees.The company said it had given only limited salary increases to employees who remained at the same level last year. This year, however, it has increased the number of employees eligible for base pay hikes by dividing the approved increment between permanent salary and a one-time payout.Accenture has said that salary increases linked to promotions will continue to be added fully to employees' base pay. The one-time cash payment will also remain separate from the company's annual bonus cycle, which takes place in December.

The company added that compensation decisions will continue to depend on employees' skills, performance, impact and behaviour.Meanwhile, the revised pay structure has received mixed reactions from employees. Some have raised questions about whether the new arrangement is only for this year, while others have sought clarity on how the one-time payout will be taxed.

informed about them through menus and notices displayed at their outlets. However, in March 2025, the Delhi High Court upheld the CCPA's guidelines, clearing the way for stricter enforcement. With the legal uncertainty removed, the government has now begun acting more aggressively against restaurants that continue to add service charges by default.The latest action against 41 restaurants reflects that shift. According to the CCPA, several establishments were automatically adding service charges to bills without customers' consent or refusing to remove them when requested.The government has repeatedly clarified that it is not against tipping. Customers are free to leave a tip or voluntarily pay a service charge if they are happy with the service they receive.



Kareena Kapoor

Calls Priyanka Chopra 'Extraordinary', Wishes Aitraaz Co-Star On Her 44th Birthday

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan has penned a heartfelt birthday wish for professional contemporary and food friend Priyanka Chopra Jonas on the actress’ 44th birthday on July 18. The actress, calling the global icon “extraordinary”, took to her social media account and shared a monochrome throwback picture featuring herself and Priyanka from an episode of filmmaker Karan Johar’s popular celebrity chat show ‘Koffee with Karan’. Alongside the picture, she wrote, “Happy birthday to the extraordinary PC.. Sky will always be the limit for you... Have the best day @priyankachopra.” The picture is from Season 6 of Koffee with Karan, where Kareena and Priyanka appeared together in 2018. The episode, back then, had grabbed headlines as the two actresses put years of reported rivalry behind them and were seen engaging in laughter and displaying their renewed friendship. For the uninitiated, Kareena and Priyanka’s equation had once been the subject of intense media attention. During an appearance on Koffee with Karan during the show’s initial seasons, Kareena had taken a dig at Priyanka’s accent, asking, “Where did she get that accent from?” Priyanka, in another episode, later responded with equal wit, saying, “The same place her boyfriend gets it from,” referring to Kareena’s then-boyfriend Saif Ali Khan, who had studied in the UK. Over the years, both actresses maintained that there is no bad blood between them. The two actresses shared screen space in Abbas-Mustan’s 2004 thriller Aitraaz, which also starred Akshay Kumar. Priyanka earned a great response and acclaim for her negative role as Sonia Roy. Kareena played Priya Malhotra, Raj, aka Akshay Kumar’s supportive wife.

Janhvi Kapoor

Moves On After Peddi Row, Signs Next Film With Pagglait Director

Janhvi Kapoor is on a roll. A month after Peddi row, the actress has signed her next big film with Pagglait director Umesh Bist. This will be their first collaboration ever. Meanwhile, Janhvi has still not reacted to the controversy regarding Peddi where a section of netizens bashed the portrayal of her character, Achiyamma, accusing the makers of objectifying her. According to Variety India, Janhvi Kapoor’s project is untitled as of now. It will be backed by Ekta Kapoor’s Balaji Motion Pictures and Guneet Monga’s Sikhya Entertainment. The cast and crew will start shooting around October-November this year. There is no additional information yet regarding the

storyline, genre and cast. On the other hand, Umesh Bist will also be busy directing Pagglait 2 alternatively. It is the sequel to the 2021 Netflix film and Sanya Malhotra is expected to reprise her lead role as Sandhya. The second part will carry the story forward. Meanwhile, Janhvi Kapoor’s role in Peddi had sparked a major debate over the objectification of women in commercial cinema. Many viewers criticised the film’s camera angles, close-up shots and romantic scenes, saying they reduced her character to a visual object rather than giving her a meaningful role. While some blamed Janhvi, others argued that actors should not be held responsible for a filmmaker’s creative choices. Following the backlash, director Buchi Babu Sana apologised and removed the controversial scenes from the film. The issue also prompted reactions from celebrities including Jaya Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Nithya Menen, Jagapathi Babu and Dimple Hayathi, with many calling for better-written female characters and a change in how women are portrayed in mainstream cinema.

Akshay Kumar Congratulates Anand L Rai After National Award Win For Statue Of Unity: Ekta Ka Prateek



It was a win for many Bollywood personalities on July 18, 2026, as the National Awards were announced. Director Anand L Rai was declared Best Director in the non-feature film category, for Statue of Unity: Ekta Ka Prateek. Rai’s documentary was presented by Akshay Kumar. In a conversation with HT City, Akshay reacted to this big honour saying, “I am delighted that Anand L Rai has received this honour for his brilliant direction of Statue of Unity – Ekta ka Prateek. I feel fortunate to have presented such an inspiring documentary on the landmark monument.” The winners were announced by Feature Film Jury Chairperson Jayaraj, Non-Feature Film Jury Chairperson Aseem Sinha, and Best Writing on Cinema Jury Chairperson A. Chandrasekhar. The announcement was made in the presence of Dr. Ajay Nagabhushan M.N., Joint Secretary (Films), and Dhirendra Ojha, Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Meanwhile, here’s the complete list of winners: Best Feature Film: Article 370 Best Actress: Yami Gautam (Article 370) Best Actor: Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion), Mammooty (Bramayugam) Best Direction: Rajkumar Periasamy (Amaran) Popular Movie Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Kalki 2898AD Best Debut Director: Randeep Hooda (Swatantrya Veer Savarkar) Best Hindi Film: Srikanth Best Telugu Film: Committee Kurrollu Best Tamil Film: Raayan Best Odia Film: Lahari Best Marathi Film: Mukkam Post Bombilwadi Best Malayalam Film: Feminichi Fathima Best Manipuri Film: Sunita

Why Is Jacqueline Fernandez Trending After Her Song Jugni's Release? Know All About The 'Nip Slip' Row



Jacqueline Fernandez has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons. It all started after her song, Jugni, was released online. While the track has generated buzz for its music and visuals, the conversation on social media soon shifted to an alleged wardrobe malfunction involving the actress. Clips and screenshots from the music video began circulating across X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Reddit, with several users claiming that a brief frame showed a “nip slip.” The moment soon sparked widespread debate, with social media divided over the incident. While some users shared the clip and discussed whether it was an editing oversight or a publicity stunt, many others came to Jacqueline Fernandez’s defence, arguing that the video was being scrutinised frame by frame to sensationalise a fleeting moment. Several fans also criticised the circulation of screenshots, calling it an invasion of the actor’s privacy and urging people to focus on the song instead. Many users later claimed that the sequence on YouTube appeared blurred, prompting speculation that the makers may have edited the video after its release. However, there has been no official confirmation of any such change. As of now, Jacqueline has not reacted publicly to the controversy, nor have the makers of Jugni issued any statement regarding the viral clips. There has also been no official confirmation that the alleged wardrobe malfunction actually occurred. Much of the discussion continues to be driven by cropped screenshots and slow-mo videos shared on social media, making it difficult to independently verify many of the claims. Meanwhile, Jugni itself has received attention for bringing Jacqueline back to the music scene with a high-energy dance number. The song has been gaining traction across streaming platforms and social media, with many fans praising its choreography, styling and Jacqueline’s screen presence. However, the online discourse has largely been dominated by the alleged wardrobe malfunction rather than the song’s release. Until Jacqueline or the makers address the matter, the controversy remains based primarily on social media speculation.



All you need to know about fringe Benefits



The corporate drone operates at every level across sectors in the industry. Fringe benefits are a new buzz doing the rounds of corporate halls. It is generally combined or part of the total rewards system. Fringe benefits broadly include health, security and retirement benefits offered to all full-time employees. They are offered in addition to the defined compensation structure. Recent explosion of the digital platform industry led to an epiphany among the top executives and leadership teams at large, on talent management. To increase the level of attraction for young and exceptionally skilled talent, the focus on leading edge practices has become critical. Thus, an innovative bucket of fringe benefits is introduced in the market. Some of these are voluntary and taxable in nature, but aid the employee in different aspects of hisher life. Some of the popular ones are education assistance, adoption

assistance, Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), bonus allocated, meals offered by the organisation, flexible hours, transport facility provided, etc. Elango R, president HP Business Unit and chief human resources officer, Mphasis shares his views on the fringe benefit that people appreciate the most. He suggests,"It is anything that includes employees' family , that has high social and peer recognition. We should encourage giving a compensation that benefits their whole family. For instance, where an employee gets promoted or recognised for their work, without telling it to them, we can send a letter to their parents or spouse informing about the same. This gives them surprise and happiness. Second, at senior levels, people still like exclusive club memberships and offers which are difficult for them to get individually. This has a huge impact on them. The third is giving people enough opportunities to get together and socialise as peers either through conferences or

similar learning exercises. Many people cut it calling it an expense, but it is really a fringe benefit because others like to travel with their peers and their group and they look forward to these events. It is just another way to renew their relationships with their colleagues. The distinction in company size relates more prominently to the extent to which initiatives are implemented and the processes relating to how they are implemented. But acting as an outlier to this industry trend, these benefits are more popular among the start-ups who aspire to operate at a global level with employee-friendly policies and compensation structure. This aspect offered as an additional perk is often used as a bargaining chip with the prospective employees. The emphasis on the subject has increased to such an extent that some universities have actually started designing dedicated courses around the same. It can help manoeuvre the employee value proposition to the

external and internal population and benefit the organisational repute. While the benefits offered are enjoyed by the employees and employer bears the expense, it's a mutually-beneficial programme for both involved parties. Healthy and secure employees will have better productivity , attendance, and vigour to take on new challenges. This will help the organisation perform better. Generally , the scale of operations also determines the benefits offered as volume or headcount helps to spread the cost and gain discounts or workout better deals through collective bargaining for higher employee base. Also, these benefits are subject to Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) which takes away time, energy and requires the expertise or knowledge to be there in the taxaudit team. In the ultimate user experience, fringe benefits can be viewed as a distributed consensus system that allows management and employees at different levels to come on the same page and concur to achieve common organisational goals while contributing in their capacity. Industry experts advocate further growth and penetration of fringe benefits in the industry at large in the long range.While certain deficits are overlooked by the fact that an increase in the percentage of fringe benefits in the compensation structure will reduce the

Fringe benefits not only help the employees in terms of long-term growth, they are also equally important for the organisations for various reasons.

cash pay, an ideal scenario would be where benefits and cash components both increase at a similar pace, but that is too idealistic in a crunch economy like ours.



While you may have the best rapport with your boss, moving with him to the new workplace may bring unexpected consequences. Choose wisely.

The manager of your team has been the best mentor you ever had in your professional life. He has guided you through all the ups and downs that you faced in this organisation and has been a strong pillar of strength for you during your present stint.You have prospered well and feel totally in control of things at work.But now, he has decided to move on to explore better avenues and things have suddenly become not so clear for you. As you prepare yourself to deal with situations without having him around, you get an offer to join him at his new workplace. Now, the big question haunts you as to whether or not to join him in his new venture. Although, the most obvious and natural

progression in this situation would be to instantly grab the offer and move along, there might be certain pros and cons that need to be weighed before one takes the plunge.Working with the same boss would definitely mean the same old level of comfort and understanding. Sandeep Budhiraja, CEO of DOOR Training & Consulting India Pvt Ltd, puts it into perspective as he says, "Change brings uncertainty and the manager who has moved to a new role may be driven by his or her own need to establish himself quickly. Therefore, he would also be interested in bringing the trusted team members along. Also, it is well understood in HR circles that when people move together to a new organisation, they are taking the same risk as the organisation they are coming

from.Unless the company is desperate for that kind of talent, it is highly avoidable for them. Groups come with their own cultural and political issues.So, the new company that the employee has followed his manager to, will already start discounting the capabilities and trustworthiness of the employee, which does not bode well in the long run."

Any change will always have uncertainties associated with it. Nonetheless, it cannot be ruled out that moving out with your boss may bring in some good results for you as the rapport you share with him will also help you settle down better in the new role. With him already working to create a credibility for himself, chances are high that you will benefit alongside. However, in such work relationships, the employee often loses his own ability to take the best decision for himself.Moving to a new role would definitely mean risking the growth opportunities that might have come your way in your present assignment. At the same time, it would also mean losing on the remaining support systems that one might have in the present organisation. Shalini Pillay, head-people, performance and culture, KPMG India, says, "If you understand and believe in the growth platform that your present organisation provides, it is not difficult to see the wider landscape of opportunities that present themselves in such a context too.What might seem like an easy path of going with the flow, might actually quite often be walking away from the imminent opportunity besides having to establish oneself in an entirely new organisational ecosystem. Similarly, the rapport that an individual builds with his manager and the trust he has in his ability to support

Should you follow your boss to his new Workplace?

individual growth is an outcome of a larger ecosystem.This ecosystem is a result of the culture and values that the organisation believes in. It may not be realistic to believe that similar culture-value systems exist in all organisations." The same is reckoned by Geetika Joshi, a senior HR professional. "Not only will such a move bring uncertainty along, it will affect most other relationships that you might have fostered over time, and

your relationship with your boss may even affect the relationships you make at your new workplace.Therefore, it is extremely essential to choose wisely and think deep before taking this plunge."While an opportunity to work with your existing boss may sound extremely good at the first time, it is extremely crucial to weigh the pros and cons and then take an informed decision about the same.

