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Congress, Goa Forward begin alliance talks for 2027 Assembly polls as AAP also signals tie-up interest

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Opposition parties Congress and the Goa Forward Party (GFP) have begun preliminary talks for forging an alliance for the 2027 Goa Assembly elections, while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has also expressed willingness to join hands with like-minded parties to take on the BJP, reported PTI.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar told PTI on Sunday that he had held discussions with GFP chief Vijai Sardesai on the possibility of reviving their alliance for the next Assembly polls.

The two leaders met in Fatorda in South Goa on Saturday.

Congress and the GFP had contested the 2022 Goa Assembly elections together.

Describing Saturday's discussions as preliminary, Chodankar said a decision on renewing the alliance was yet to be taken. "We will be meeting again to hammer out and finalise details, including seat sharing," he said.

All 'chhanda chors' in BJP: Congress ups ante over Ram Mandir donation theft

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The Congress on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the BJP over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, claiming that while not everyone in the BJP is a "chhanda chor", all the "chhanda chors" are in the ruling party.

Senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari alleged that the "theft" at the Ram Mandir was not confined to donations but had begun as early as the time of the 'Shila Pujan'.

"I hail from the Awadh region myself, and between 1985 and 1990, I served as the Tourism Minister in the UP government. I have witnessed the Ram Janmabhoomi movement from very close quarters," Tiwari said at a press conference in New Delhi. "I am not saying that everyone in the BJP is a 'chhanda chor', but all the 'chhanda chors' are in the BJP," the Congress leader said. "When the movement to build the Ram Mandir was underway, the slogan was: 'Ram Lalla hum ayenge; mandir wahin banayenge'. Later, when the BJP formed the government in Uttar Pradesh, I asked when the temple would be built. The reply was: 'When the BJP comes to power at the Centre as well'," he said.

Drugs give you brief high, but lifelong low: PM launches 100-week anti-drug drive

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Launching the 'Nasha

Mukt Yuva for Viksit

Bharat Sankalp

Abhiyan', PM Modi

said the country's

youth must be

mentally and

physically fit, for

which it is necessary

for them to stay away

from all kinds of

substance abuse.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asked the country's youth to take a pledge against substance abuse, saying drugs can give them a "high" for some time, but would make their entire career and personal life "low". Launching the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', PM Modi said the country's youth must be mentally and physically fit, for which it is necessary for them to stay away from all kinds of substance abuse.

He also said that enemy countries use the supply of drugs as part of their terror plans because they know that "youth are the future of our country". "Drugs can give you a high for some time, but it makes your entire career and personal life low," he said. Questioning the taboo around drug addicts, PM Modi said those who come out

of drug addiction are fighters and should be honoured by society.

"Society should respect them, embrace them and give them a second chance," he



said. The prime minister launched the campaign virtually in the presence of a large number of youth, who described themselves as representatives of Gen-Z, days after large-scale protests by students demanding reforms in the public examination system rocked Delhi and

other parts of the country.

Our culture teaches us that one can get rid of substance abuse with the support of society, yoga and meditation," PM Modi said. The 'Nasha Mukt Yuva' campaign is a resolve for the individual, family, society and, most importantly, the nation, and the name of the initiative itself reflected its objective, the prime minister said.

"When the country has set the goal of building a developed India, it is essential that the youth stay away from harmful addictions to remain physically and mentally healthy and full of self-confidence," PM Modi said. "This is the objective of this campaign," he added, urging everyone to take a pledge to ensure that young people understand the dangers of drug addiction and remain aware and vigilant in every possible way. "From today, the Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan is being launched across the country."

Mission Goa 2027: Congress floats alliance talks, AAP says open to tie-up

Congress and the Goa Forward Party have opened preliminary talks for a 2027 Goa alliance. The move signals a wider opposition push, with AAP also open to a tie-up against the BJP.

Panaji. (Agency)

Opposition parties in Goa have begun preliminary talks on a possible alliance for the 2027 Assembly elections, with the Congress and the Goa Forward Party opening discussions and the Aam Aadmi Party also indicating it is open to a tie-up.

The early moves come as parties start positioning themselves for the 40-member Assembly election, likely in February-March 2027, while the BJP has already said it is aiming to win at least 30 seats and return to power in the state for a fourth straight term.



Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar told PTI on Sunday that he had held talks with Goa Forward Party chief Vijai Sardesai on forming an alliance. The two leaders met in Fatorda in South Goa on Saturday. The

Rs 18 crore stolen yearly: Raj Thackeray alleges Siddhivinayak donations theft

Raj Thackeray alleged major donation thefts at Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple and Ayodhya's Ram Temple. His remarks have sharpened attention on temple finances, arrests and demands for accountability.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray on Saturday alleged that Rs 18 crore in donations was being siphoned off every year at Mumbai's famed Siddhivinayak temple. He also claimed that Rs 1,400 crore had been stolen at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Speaking at a programme organised by his party's student wing, Thackeray said, "Even temples are not safe these days," and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on the issue. He also said, "Frustrated youths visit temples, but even temples are not safe from corruption."

Referring to the Siddhivinayak temple, Thackeray said some employees who stole money from the donation box were



caught because of the alertness of the trustees. Reading out a letter written by eight trustees to Maharashtra Deputy

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, he said the temple's weekly donation income was less than Rs 50 lakh before the theft was detected, and later rose to Rs 1.5 crore. "Every year, Rs 18 crore was being stolen," Thackeray alleged.

Sada Sarvankar, chairman of the Siddhivinayak Temple Trust and a leader of the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, said nine employees had been arrested in the case. "We have filed cases wherever required," he told reporters. Sarvankar said the rise in donations was due to steps taken by the trust, and added that the temple's income had increased from Rs 114 crore two years ago to Rs 182 crore.

Pakistan's conduct forced India to keep Indus treaty in abeyance, says envoy Vinay Kwatra

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed, India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, has said, asserting that Islamabad spent decades eroding the "goodwill and friendship" on which the 1960 pact was founded.

In an article published in Newsweek magazine, Kwatra said the treaty was signed "in a spirit of goodwill and friendship", but Pakistan had spent "half a century dismantling that goodwill and friendship".

"It is worth remembering that the treaty's preamble declares it was concluded 'in a spirit of goodwill and friendship'. Pakistan spent half a century dismantling that goodwill and friendship. The abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed," he wrote.

Kwatra's remarks come days after Pakistan hosted a conference protesting India's decision to place the treaty in abeyance on April 23, 2025, a day after Pakistan linked terrorists killed 26 people, most of them tourists, in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

The IWT, signed by India and Pakistan in 1960, gave India control over three of the six Indus basin rivers carrying roughly 20 per cent of the basin's water, while Pakistan received rights over the rivers carrying about 80 per cent.

Hamim's aide arrested as STF probe reveals Bengal CM on Pak operatives' target list

Kolkata. (Agency)

The West Bengal Police's Special Task Force (STF) has arrested Arpita Sarkar, an alleged associate of Hamim Mondal, the Burdwan youth arrested over suspected links with Pakistan-based operatives. Investigators claim the duo was part of a network that was allegedly gathering sensitive information and receiving instructions from handlers across the border.

Arpita Sarkar was arrested from Sahibganj in Jharkhand and brought to West Bengal for questioning. According to STF officials, she was in regular contact with Hamim Mondal and allegedly played a role in operations aimed at trapping and abducting targets.

ARREST LINKED TO CROSS-BORDER NETWORK PROBE

The arrest comes a day after Hamim Mondal was picked up from the Renaissance residential complex near the Durgapur Expressway in Burdwan. During the investigation, STF officers uncovered communications between Mondal and several Pakistan-based online handlers.



Farmers matter more than politics: Shivakumar at all-party meet on Cauvery issue

The remarks were made at the all-party meeting convened to chalk out the state's legal and political strategy on the Cauvery water-sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu.

Bengaluru. (Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said that the people of the state have a history of setting aside political differences and standing united to protect its interests. The remarks were made at the all-party meeting convened to chalk out the state's legal and political strategy on the Cauvery water-sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu, in the wake of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC's) direction to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days, which was later upheld by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). "We have all grown up with the Cauvery dispute as an integral

part of our lives," he said. "The interests of the state's farmers and people are more



important than politics," CM Shivakumar remarked.

He added, "On issues concerning the state's welfare, all political parties have

come together." The CM further stated, "Our stand has always been that drinking water should receive the highest priority. I know all of you fully agree with this position."

CM LAUDS NON-PARTISAN SUPPORT

The meeting, which took place at Shivakumar's official residence, witnessed the participation of several senior leaders from across party lines, including six former CMs - Veerappa Moily (Congress), Siddaramaiah (Congress), BS Yediyurappa (BJP), HD Kumaraswamy (JD(S)), DV Sadananda Gowda (BJP), and Basavaraj Bommai (BJP). He also expressed his appreciation for non-partisan cooperation over the Cauvery issue.

News box

Builder sells same plot twice, cheats man of 10 lakh; arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A real estate developer has been booked for selling the same plot of land to two different individuals, police said. The fraud came to light after a Delhi resident alleged he bought the land from the builder for more than Rs 10 lakh but it was never handed over. He later came to know the same plot was sold to another buyer at a higher price. The accused, Rajan Singh, is a resident of Sector 69 and the authorised signatory of Lotus Dream Projects and Developers (OPC). According to the complaint filed by Vijay Pandit, a resident of Vasant Kunj in south Delhi, he had purchased a 60 sq yard plot in the Winsome Homes project located in Bandhwari village. He alleged that he paid more than Rs 10 lakh to the company and executed a buyer's agreement. The complainant stated that no payment was pending from his side.Despite this, the company failed to hand over the plot to him. Pandit said whenever he asked for the possession, company officials abused and threatened him.The complainant also alleged that he later discovered that the plot he had bought had been sold to another buyer at a higher price. He told police that he had invested his lifetime savings and had also borrowed money to buy the land. Not getting possession of the land had caused him financial loss, he said.He requested that either possession of the plot be handed over to him or the amount paid by him be refunded.On the basis of his complaint, an FIR was registered at Sector 56 police station on Thursday under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC against Singh. The investigation has been handed over to Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Cell-1.

No more stopping at tolls: NHAI completes barrier-free Delhi-Jaipur NH-48 stretch

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced its Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at the Shahjahanpur Toll Plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur section of NH-48 in Rajasthan, completing barrier-free travel across the entire Manesar-to-Jaipur corridor.The Shahjahanpur rollout follows the earlier implementation of MLFF at the Daulatpura and Manoharpura toll plazas on the same highway.With all three plazas now equipped with the system, motorists can travel the full stretch without stopping at toll barriers. The MLFF system enables barrier-less toll collection with minimal human intervention, allowing vehicles to pass through toll plazas without halting. According to NHAI, the move is expected to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow and make travel on the busy Delhi-Jaipur highway faster and more seamless.

Who'll protect ponds? NGT seeks answers

Noida.(Agency)

The principal bench of National Green Tribunal has sought a fresh report from the district magistrate on the number of ponds and other water bodies in the district and mention which civic body — Noida Authority, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority or Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority — is responsible for their maintenance.The direction was passed last month when NGT was hearing an application by environmentalist Abhisht Kusum Gupta, in which he claimed that several water bodies have been encroached upon by residents in connivance with local authorities and are being used for commercial purposes. Encroachment of village ponds across the district has been a long-pending issue. Last year, Supreme Court as well as NGT had directed the district administration and the industrial authorities to remove the encroachments but which authority has jurisdiction over the ponds remained unclear. In July last year, NGT had also asked the district magistrate to furnish details related to the area of all the ponds and the extent of encroachment on them. Now, district magistrate Medha Roopam has filed an affidavit, stating that according to a notification issued under Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, “protection of water bodies situated within notified industrial areas stands vested with the concerned development authorities”. Therefore, the removal of encroachments and restoration of ponds are solely the responsibility of these bodies, the affidavit mentioned.

Gang gatecrashes house party in Gurgaon with forged Delhi Police Ids

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A house party turned into a crime thriller after a seven-member gang, including a woman, allegedly barged into a flat posing as a Delhi Police special team, flashed forged identity cards, held a group of friends hostage and demanded Rs 25 lakh to spare them from being framed in criminal cases.Their plan, however, collapsed when one of the victims secretly shared his live location, allowing friends to track the gang down, overpower four of its members and hand them over to the real cops. The incident unfolded around midnight on July 29 at Ansal Heights in Sector 86. By the time a Kherki Daula police team reached the society after

receiving a PCR call about commotion in the flat, the fake cops had already been exposed and four of them were in the custody of partygoers. Police said the gang had allegedly targeted the flat after receiving information that the host, Nitin — a resident of Kalkaji in Delhi — belonged to a well-off family and regularly organised gatherings with friends. According to the complaint, the woman first rang the doorbell. The moment the door opened, six men entered behind her, identified themselves as members of a ‘Delhi Police special team’ and claimed they had come to conduct a raid. Carrying fake identity cards, they allegedly confined everyone inside the flat, assaulted some of the occupants and

threatened to implicate them in criminal cases unless Rs 25 lakh was paid.To ensure the money was arranged quickly, the alleged mastermind, Rishi of Rohtak, took one of the partygoers, Sagar, in a Suzuki Fronx to collect the cash. Two associates followed in a Rajasthan-registered Swift Dzire, while the remaining four accused stayed back in the flat, allegedly holding the others hostage and threatening to kill them if the demand was not met.The plan began to fall apart when Sagar sensed something was amiss. Without alerting the gang, he shared his live location with his friend Jagrit. Jagrit and his associates traced the vehicle, confronted the accused and triggered a scuffle. Amid the chaos, Rishi

escaped in the Swift Dzire, but the four accomplices who had remained at the flat were overpowered and handed over to police.Those arrested were Satvinder (46), Tinu (42), Naveen (40) and Sneha alias Sana (21), all from Rohtak. Three forged Delhi Police ID cards were recovered from them. During questioning, the accused allegedly told police that Rishi had procured the fake IDs and recruited them after claiming the party organiser came from a wealthy family. A case was registered under sections 191(2), 190, 115(2), 308, 204, 319(2), 127(2) and 351(3) of BNS. Sneha was remanded in judicial custody, while the three male accused were sent to four days’ police custody.

Woman held for slitting painter’s throat over marriage refusal

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 36-year-old painter was murdered allegedly by a woman after he refused to marry her. The accused slit his throat with a knife, locked the room from outside and fled the scene in Anangpur village.The victim, identified as Sadakat, a resident of Rampur Shahpur in Uttar Pradesh’s Aligarh district, was found dead on July 30 in a rented room in Domka Mohalla, under the Surajkund police station area. The accused has been identified as Anita, who is also in her 30s.Acting on a complaint by his brother, Najakat Ali, Surajkund police registered a murder case under Section 103(1) and handed the investigation to Crime Branch DLF.



The accused — a native of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh, living as a tenant in Anangpur — was arrested on Friday, Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal Yadav said.During interrogation, the woman told police that she and Sadakat worked together

at Omaxe Society — he as a painter, she as a domestic worker. Both were married, though she was abandoned by her husband, and the two grew close over time. She wanted to marry him and repeatedly pressed him on it, but he kept avoiding the proposal, police said.According to the investigation, she called Sadakat to her rented room on July 25 and served him alcohol. After he fell asleep in an intoxicated state late that night, she slit his throat and fled. The crime came to light five days later, on Thursday, after neighbours noticed a foul smell emanating from the room. The accused was produced before a local court on Friday and remanded to two days of police custody. Police said the remand period will be used to recover the murder weapon.

No bail for octogenarian who hacked his wife to death and then walked over to police station in Noida

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A sessions court has denied bail to an octogenarian accused of hacking his 72-year-old wife to death over suspicions about her character. While the defence argued that he had been falsely implicated, the court noted that the police diary recorded the man himself walking into the police station after allegedly killing his wife. An FIR had been registered at the Muradnagar police station on May 16. Eighty-year-old Harpal Singh’s daughter Kanchan had told the police that she and her husband were in Meerut for two days to visit her sister Jyoti. Her parents had been staying at her home for the past six months. On May 16, she was informed by a neighbour that at 4.30 am, her mother Urmila (72) was stabbed to death by her father, with a sharp-edged weapon. Upon returning from Meerut with her husband, sister Jyoti and brother-in-law Prem, she found her mother dead at the Muradnagar Govt Hospital. She also stated that there was a rift between her parents as her father was always suspicious of her mother’s character and used to argue.Counsel representing Harpal contended that the accused was innocent and was falsely implicated. “The deceased and the accused were ill and unable to function. While the deceased was around 80 years old, the accused is 85 years old, both of whom were unable to walk or see,” he said, bringing on record affidavits submitted by eight to 10 villagers stating that the two lived amicably and never fought.

6 years gone, Bajghera STP may be ready in Sept

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Nearly six years after receiving approval, the 2-MLD sewage treatment plant (STP) at Bajghera is nearing completion, with around 85% of the work completed. Officials expect the project to be commissioned by Sept, providing much-needed sewage treatment capacity for villages and nearby residential societies along Dwarka Expressway.Built for Rs 7 crore, the project, which received GMDA's approval in March 2020, was due for completion in Sept 2021. However, repeated resistance from residents over land acquisition delayed the project by nearly two years, and construction could begin only in 2023.Officials said civil works have



now entered the final phase, with about 85% of the project completed. The remaining work involves installation of electromechanical equipment, testing and commissioning before the plant is made operational.The project includes the construction of a 2-MLD STP, a main pumping station and a recycled water pipeline. While MCG

has already laid the trunk sewer connecting the area to the plant, work on the internal sewerage network is currently underway, the official said.“We have expedited the construction of the STP and the remaining work is expected to be completed within the next two months. Once operational, it will strengthen the sewerage system in Bajghera and surrounding areas, help address sewer overflow issues, and ensure that untreated sewage does not flow into the Najafgarh drain,” an official said.The STP is expected to improve wastewater management in an area that has witnessed rapid residential growth over the past few years and ensure treatment of sewage generated from villages and housing societies before its safe disposal.

Challan information on public screen in new name and shame tactic in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The next time you stop at the traffic signal at Sohna Chowk, don't be surprised if a digital screen tells you more than when the lights will change. It may also reveal how many traffic challans your vehicle has pending and how much you owe.In Haryana's first such initiative, traffic cops in the city have installed an AI-powered smart traffic warning screen at the key junction that scans every passing vehicle in real time and instantly displays its registration number, the number of unpaid challans and the total amount due. The system, currently on trial, is designed to turn technology into a gentle but public nudge for habitual violators to clear their dues before enforcement catches up with them. Installed a few metres from the police commissioner's office, the digital screen uses artificial intelligence to read vehicle registration numbers and fetch data from the traffic database within seconds. It can also identify

vehicles running with expired pollution certificates, prompting owners to renew them before inviting further penalties. “The initiative is still in the testing phase. We will review its performance and take further steps accordingly,” DCP (traffic) Prateek Gahlot said. For traffic police, the screen addresses one of the most common excuses heard during enforcement drives — motorists claiming they were unaware of pending challans. Now, as a vehicle approaches the junction or waits at the signal, its unpaid violations can appear on the display almost instantly and stay on the screen for a few seconds, making it much harder to ignore outstanding penalties.Officials, however, said the project is not merely about recovering fines. They insisted it is a behavioural intervention aimed at improving compliance with traffic rules.“Our objective goes far beyond collecting challans. The ultimate aim is to save lives and reduce road fatalities. Technology-driven measures like this

encourage people to follow traffic rules, maintain valid documents and become more responsible on the road. Better compliance ultimately means safer roads,” a traffic police officer said. The initiative complements an intensified enforcement campaign launched over recent months against habitual offenders. During special drives, police have impounded several two-wheelers and four-wheelers carrying unpaid challans worth lakhs of rupees. In some cases, the outstanding amount exceeded Rs 5 lakh, exposing repeated violations over long periods.Police believe the warning screen could improve voluntary compliance by reminding motorists about pending dues before stricter enforcement becomes necessary. At the same time, it is expected to encourage vehicle owners to keep mandatory documents, including PUC certificates, updated.If the pilot proves successful, traffic cops plan to install similar AI-powered warning screens at other major

intersections, such as Rajiv Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, IFFCO Chowk, MG Road, Golf Course.

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Delhi HC okays path for CAG audit of discoms, terms challenge premature

The Sikh Times
Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to halt a proposed Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the Capital's private power distribution firms, keeping alive a scrutiny process that could shape the debate around the Rs 38,552 crore regulatory asset burden hanging over electricity consumers. The ruling comes barely two months after The Tribune first reported that the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) had directed the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) to begin the process of liquidating Rs 38,552 crore in accumulated regulatory assets, a move that raised concerns over the possibility of future tariff-linked recovery from consumers. In its judgment, the high court dismissed a petition filed by the BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Yamuna Power Limited challenging a June 6 notice proposing a CAG audit. Justice Tejas Karia held that the challenge was premature because the notice was only a show-cause communication and no final decision had yet been taken on whether the audit would be entrusted to the nation-

al auditor. The court, however, went beyond the question of maintainability and rejected the discoms'

costs approved by regulators but not recovered immediately through tariffs. The issue has

opportunity to be heard and concerns a matter of public interest because electricity tariffs directly

Court today. The very fact that the power companies approached the high court to oppose the CAG audit has exposed the nexus between the previous Aam Aadmi Party government, Arvind Kejriwal and the power companies before the people of Delhi," Sood said. He alleged that previous governments had relied on the 2015 judgment to avoid scrutiny of the power distribution firms. However, the high court itself did not make any finding regarding the allegations of collusion raised by the Delhi Government. The judgment remained confined to the legality of the proposed audit process and the maintainability of the petition. Importantly, the court stopped short of ordering the audit itself. It said the competent authority must still hear the power companies and independently decide whether the audit should ultimately be entrusted to the CAG after considering all submissions on merit. For Delhi's consumers, Monday's verdict does not immediately affect electricity tariffs. Yet, it places the spotlight back on a question that has gained urgency after the regulatory asset recovery order: how and why liabilities running into Rs 38,552

crore accumulated in the first place. As the recovery process moves ahead and scrutiny of the sector deepens, both the audit question and the future of tariff-linked recovery are set to remain at the centre of Delhi's power politics.

Prime Minister's emotional message on Jantar Mantar incident, appealing to youth to use restraint and respectful language

New Delhi. Prominent social worker, Gaumata Sevak and Corona warrior Charanjeev Malhotra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a video

them the right direction. In the video, the Prime Minister said that in a democracy everyone has the right to disagree and criticize, but abusive lan-

such situations, instead of punishing them, it would be more effective to explain and provide proper guidance. He said that the energy of the country's youth should be channeled into nation-building, innovation, and positive work. The video is rapidly going viral on social media and is eliciting mixed reactions. Some people described the Prime Minister's message as positive and tolerant, while others have expressed different political opinions on the issue.



message shared on social media recently, while referring to the incident at Jantar Mantar, said that he wants to forgive the youth who used derogatory language for him and his late parents during the protest. The Prime Minister said that instead of punishing such youth, it is more important to show

guage and personal comments are not in keeping with any civilized society. He appealed to the youth to use restraint, decency and respectful language in social media and public life. The Prime Minister also said that young people often make mistakes due to emotions or influence. He believes that in

Varanasi teacher brands hot knife on 5-year-old's private parts for urinating in pants, booked

Varanasi: A nursery teacher at a private school in Varanasi allegedly branded a five-year-old boy on his private parts with a heated knife after he urinated in his pants when he was denied permission to use the restroom, police said on Monday. An FIR was registered against the teacher, the principal and

the management of the school after the child's father, Kesari Jaiswal, a lawyer, filed a complaint at the Lalpur-Pandeypur police station. Jaiswal alleged that his son, a nursery student at Sareen Soni Play School in Pandeypur, returned home on July 24 complaining of pain in his private parts. The father

alleged that the teacher, Preeti Kushwaha, had inflicted the injury after he urinated in his trousers when he was allegedly denied the complaint, the teacher allegedly took the child to another room, heated a used it to burn his private parts. Jaiswal said he approached the school principal and management with his wife and son on July 25 to lodge a complaint, but he alleged that no action was taken, following which he approached the police. Police said an FIR has been registered against Kushwaha, the school management and the principal under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 115(2) (Voluntarily causing hurt), 118(1) (Voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or

means) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation).

NAME CHANGE
I, SHYAM SUNDER S/O JAGDISH LAL, KAPOOR, R/O 1A/134 NITFARIDABAD HARYANA 121001 CHANGED MY NAME TO SHYAM SUNDER KAPOOR

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohd Javed R/O H. No. C-55/10C, Gali No. 10, Near Kashmiri Building Chauhan Banger, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053 have changed my minor daughter name from Adreen to Aafreen Akkashi for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Krishna Devi alias Krishan devi D/O Natti RAM R/O House No. C- 62 F/F, Tigr Extension, South Delhi 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Krishna Devi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mudita Malhotra D/o Rajender Kumar R/O 52/43 Road No 43 Punjabi Bagh West Delhi 110026 have changed my name to Mudita.

NAME CHANGE
I, AZHAR S/O MOHD JAKIM R/O H NO -31 GALI NO 10 C BLOCK SHRI RAM COLONY KARAWAL NAGAR NORTH EAST DELHI 110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AZHAR

NAME CHANGE
I, Pawan Kumar S/o Sham Lal, R/O House No. 1054, Sector 7 Extension, Gurgaon have changed my name to Pawan Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUBHASH SHARMA S/O KRISHAN CHANDER SHASTRY R/O B-3/5-2 B BLOCK DILSHAD GARDEN JHILMI DELHI 110095 CHANGED MY NAME TO SUBHASH CHANDER SHARMA

NAME CHANGE
I, Sandeep Kumar S/O Satyapal, R/O V.P.O. Sarawati, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, 245101, have changed the name of my minor son Morya aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHIVYANSH VERMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, AMIT NAGAR S/O DHAN PAL R/O H.NO-220, VILLAGE LAHAN-DOLA, FARIDABAD-121101 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMIT FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, AAYUSH JAIN S/O MUKESH JAIN R/O H.NO-DP-11, 2ND FLOOR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, have changed my name to AYUSH JAIN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-2618843A Rank-SEP Name-JANAPANA AJAY KUMAR legal father of JANA PANA RESHMA R/O 3-56, MAIN STREET, TEKKALI, RAMESWARM, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532212 have changed my minor daughter's name from JANA PANA RESHMA to JANA PANA RESHMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NIKHIL TANDON S/O SUBHASH CHANDER R/O Flat No- C- 75, Neelambar Apartment, Pitampura, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed the name of my minor son PRADYUT TANDON aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as PRANAY TANDON.

NAME CHANGE
I, J SARSWATHI mother of NO - 2618843A Rank-SEP Name-JANAPANA AJAY KUMAR legal father of JANA PANA RESHMA R/O 3-56, MAIN STREET, TEKKALI, RAMESWARM, DIST-SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-532212, have changed my name from J SARSWATHI to JANA PANA SARASWATI for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, K SUBBU LAKSHMI, mother of No-2618476Y, Rank-SEP, Name- GOVINDARAJ K, residing at VILL-ELUMALAI, PO-ELUMALAI, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DISTT- MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535 have changed my name from K SUBBU LAKSHMI to SUBBULAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, S SREEJA wife of JC-335576P Rank-NB SUB Name-M RAJESH KUMAR, Residing at- VILL- EZHUDESAM, PO-NATHIRAVILAI, TEHSIL-VILLAVAN CODE, DISTT-KANYAKUMARI, TAMIL NADU-629154, have changed my name from S SREEJA to S SREEJA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHRIDEVI KHADAKABHAVI wife of No.-2611690Y, Rank-NB, Name-SURESH KHADAKABHAVI residing at- VPO-BELAVI, MANDAL-HUKKERI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591309, have changed my name from SHRIDEVI KHADAKABHAVI to SHRIDEVI SURESH KHADAKABHAVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/07/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUJANA THAPA wife of No.-5457775M, Rank-NK, Name-TINKU THAPA residing at LOWER CHHILBO, VILL-KALIMPONG KHAMSAHAL, PO-KALIMPONG, DIST-DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL-734301, have changed my name from SUJANA THAPA to SUJANA GURUNG for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, VIDYA WATI wife of No. 6946202F, Rank-HAV Name- KARUNA SHANKAR YADAV Residing at VILL-PARSHURAMPUR, PO-RAJEPUR, TEHSIL-BANGARMAU, DIST-UNNAO, UTTAR PRADESH-241501, have changed my name from VIDYA WATI for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 28/08/1957 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1955, vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE
I, PREAMWATI mother of No. 6946202F, Rank-HAV Name- KARUNA SHANKAR YADAV Residing at VILL-PARSHURAMPUR, PO-RAJEPUR, TEHSIL-BANGARMAU, DIST-UNNAO, UTTAR PRADESH-241501, have changed my name from PREAMWATI to PREM VATI for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 28/08/1957 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1955, vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, K SUBBU LAKSHMI, mother of No-2618476Y, Rank-SEP, Name- GOVINDARAJ K, residing at VILL-ELUMALAI, PO-ELUMALAI, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DISTT- MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535 have changed my name from K SUBBU LAKSHMI to SUBBULAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT BACK CHAIN OF "PLOT (SOUTH FACING) OF LAND AREA MEASURING 735 SQ. YARDS OUT OF KIET NO. 599 (OLD) AND KIET NO. 507 (NEW) PER AAKAR PATRA-45) SITUATED IN MOHALLA TULSI NAGAR, KASBA DANKAUR, PARGANA DANKAUR, TEHSIL SADAR, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P." I.E. 1. ORIGINAL SALE DEED DT. 10.02.2003 EXECUTED BY MR. GYANI SINGH AND OTHERS IN FAVOUR OF MRS. SARASWATI DEVI AND MRS. INDRA DEVI IN RESPECT OF LAND AREA MEASURING 735 PART OF 0-13-18-7/8TH OUT OF GATA NO. 599 OF CHAK NO. 21, DOC. NO. 885 & 2. ORIGINAL SALE DEED DT. 26.07.2006 EXECUTED BY MRS. SARASWATI DEVI AND MRS. INDRA DEVI IN FAVOUR OF MRS. SUSHILA BANSAL IN RESPECT OF THE SAID PROPERTY OUT OF KHASRA NO. 599 OF CHAK NO. 21, DOC. NO. 9770 HAVE BEEN LOST BY THE CURRENT OWNER MR. KRISHAN KUMAR AND IN THIS REGARD MR. KRISHAN KUMAR HAD LODGED ONLINE LAST REPORT VIDE LAR NO. 20260000612389 ON DT. 22.06.2026 AND SAID OWNER MR. KRISHAN KUMAR PURCHASED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE ORIGINAL SALE DEED DT. 04.02.2023 EXECUTED BY MRS. SUSHILA BANSAL ALIAS SUSHILA DEVI AS DOC. NO. 3526, NOW MR. KRISHAN KUMAR WANTS TO TAKE LOAN AGAINST THE SAID PROPERTY FROM TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID ORIGINAL SALE DEEDS IF FOUND BY ANY PERSON. ALSO PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY/SALE DEED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.
ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE
E-16, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032
MOBILE NO. 9999042521

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14656024K Rank-HAV ARMT (FD) Name-NIRAJ KUMAR MISHRA residing at VILL-LOHSARI, PO- LOHSARI THANA-BOCHHAHA, TEHSIL- MUZAFFARPUR, DIST- MUZAFFARPUR, BIHAR-843103 have changed my mother's name from MEERA MISHAR to MIRA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, GUDDAPPA father of No-JC-442447M, Rank- SUB, Name-NINGAPPA MALLARI, residing at Door No- 125, 2nd CROSS, GURUKOTTURESHWARA BADAVANE, VILL & TEHSIL+ DIST- VAVANAGERE, KARNATAKA-577004, have changed my name GUDDAPPA to GUDDAPPA PUTTAPPA MALLARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAVITHRIAMMA B mother of No-2618261Y, Rank- SEP, Name-VIJEEESH KUMAR V residing at VILL-VITHURA, PO- THENNOOR, TEHSIL- NEDUMANGAD, DIST-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA- 695551 have changed my name from SAVITHRIAMMA B to SAVITHRI AMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, K KANNAN father of No-2618476Y, Rank-SEP, Name- GOVINDARAJ K, residing at VILL-ELUMALAI, PO-ELUMALAI, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DISTT- MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535 have changed my name K KANNAN to KANNAN K for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, K SUBBU LAKSHMI, mother of No-2618476Y, Rank-SEP, Name- GOVINDARAJ K, residing at VILL-ELUMALAI, PO-ELUMALAI, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DISTT- MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535 have changed my name from K SUBBU LAKSHMI to SUBBULAKSHMI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Public Notice
I hitherto known as RAVI S/O RAM BAHADUR residing at 9, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, Meghalaya House, New Delhi NDMC, Central Delhi, Delhi-110001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVI KUMAR.

Public Notice
My client Smt.Kamlesh W/o Sh. Narayan Singh R/O House No.D-108,Lamba Pana, Qutab Garh, North West Delhi,Delhi-110039 has severed all relations and debar/disowned her daughters namely Nisha and Indu from all her movable and immovable properties due to their misconduct and hostile misbehavior. My client shall not be responsible for any acts/deeds in any criminal and civil activity of them in future.
Saraswati Solanki(advocate)
Delhi High Court
Ch.no-1012,10th Floor,Lawyers Chamber Block,Rohini Court,Delhi

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT KATIHAIR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR-N-2026-K-20 Dated: 30-07-2026.
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:** Annual Maintenance Contract of Railway owned 2x24 optical fiber Cable in ABS Section of Aluabari Road-Ambari Falakata for three years. **Tender Value:** ₹66,50,233.80/- **Estimate Money:** ₹1,33,000/- **Date & time of closing of tender:** At 15.00 hrs. & opening at 15.30 hrs. on 21-08-2026. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. on 21-08-2026, in the website www.ireps.gov.in

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
Name of Work and its location	96-SRDEE-G-DLI-2026-27 Replacement of overhead network by underground cables and improvement/upgradation of power supply network at DKZ.
Approx. cost of the works in	₹ 14821054.00/-
Address of the Office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, DRM Office, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055
Earnest Money	Rs. 296400.00/-
Last Date & time of submission of tender	21.08.2026, 16.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	21.08.2026, 16.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
2639/2026	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

E-AUCTION LEASING FOR PARCEL SPACE
E-Auction contract for leasing of SLRs for 3 years in trains originating from Lumding Division. **Description:** Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment), **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee.

Auction Catalogue No. Lease-LMG-28-26			
Seq No.	Lot No./Category		Trips
AA/1	55669-SLR-F1-SCL-SANG-26-5 (Parcel-SLR)		783
AA/2	15621-SLR-F1-KYQ-ANVT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)		157
AA/3	15603-SLR-F2-GHY-LEDO-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)		1096
AA/4	15617-SLR-F2-GHY-DLCR-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)		470
AA/5	13126-SLR-F1-SANG-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)		470
AA/6	15610-SLR-F1-SANG-GHY-26-2 (Parcel-SLR)		1096
AA/7	12505-SLR-F1-KYQ-ANVT-26-2 (Parcel-SLR)		1096
AA/8	15617-SLR-F1-GHY-DLCR-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)		470
AA/9	22449-SLR-F1-GHY-NDLS-26-2 (Parcel-SLR)		313
AA/10	15613-SLR-F1-GHY-MZS-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)		1096
AA/11	13182-SLR-F1-SHTT-KOAA-26-1 (Parcel-SLR)		157

Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. & Closing at: 13.10 hrs. on 14-08-2026. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

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

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

PDD Bhaderwah bids farewell to Technician-I Imtiaz Ahmed Kelu on his superannuation

BHADERWAH: The Power Development Department (PDD) Bhaderwah organised a farewell function for Technician-I Imtiaz Ahmed Kelu on his superannuation after 28 years of service in the department. Officers and staff of the PDD appreciated Mr Kelu's dedication, sincerity and contribution throughout his career. They praised his professionalism, honesty and commitment to duty, describing him as a respected colleague whose services will be remembered. As a mark of respect, the PDD staff presented a memento and farewell gifts to Mr Kelu in appreciation of his years of service. The PDD Bhaderwah staff extended their congratulations and best wishes to Mr Kelu for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous retired life.

Prime Minister's emotional message on Jantar Mantar incident, appealing to youth to use restraint and respectful language

New Delhi. Prominent social worker, Gaumata Sevak and Corona warrior Charanjeev Malhotra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a video

them the right direction. In the video, the Prime Minister said that in a democracy everyone has the right to disagree and criticize, but abusive lan-

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE
I, SUDHA MONY mother of JC-394110K Rank-NB/SUB Name-RAJESH KUMAR S Residing at-RAJESH BHAVAN, VADACODE, KURA (PO), THALAVOOR, KOLLAM, KERALA-691557, have changed my name from SUDHA MONY to SUDHAMANI for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1961 instead of my correct date of birth as 10/03/1961 vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto Known as Anshesh S/O Shivbada R/O B-80, Ganesh Nagar, P.O. Tilak Nagar, New Delhi -110018 Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter Be Known as Anshesh Rao.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, CHAUHAN ISHIKA SATYANARAYAN D/O SATYANARAYAN HIRALAL CHAUHAN R/O C-183, NIHAL VIHAR, CHANDAN VIHAR, NANGLOI, WEST DELHI, Delhi-110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ISHIKA SATYANARAYAN Chauhan in my 12th class educational Documents. The actual name of mine is CHAUHAN ISHIKA SATYA NARAYAN, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Public Notice
I hitherto known as KAMALA alias ABDUL KALAM S/O GARIBULLA KHAN R/O 158, 2ND FLOOR, GALI GADRIYAN BASTI, HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, DARGAH SHARIF, SOUTH DELHI, Delhi-110013 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABDUL KALAM. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, Diksha, D/O Parmod Kumar, R/O B-3844, Street No- 103, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi- 110084 have changed my name to Diksha Kumari for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kuldeep Singh Sawhney S/o Manjeet Singh Sawhney R/O 5047, Second Floor,Chaman Ganj,Subzi Mandi,Roshan Ara Road North Delhi-110007 declare that my name has been wrongly written as Kuldeep Singh in my passport So The actual and correct name of mine is Kuldeep Singh Sawhney for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
It is for the general information of the public that I, Sarya Bano, W/o Sh. MD Salim, residing at H. No. J-11-361/6, Sangam Vihar, South Delhi - 110062, hereby declare that my name and my husband's name have been incorrectly recorded as "Saira Bano" and "MD Saleem", respectively, in the Birth Certificate and educational records of my minor son, Aleem (aged 13 years) the actual name of mine and my husband are Sarya Bano and MD Salim which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, BR RAMAKRISHNAPPA father of B R UMASHANKAR presently residing at H.NO. 56, 2ND MAIN, 1ST CROSS, JYOTHINAGAR VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU-560017, have changed my name from BR RAMAKRISHNAPPA to BR RAMAKRISHNA vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, UMA SHANKAR BR S/o BR RAMAKRISHNA presently residing at H.NO. 56, 2ND MAIN, 1ST CROSS, JYOTHINAGAR VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU-560017, have changed my name from UMA SHANKAR BR to B R UMASHANKAR vide Affidavit dated 01/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, Rohit Baghel S/o Suresh Pal Singh R/O A-55, Nathu Colony, Sector - 49, Baroda, Noida, Dist: Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 declare that name of my Father and mother have been wrongly written as Suresh Baghel and Mithilesh in my 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father and mother are Suresh Pal Singh and Mithalesh

NEWS BOX

Fire toll mounts in Greece as blazes spread

PORTO GERMENO.(Agency)

Greece on Sunday faced multiple fronts and a growing damage toll after a week of wildfires devastated over 12,000 hectares of forest and agricultural land, experts said.

The National Observatory's climate tracker meteo.gr said early estimates indicated that over 6,500 hectares (16,000 acres) had been burned in separate fires on the Gulf of Corinth which also swept through the popular coastal village of Porto Germeno near Athens.Porto Germeno and other villages were evacuated when the fire broke out on Friday but local authorities say scores of homes were damaged or destroyed.Earlier this week, fires on the islands of Crete and Paros affected another 6,000 hectares according to meteo.But Theodore Giannaros, a wildfire meteorologist and senior researcher at the National Observatory, said the fires around Porto Germeno appear to have affected an area of over 10,000 hectares -- almost double the original estimate.

Washington wildfires scorch over 2,50,000 acres of land; trigger mass evacuations

world.(Agency)

More than 4,000 firefighters, backed by the National Guard and crews from over a dozen states, battled multiple wildfires across Washington state, US on Saturday as strong winds and extreme heat fuelled blazes that forced widespread evacuations and power outages.Governor Bob Ferguson declared a statewide emergency and imposed a burn ban, warning that Washington was facing a "very serious situation" with more than a dozen active fires burning across over 250,000 acres. Nearly 450,000 acres have burned across the state so far this summer."Our state is facing a very serious situation with multiple fires," Ferguson said, adding that high temperatures and strong winds are expected to hamper firefighting efforts through the weekend.The biggest concern remained the fast-moving Old Trails Fire in Spokane, which erupted around noon, raced through dry brush and grass, jumped the Spokane River and spread into residential neighbourhoods.The blaze had burned about 3,000 acres by Saturday evening, threatened nearly 4,000 structures and forced evacuations across parts of the city. Cars lined roads as residents fled while thick smoke and towering flames engulfed the area.

Three dead and two wounded after shooting at restaurant in Idaho, US

world.(Agency)

Multiple people were killed and several others were injured after a shooting at a newly opened In-N-Out Burger in Twin Falls, Idaho, on Saturday afternoon. The incident triggered a large emergency response and caused panic among customers and workers. Authorities later confirmed that the suspected gunman was dead and that there was no ongoing threat to the public.

Panic erupts at newly opened In-N-Out Burger

The shooting happened at around 2:29 p.m. at an In-N-Out Burger on Blue Lakes Boulevard North. The restaurant had opened only a week earlier and was busy with customers during the

The area around the restaurant includes retail stores, hotels and a movie theatre, making it one of the busiest commercial locations in Twin Falls.Videos shared online showed customers and restaurant employees running across the parking lot as gunfire rang out near the drive-thru area. Witnesses reported seeing a man carrying an AR-style rifle.According to local reports, an armed civilian in the drive-thru lane drew a handgun and returned fire during the incident.

Multiple deaths and injuries reported

Twin Falls Police Chief Matthew Hicks said officers responded quickly and brought the situation under control."We believe that the threat to the community is over," Hicks told reporters.He described the scene as "a very chaotic scene" because of the large number of customers and witnesses present when the shooting began.City officials reported at least three deaths and multiple injuries. Authorities have not released final casualty figures as family notifications continue.

Police said the suspected gunman was found dead at the scene. Officials have not yet disclosed how he died.

Roads closed during emergency response

Authorities temporarily closed several nearby roads as emergency crews responded to the shooting.

13 dead after small tourist plane crashes in Peru

The doomed plane was operated by AeroDiana, which offers sightseeing trips lasting 30 minutes to an hour over the site, which is best seen from the air.

LIMA.(Agency)

A small plane carrying foreign tourists to view Peru's famed Nazca Lines archaeological site crashed Saturday, killing all 13 people on board, police said.The incident occurred shortly after 1:00 pm (1800 GMT) after the plane took off from the airport in Pisco, located about 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of the capital Lima."We have information that 11 passengers and two crew members have died," Police Major Jorge Andrade told

reporters at the crash site.

"Given the severity of the accident, there are no survivors. We have recovered four bodies so far," Andrade said, without identifying the victims.

He also did not give any immediate indication of what may have caused the crash. Peru's civil aviation authority will investigate and agents were already on the scene collecting evidence.Firefighters and police were working amid the twisted, smoldering wreckage of the aircraft, according to images posted on Facebook by local news outlets.The foreign trade ministry issued a statement saying the 11 passengers were "foreign tourists," adding that it would offer assistance to the embassies involved.

RPP radio reported that seven Italians, two Germans and two Spaniards were killed.

In-flight emergency'

The Nazca Lines are a group of

geoglyphs etched into the desert sands that date back to between 500 BC and 500 AD.The meaning of the geometric shapes and animal outlines remains a mystery, with some believing they had



ritual astronomical functions, according to UNESCO, which declared the area a World Heritage site in 1994.The doomed plane was operated by AeroDiana, which offers sightseeing trips lasting 30 minutes to an hour over the site, which is best seen from the air. AeroDiana told AFP that it would soon

release more information about the crash.Municipal officials in Vista Alegre, where the plane crashed, said in a statement that preliminary information indicated an "in-flight emergency" was to blame, without offering more details.

One resident of Vista Alegre said the plane exploded on impact.

Dozens of small planes operate from the airport in Pisco, handling a large volume of primarily foreign tourists hoping to visit the Nazca Lines.

Such accidents have occurred before. In 2022, seven people were killed in a plane crash, including two Chileans and three Dutch nationals.

In October 2010, four British tourists and two Peruvian crew members died when an AirNasca plane crashed after taking the tourists to view the site.

Spain Installs 500-Metre-Long Sea Barrier After 60,000 Migrants Enter Ceuta

world.(Agency)

Spain on Saturday installed a 500-meter-long (1,600-foot) barrier on the sea border between its North African territory of Ceuta and neighboring Morocco after tens of thousands of migrants breached the frontier earlier in the week.At least 67 migrants died, including some who drowned and others who were killed in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier, the Spanish government said Saturday. The sudden arrival of 50,000 to 60,000 migrants in the territory on Thursday and Friday sparked a humanitarian crisis and reignited the immigration debate in Europe and beyond, though most of the migrants soon went back.Critics of Spain's socialist government, notably right and far-right politicians, seized upon the dramatic images of crowds storming into Ceuta, which sits on the Strait of Gibraltar at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea and has been a Spanish possession since 1580. Spain's migration policy has focused on granting legal status to workers lacking authorization who entered the country before 2026 to boost its economy, in contrast with the anti-migration and pro-deportation policies promoted across much of the EU and in the US.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez slammed the reaction of some EU leaders to the events in Ceuta, saying calls for Spain to be suspended from the EU's borderless Schengen zone were "driven by prejudice, fake news, ignorance, or political interest." Despite the Ceuta crisis, Spain in recent years has had fewer illegal migrants cross into the country than Mediterranean neighbors Italy and Greece.On Saturday morning, a handful of migrants who swam to Ceuta's urban Tarajal beach were met by soldiers who escorted them across the border.

"We are relentless against those who break the law," Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska told journalists.Asked how the breach could have happened given the heavy security on both sides of the border and whether Morocco posed a threat to Ceuta, Marlaska defended the government in Rabat.The events require an evaluation by Spain and Morocco," he said. But it was the cooperation with its neighbors that allowed Spain "to revert the situation in 24 hours.

Sri Lanka deploys troops after prison riot

COLOMBO.(Agency)

Sri Lanka deployed hundreds of troops and elite commandos on Sunday to contain riots at an overcrowded prison in which an inmate was killed and six others wounded, police said.

Deputy police inspector-general Sanjeewa Medawatte said the situation was under control after inmates destroyed multiple buildings on Saturday inside Mahara Prison, just outside the capital Colombo.

"We got reinforcements from the armed forces and the Special Task Force commandos to restore order and send the inmates back to their cells," Medawatte told reporters outside the prison.In November 2020, a riot erupted at the facility in which 11 inmates were shot and



killed, and nearly 120 others wounded.

The latest unrest came almost a month after another prison riot in the same region, in which 10 guards and 21 inmates were killed. Medawatte said inmates at Mahara Prison had completely destroyed the kitchen, the hospital, a newly

built rehabilitation building and vocational training facilities.

The prison housed 4,100 inmates, about four times its capacity, an issue common across the country's jails.Last month, the authorities announced plans to convert disused state buildings into prisons.

Saudi crown prince urges Trump not to escalate Iran war as US leader weighs new strikes



WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto leader, in a phone call with President Donald Trump on Saturday raised concerns about the U.S. potentially escalating the conflict with Iran, according to a person familiar with the leaders' discussion.The discussion, which was first reported on by Axios,

comes as Trump weighs whether to carry out new strikes on Iran.

The Saudis, according to the person briefed on the substance of the call but not authorized to comment publicly, are concerned that if the U.S. targets Iran's energy infrastructure or carries out massive strikes on other key infrastructure that Tehran could respond by carrying out attacks on the kingdom's and other Gulf

countries' energy infrastructure.

The crown prince during Saturday's call sought clarity from Trump on what potential new action he's weighing to take against Iran, the person said.The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment about Saturday's call.Saudi Arabia earlier this week joined the U.S. in striking multiple logistics and weapons sites used by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, but has been urging the U.S. and Iran to get back to the negotiating table to find an endgame to the five-month old conflictThe crown prince also dispatched his brother, Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, to Washington earlier this week for separate meetings with Trump and Vice President J Vance to discuss Iran strategy.

Multiple people dead after shooting at fast food restaurant in southern Idaho

BOISE.(Agency)

A shooting at an In-N-Out Burger restaurant in southern Idaho on Saturday afternoon left multiple people dead and others injured, police said.

The shooter was among the dead, Twin Falls Police Chief Matthew Hicks said in a news conference. Police were still trying to determine the shooter's identity and motive."We believe the threat to the community is over," Hicks said. He added that he did not yet know exactly how many were killed or wounded, and officials were still in the process of notifying next of kin. "It was a very chaotic scene."Before the news conference, Twin Falls County Commissioner Brent Reinke said Sheriff Jack Johnson had told him five people were hurt.Lane Koehn, 34, said

he was at a stoplight near the In-N-Out when he saw a person with an AR-style rifle emerge from the drive-thru. A man with a pistol started firing at the shooter.He then saw someone in an In-N-Out uniform drag a person, also uniformed, bleeding from a gunshot wound in her chest across the parking lot. The employee, Koehn and the man with the pistol stayed until paramedics arrived for her."She was pretty bad off, but I don't know. I hope she made it," Koehn said.Koehn said he was told by police to evacuate because the shooting was still active.He also said the shooter fired at least three or four rounds and it was not clear whether or not anyone in particular was targeted.Video taken by a driver from across the street captured a shooter, who appeared to be dressed in black, walking up to a white car



carrying a long rifle, opening the driver-side door and popping the trunk. The person then walked to the trunk and reached inside. At that point the driver who shot the video left quickly, fearing that the man might be getting more weapons.Twin Falls resident Haley Dodaro, 43, and her mother went to In-N-Out for lunch Saturday afternoon. While waiting in the drive-thru line, they saw people running

across the road and workers bolting out of the restaurant. At first Dodaro thought there might have been a fire, but then a man directing traffic in a reflective vest said there was a shooter.

"So that's when we knew there was a shooting. People were running out crying and screaming. It was very scary," Dodaro said in a text message to The Associated Press.The shooting took place near a busy shopping area and hundreds of people were there at the time, Hicks said. Police where interviewing witnesses and asked for anyone with information to contact authorities.Reinke, who is also former prison chief for the Idaho Department of Corrections, said he learned of the incident just before 4 p.m.

Bhitarkanika reopens after three months

KENDRAPARA.(Agency)

The Bhitarkanika National Park reopened for tourists and nature enthusiasts on Saturday after remaining closed for three months during the annual nesting season of saltwater crocodiles. The park remained closed from May 1 to July 31 to provide a peaceful environment for crocodile breeding and nesting. A total of 117 saltwater crocodile nests were recorded in Bhitarkanika during this year's nesting season, said forest range officer Kapilendra Pradhan.

On the reopening day, 105 tourists explored the park in seven boats. Forest officials welcomed visitors with flowers. Entry permits are available both online and offline, while tourists have been advised to make advance bookings through the official eco-tourism portal.

The forest department has also enforced a strict ban on plastic disposables inside the protected area under its green protocol. Visitors have been asked not to carry polythene bags or litter plastic bottles and other non-biodegradable waste inside the park.

Officials expect tourist arrivals to increase steadily from August. Large numbers of local bird species have already begun nesting in the mangrove forest, offering visitors an added attraction during the monsoon season.

Private tour operators are also preparing to set up tented accommodation around the park to cater to the expected rise in tourist footfall.

Telangana panel discusses hate speech Bill, aims to submit report this session

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Telangana Assembly Select Committee on the proposed legislation to curb hate speech and provocative remarks held a meeting on Saturday in the Assembly Speaker's chamber under the chairmanship of Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnampallam Prabhakar.

The committee deliberated on several key issues, including the proposed hate speech bill and provisions relating to provocative statements. It is working towards submitting its report before the conclusion of the coming monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly.

The meeting was attended by Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and committee members Danam Nagender, Madhusudan Reddy, Yashaswini Reddy, Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, Kova Lakshmi, Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, and Manick Rao. During the meeting, Prabhakar once again distributed copies of the proposed bill to all committee members for further study.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, he said the committee would meet again within a week and members' suggestions would be considered before finalising the report. He said that the proposed legislation was intended to prevent hate speeches in the Assembly.

MVD cracks down on illegal bike racing & stunt riding across Kochi, imposes Rs 2.2 lakh as fine

KOCHI.(Agency)

The motor vehicles department (MVD) launched a late-night enforcement drive across Kochi city on Friday to curb illegal bike racing and stunt riding, booking dozens of violators and imposing fines totalling `2.20 lakh.

The overnight inspection, led by the RTO enforcement wing, targeted groups allegedly involved in illegal racing and dangerous riding practices that have been causing noise pollution and public nuisance in residential areas. The drive began on Friday night and continued till 5am on Saturday.

Five enforcement squads conducted inspections at Kaloor Stadium Link Road, Queen's Walkway, Marine Drive, Kadavanthra and Panampilly Nagar. Residents had reportedly complained that modified motorcycles with loud exhausts began gathering after 11pm, disturbing the sleep of children and elderly people. Officials inspected around 80 motorcycles and found 35 fitted with prohibited modified silencers, while another 20 vehicles.

From uniform syllabus to common calendar, panel plans FYUGP rejig in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)

Two years after Kerala introduced the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), the first comprehensive review of its implementation has called for a broad reforms to the system. An expert committee has recommended reforms spanning examinations, curriculum, internships, governance and scholarships. The changes, the panel said, are needed to ensure the programme delivers on its academic objectives and is implemented uniformly across universities.

The interim report, submitted to Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) vice-chairperson Achuthsankar S Nair by the committee chaired by Prof Gladston Raj S, contains 14 recommendations aimed at strengthening academic quality, streamlining administration and improving student outcomes under the revamped

undergraduate system.

Among the key recommendations is the constitution of a State Consortium for Academic Planning and Examination Coordination (SCAPEC) to prepare and



publish a common academic calendar and examination schedule for all universities by March 31 every year. The consortium, comprising the KSHEC vice-chairperson, council representatives, university registrars and controllers of examinations, would oversee its uniform implementation across institutions.

Karnataka releases 12K cusecs; TN may get water by Monday

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Karnataka released 12,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu from the Kabini reservoir on Saturday, following heavy rainfall in the reservoir's catchment areas even as the Cauvery water-sharing row between the two states continues. The water is expected to reach the Biligundlu gauging station on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border by Monday, and the Mettur reservoir by Tuesday or Wednesday, officials said, though the exact arrival time could vary depending on river conditions.

"The catchment areas along the Cauvery basin between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have remained dry for several days. As a result, the flow of water may be slower than usual. We also have to take evaporation losses into account. It is not possible to accurately estimate the travel time of the

water at this stage," a senior Water Resources Department (WRD) official told.

Another WRD official said that Kabini's storage has climbed steadily over the past



month on the back of continuous rainfall, from 26.59% of its 19,516 mcft capacity on July 1, with an inflow of 1,988 cusecs, to 61.63% by July 15.

The storage went up to 82.65% by July 31, when inflow had risen to 9,133 cusecs.

The committee has also proposed setting up an Inter-University Board of Studies Committee (IUBC) for every discipline, comprising chairpersons of Boards of Studies from all universities, to harmonise curriculum structure, syllabus format, internship requirements, assessment practices and examination frameworks across universities.

Seeking to raise academic standards, the report recommends redesigning both internal and end-semester question papers, with greater emphasis on higher-order thinking skills. It has also proposed constituting an Assessment and Evaluation Review Committee in every university to periodically review question papers and assignments for alignment with course and programme outcomes. In addition, the committee has recommended that 20% of internal assessment marks in every course be awarded based on evaluation of the teacher-specific fifth module.

Despite this rise, the official said, Karnataka had held off releasing water even after repeated directions from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), delaying the release until Saturday.

The official said Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar reportedly held a high-level meeting with the Water Resources Minister and senior officials in Bengaluru ahead of Saturday's all-party meeting on the Cauvery issue, as inflows into the Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir also rose following heavy rain across the Cauvery catchment.

With both Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagara nearing full capacity, Karnataka may have to release more water in the coming days if inflows continue, bringing relief for farmers and residents downstream in TN tracking the Mettur reservoir's levels ahead of the delta cropping season.

Seven dead as extreme rain triggers floods, landslides in Kerala

KOCHI.(Agency)

Torrential rain battered Kerala, triggering a series of landslides, resulting in flash flooding and leaving a trail of devastation. Seven people died in rain-related incidents on Saturday, of which four were caught in debris flow following landslides, while three children drowned.

The central districts of Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Kottayam bore the maximum brunt of the rain fury, which revived memories of the catastrophic deluge of 2018 that left 483 people dead, displaced a million and ravaged homes and infrastructure.

The rain that started around 11pm on Friday pummelled the eastern parts of southern Kerala for hours,

causing rivers to breach banks by around 2.30am. As floodwater began entering houses and shops, panic spread in towns and villages located



along the banks, with people scrambling for their lives. Floods inundated towns, including Ranni, Vadaserikkara and Pala.

As many as 65 relief camps have been opened across the state, sheltering 1,465 people.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

forecast that the intensity of the rain will reduce from Sunday, and that the southern districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam are out of danger as the cloud band has moved to the north. Though the intensity of the rain will decrease, the flood situation in districts north of Thrissur will remain grim on Sunday as the rivers are in spate due to intense rain received over the past two days. Among the seven victims, four died in landslides in Kottayam and Idukki districts, while three drowned in Malappuram and Kottayam districts.

Regina Johnny of Poonjar Thekketara panchayat in Kottayam and her son Josephine, 24, died after a portion of their house was destroyed in a landslide. Sumathy, 69, was killed after a landslide buried her house at Adurmala in Idukki.

Migrants' saviour in life & death: Murshidabad man brings Bengal's Gulf workers home

Murshidabad.(Agency)

Every few days, poor families from Murshidabad, Nadia, Malda, North 24 Parganas and Howrah reach a small office at Panchanantala in Behrampur with passports, Aadhaar cards and photographs in hand. Most have lost a husband, son or brother working in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar or Kuwait. Others want to bring home relatives stranded there. They all ask for one person—Matiur Rahaman.

From the office of the Karno Subarno Welfare Society, around 220 km from Kolkata, Matiur sits before a computer, sending emails to the Prime Minister's Office, the Union ministries of external affairs, labour, and women and child development, and Indian embassies in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. He also posts alerts on X, tagging the ministries

and embassies, urging the authorities to act quickly.

Thousands of workers from rural Bengal are employed in construction companies,



healthcare facilities and households in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Malaysia as sweepers, masons, helpers and domestic workers. Some die in accidents or from illness. Others seek help to return home after alleging abuse or harassment by employers. The distress calls Matiur receives are

rooted in a wider migration network operating across Murshidabad and neighbouring districts. More than 150 agents allegedly operate in areas such as Kandi, Lalgola and Domkal, arranging passports, visas and other paperwork for youths seeking jobs in West Asian countries. For every case, Matiur prepares the paperwork, uploads the documents on the Centre's MADAD portal and follows up with the ministries and Indian missions abroad. Families bring him passports, visas, Aadhaar cards and other papers. He completes the paperwork and keeps pursuing the case until there is a response.

Many workers from economically weaker families pay between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh to agents for overseas jobs as sweepers, helpers and construction workers. In Kandi subdivision alone,

comprising Kandi, Bharatpur I and II, Barwan and Khargram blocks, dozens of agents reportedly operate because overseas employment remains a major aspiration among unemployed rural youths.

Sanjay Hazra came to Matiur after his son, Subho Hazra, died of a cardiac arrest in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Subho had gone there two years ago after paying Rs 1.42 lakh to a local agent in Kandi for a sweeper's job. With Matiur's intervention, his body reached Khorsadanga village on July 4, where the family performed his last rites. In another case, 25-year-old Samiul Sheikh of Gokarna in Murshidabad died in a road accident in Jeddah in January. He had paid nearly Rs 1 lakh to an agent before leaving for Saudi Arabia to work as a sweeper in a construction company. His body was brought back home in March.

Assam flood situation eases slightly; CM Himanta Biswa Sarma to visit affected areas

Assam.(Agency)

The flood situation in Assam showed signs of improvement, with the number of affected people declining to 1.78 lakh, although the number of impacted districts rose to seven, officials said on Sunday.

The death toll remained unchanged at 82, with no fresh fatalities reported in the past 24 hours, they added.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is scheduled to visit the worst-affected areas from Sunday, as the Centre approved more than Rs 370 crore under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for flood relief.

A total of 349 villages across Golaghat, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Bajali, Dhemaji, Sonitpur and Jorhat districts remained affected by the floods. Charaideo was the worst-hit district, with 75,199 people affected, followed by Sivasagar with 58,824.

On Friday, five districts had been affected, impacting 1.92 lakh people.

Forty-four relief camps are currently operational across the state, providing shelter to around 15,000 displaced people. Another 17 relief distribution centres are catering to 5,569 people. Around 15,060 hectares of crop area remain submerged, while 1,543 animals have been washed away and 6,765 others affected.

Sarma thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for extending assistance to the flood-hit state. "The approval of Rs 379.35 crore under the SDRF and the timely deputation of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams to Assam reflect the Centre's unwavering commitment to standing

Gurjars in Rajasthan upset about depiction of local hero as Rajput in govt booklet

JAIPUR.(Agency)

The Centre has drawn flak from the Gurjar community in south Rajasthan over a booklet published by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that describes the revered medieval Mewar figure Panna Dhai as a member of the Khichi Rajput clan.

Reacting sharply to the claim made in the book 'Bharat Ke Nari Ratna' published by the Publications Division of the ministry, the Gurjar Samaj Seva Samiti has asserted that identifying Panna as a "Kshatriya (warrior) of the Khichi Rajput clan" is historically inaccurate. The group also reiterated that Panna—whose community identity remains a hotly debated subject—was a Gurjar woman.

Calling on the Centre to rectify what it described as a factual error, a delegation of the Gurjar organisation submitted a memorandum to the Udaipur district administration in this regard on Friday.

A signal buried between the lines of a resignation

The recent resignation of Mohammed Shahabuddin, the 76-year-old former President of Bangladesh, two years before the end of his five-year term has triggered speculation despite his position as Head of State being largely ceremonial. He was appointed by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who regarded him as a steadfast ally. For this reason, the student leaders of the so-called people’s revolution and other agitators had gheraoed Bangabhaban, the President’s official residence in Dhaka, hoping to force his resignation in the first few months after Hasina’s flight to Delhi. The agitators were following a template laid down by the forces that were directing them to compel the resignation of hundreds of judges, officials, academics and heads of institutions on trumped-up charges because they were regarded as Awami League sympathisers. When they had surrounded Bangabhaban in 2024, the army had stepped forward to protect their nominal commander-in-chief.

Shahabuddin resigned citing serious health reasons. “Recent medical examinations have diagnosed me with a condition known as autonomic neuropathy. Due to this condition, I occasionally experience momentary loss of consciousness,” Shahabuddin said in a statement released by his press secretary. The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh’s parliament, will perform the President’s duties until a new one is elected, the statement added. There is hardly any doubt that Shahabuddin’s exit was carefully choreographed by the incumbent government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The timing was significant. It came following an emotional announcement from Hasina that she and other senior leaders would return to Bangladesh despite the death sentence hanging over her head and possible imprisonment upon arrival. The resignation was orchestrated when the army chief was visiting Turkey on an official visit. Shahabuddin was surely in the loop and extracted concessions about his future, including his security. The recent resignation of Mohammed Shahabuddin, the 76-year-old former President of Bangladesh, two years before the end of his five-year term has triggered speculation despite his position as Head of State being largely ceremonial. He was appointed by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who regarded him as a steadfast ally. For this reason, the student leaders of the so-called people’s revolution and other agitators had gheraoed Bangabhaban, the President’s official residence in Dhaka, hoping to force his resignation in the first few months after Hasina’s flight to Delhi.

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Iran must avoid overplaying its hand

America’s permissive nuclear deal with Saudis opens space for a compromise with Tehran

THE Iran war has entered its sixth month. It started on February 28 with US-Israeli airstrikes that killed the Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior generals of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), besides destroying several Iranian military facilities. Reportedly, the plan that Israel sold the US assumed that following the strikes, a popular uprising would depose the Islamic regime in Iran. That did not happen. Having gained experience from similar attacks in June 2025, Iran had moved its drones and missiles into safe enclaves in mountain ranges. Consequently, the Iranians retained the ability to hit US military facilities in the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries and Israel, besides threatening US naval assets. Most significantly, Iran disrupted maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, causing global oil prices to spike. Brent crude touched a maximum of \$126 per barrel, impacting energy costs even in the US. With Pakistani mediation, a ceasefire was eventually reached on June 17. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), however, had some general stipulations which caused fresh misunderstanding. By mid-June, the US had whittled down its demands to basically two issues: the Iranian nuclear programme and freedom of navigation in the Strait. While the nuclear issue had to be negotiated in a subsequent dialogue, the reopening of the Strait was for immediate implementation. The US quickly began to roll back its naval blockade. Iran, on the other hand, while allowing traffic through the Strait, began charging fees from all transiting vessels. Although Iran had been demanding it during and before the negotiations, no details had been finalised. The US expected them to be decided after the initial implementation of the MoU. Iran even targeted vessels moving through Omani waters and not the route designated by it.

Consequently, the US reverted to the use of military force with air attacks on July 8, barely three weeks after the initial ceasefire. Iran retaliated by attacking US military facilities in Jordan. The fresh hostilities lasted till July 24, when the US unilaterally announced another ceasefire, which also proved to be short-lived. The US has experimented with different ideas for a stable Gulf security order since the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The Americans and their GCC

allies backed Iraq, then under Saddam Hussein, in its war against Iran (1980-88). Then came the US intervention in Kuwait in 1991 to liberate it from Iraqi occupation. But the American confrontation with radical Islam in the form of al-Qaeda resulted from its own indirect intervention in Afghanistan to eject Soviet troops, present there since December



1979. But the US military intervention in Iraq to eject the Saddam regime in 2003 created a fresh regional power contest. It allowed Iran access to the Shia populations of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. This formed the Shia Crescent, with Iranian influence running from its western border to the Mediterranean. The Arab Spring, a populist anti-regime uprising which started in Tunisia in 2010, spread to Libya and Egypt, eventually causing the civil war in Syria and leading to the ouster of the Assad regime.

During his first term, US President Donald Trump conceived the Abraham Accords in 2020. They envisioned the GCC countries normalising relations with Israel and creating a new security order, with Israel at its core, to contain Iranian influence. But the cardinal mistake was to assume that the Palestinian issue was ignorable. Bahrain and the UAE, and later Morocco, signed on. Saudi Arabia resisted, demanding that Israel must first declare the pathway to a Palestinian state. The October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel by Hamas unleashed Israeli military violence on the Palestinian group as well as Gaza’s civilians. That undermined Trump’s plan. Meanwhile, Trump, having withdrawn the US from the nuclear deal between Iran and P5+1, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), allowed

Iran to resume uranium enrichment without oversight. The Indian government aligned with the Trumpian vision by proposing the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, to run overland via the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The Gaza crisis stalled it. South Asians & Diaspora The Iran war has created divisions among the GCC countries, with Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia, along with Turkey and Egypt, distrustful of the Abraham Accords members.

The two crucial issues between the US and Iran now are: the Iranian nuclear programme and the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The US, having abandoned the JCPOA, wants to deny Iran any uranium enrichment, even under the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On July 22, the US signed a nuclear deal with the Saudis, allowing uranium enrichment for generating fuel for their planned nuclear reactors. The US nuclear deal (2009) with the UAE denied enrichment rights. Iran now would not settle for anything less than the Saudi deal. But the US stumped the Saudis by announcing a day later that they must normalise ties with Israel first. This was the Abraham Accords by the back door. Why did the US loosen the nuclear norms? It was always assumed that the Saudis had financed Pakistan’s nuclear programme and thus had access to it. A formal enrichment deal perhaps would allow easier transfer of weapons technology. Is this an attempt to forestall the Iranian nuclear weapon programme by turning Saudi Arabia too into a nuclear weapon threshold state?

Iran understands that the US has electoral priorities that create time constraints. It also knows that the US threat of massive annihilation of Iranian civilian infrastructure is a bluff as Iran has threatened similar action against GCC nations. The US would not want mass disruption of economic and social life in the Gulf. The US has a couple of options. It can militarily escalate the conflict with air and ground attacks. This risks protracting the combat and causing heavy casualties. Alternatively, it may compromise on both the nuclear and Hormuz issues. Perhaps the more permissive nuclear deal with the Saudis opens space for a JCPOA-like deal. Regarding the Strait, Omani diplomats were in Iran on July 25-26. Oman-Iran management of the Strait may be acceptable to the GCC and thus also to the US.

Basic questions, larger reforms unaddressed in House exam Bill debate

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill gave Parliament a rare opportunity to influence the legal framework governing a national issue that affects lakhs of young Indians every year. Instead, the members spent more time looking back

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, passed by Parliament on July 30, responds to a genuine crisis. The repeated leaks of recruitment and entrance exam papers have shaken public confidence. There can be little disagreement over the need for a law that deals firmly with organised cheating networks and those who profit from them.

However, the parliamentary debate remained narrower than the issue warranted. The Bill offered an opportunity that went well beyond prescribing stiffer punishment for paper leaks. It came at a time when the Prime Minister had constituted a task force for exam reforms headed by former UIDAI chief Nandan Nilekani. The debate could have helped identify which reforms ought to be hewn into the law. While such a task force can recommend administrative, technological and procedural changes, Parliament must decide which of them belong in the law. Members could have used the debate to indicate the measures—mandatory security protocols, breach-reporting obligations, institutional accountability and



candidate protection—to be written into law, rather than leaving them for the Executive’s rules.

Members could have used the Bill as the peg to ask a few basic questions. Should the law prescribe how question papers are printed, stored and transported? Should it require independent security audits and minimum

cybersecurity standards? Should exam authorities be legally bound to report breaches within a fixed time? And should candidates whose exam are cancelled because of administrative failures have statutory protection? Instead, much of the debate degenerated into familiar political exchanges. The Treasury benches defended the government’s handling of the recent exam controversies, while the opposition focused on assigning political blame and revisiting issues such as the handling of the Jantar Mantar protests. The debate also bypassed questions that surface every time entrance exam become contentious. With education on the Concurrent List, Parliament could have reflected on the opposition’s concerns over the growing centralisation of entrance exam, whether such a trend is consistent with education remaining on the Concurrent List, and whether the states should have a greater say in the exam framework.

The Bill gave Parliament a rare opportunity to influence the legal framework governing a national issue that affects lakhs of young Indians every year.

If the sky doesn't relent, Centre must

For a country that imports more than half its edible oil and a fifth of pulses, a failed season inflates the forex bill. India’s food inflation now lives in perishables, too. It’s a supply problem that monetary tightening can’t solve. We must plan for more such troubled seasons

The monsoon’s failure is no longer a forecast—it is a fact with a price attached. The previous month was the fifth driest June since records began in 1901, with all-India rainfall of 99.5 mm, about 40 percent below normal. The weather office expects July—the month that matters most for the kharif crop and reservoir storage—to deliver less than 94 percent of its long-period average, alongside above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures over most of the country.

The consequences have been swift. Retail inflation rose to 4.38 percent in June, breaching the Reserve Bank’s target band for the first time since December 2024. Food inflation quickened to 5.32 percent, from 4.78 percent in May. These are early numbers, recorded before the full weight of the rainfall deficit has passed through to mandis and retail counters. If July disappoints too, the price pressure for the coming quarter is already written in the fields. Thus, the question before policy makers is not whether to respond, but with which instrument.

The distress in the fields is more telling than the price print. Kharif sowing in early July was down almost 21 percent from the same point last year. The sharpest decline is in oilseeds, down over 39 percent, with soybean acreage—the backbone of the domestic edible oil economy—shrinking by roughly two-fifths. For a country that imports more than half its edible oil requirement, a failed oilseed season inflates next winter’s import bill. That bill is being compounded by the West Asia conflict, which has kept crude oil volatile,

raising the cost of shipping and fertiliser while threatening the sea lanes through which India’s energy and edible oil imports move. Pulses face a similar arithmetic. The window for corrective action in agriculture—seed supply and advisories for short-duration varieties where late



rains permit re-sowing, and the early securing of import lines before world markets sense India’s need—is measured in weeks. Each week spent in reassurance that the situation is being monitored is a week conceded to scarcity.

The temptation now will be to read the inflation target breach as a case for monetary tightening. It should be resisted. The Monetary Policy Committee was right to

hold the repo rate at 5.25 percent with a neutral stance, and it should hold its nerve in the months ahead, for this is a supply shock, not a demand problem.

The June rainfall failure owed to an unfavourable phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation, unusual typhoon activity over the western Pacific that suppressed low-pressure formation over the Indian Ocean and evolving El Niño conditions. None of these forces responds to the cost of credit. Dearer money will not conjure rain, sow soybean or cheapen tomatoes; it will only tax an investment cycle that the economy, with growth projected at a modest 6.5-6.8 percent this fiscal, can ill afford to lose.

India has been here before: the framework of flexible inflation targeting was designed precisely so that the central bank could look through transient food-price spikes rather than chase them. The RBI’s legitimate concern is the second round—the seepage of temporary food prices into wages, rents and household expectations. But that risk is best met not with a pre-emptive hike, which would signal that Indian monetary policy is hostage to the weather, but with credible supply management by the government and plain communication from Mint Street that it can tell a monsoon from a mania. The burden of action, therefore, lies with the Centre, and the good news is that its cereal cushion has rarely been thicker. Central pool stocks of rice and wheat stood over 604 lakh tonnes in April, nearly three times the buffer norm of 210.4 lakh tonnes. Cereal inflation is thus a solved problem awaiting administration: calibrated open market releases should begin now, on a published calendar, so that traders cannot profit from uncertainty

and prices are defended before they rise rather than after. But India’s food inflation no longer lives in cereals. It lives in perishables, pulses and edible oils—precisely the commodities where capacity is thinnest.

The agenda is familiar and unglamorous. Import windows for pulses and edible oil must be opened early, predictably and for fixed periods, since markets punish panic buying and reward foresight. Vegetable supply chains deserve treatment as critical infrastructure: transport priority for perishables, expanded cold storage, and price intelligence used to move stock before local shortages become national spikes. Rain-deficit districts need drought contingency plans invoked without euphemism, alongside expanded employment guarantee works to protect rural incomes, and an early, honest allocation of reservoir water among drinking needs, power generation and the rabi season to come. None of this makes headlines; all of it is cheaper than the alternative. Beyond this season lies the structural truth that policy can no longer defer: a warming climate is making the erratic monsoon the rule rather than the exception, with longer dry spells punctured by destructive bursts of rain. An economy in which food claims nearly half the consumption basket of the poor cannot go on treating each failure as a surprise, to be managed by an empowered group of ministers in a fortnight of alarm. What is needed is standing machinery—real-time integration of sowing, storage, price and trade data; import protocols that trigger automatically at thresholds rather than at headlines; and sustained investment in irrigation, dryland farming and climate-resilient seed. These reforms have been debated for a decade; what has been missing is not diagnosis but follow-through.

They Went To J&K From Chhattisgarh To Earn Money For Family, Got Killed By Terrorists

Sakti/Sarangarh (Chhattisgarh). (Agency)

Driven out of their quiet villages in Chhattisgarh by crushing poverty, Deepak Ratre and Bhupendra Bhaina journeyed to Jammu and Kashmir in search of a better future but ended up becoming the latest victims of terror, plunging their families into despair.

The duo, both in their 20s, were gunned down at the brick kiln where they were employed in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Friday evening.Deepak Ratre (24), the sole earner for a household with a disabled brother, an elderly mother, wife and a four-month-old infant son, leaves behind a grief-stricken family in Bundeli village of Sakti district, his uncle Haldhar Ratre said on Saturday.

He had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife around seven to eight months ago to work at a brick kiln, hoping to secure a better future, he said."Deepak's father had died earlier. His younger brother is physically disabled. His mother and brother are now inconsolable. With him gone, there is no one left in the family to earn a livelihood," Haldhar told PTL.Haldhar said he had spoken to the district administration, which was making efforts to bring Deepak's remains back to his native village.

Bhogapuram airport to drive 'reverse migration' in North Andhra: CM Naidu

BHOGAPURAM (VIZIANAGARAM). (Agency)

Terming the Bhogapuram International Airport a game-changer for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday declared that the region is entering an era of "reverse migration", powered by global connectivity and massive industrial investments.

Framing the milestone under the banner, "Uttara Andhra... Ikapai Uttama Andhra" (North Andhra... From Now On, Best Andhra), Naidu emphasised that a region long known for outward migration is now poised to attract talent, professionals and investment back home.

Speaking at the inauguration of the greenfield airport, the Chief Minister dedicated the achievement to local farmers who voluntarily pooled 2,203 acres for the project, hailing them as the "true architects of North Andhra's golden future".

Built under the public-private partnership (PPP) model by the GMR Group, the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport forms the cornerstone of an expansive economic framework designed to transform the region's industrial and logistics landscape.

Karnataka Cabinet expansion, KCV to arrive with final list

BENGALURU.(Agency)

AS cabinet expansion is most likely on Monday, AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal is expected to arrive here from Kerala on Sunday evening with the list of twenty legislators to be inducted as ministers.The swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan is likely at 4 pm.

Ministerial aspirants made last-ditch efforts by meeting former CM Siddaramaiah at his Cauvery residence on Saturday.

MLAs Yashwant Rayagouda Patil, Appaji Nadagouda, Rizwan Arshad, Vijayananda Kashappanavar, AS Ponnanna, Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, Appaji C S Nadagouda, Yashwant Rayagouda Patil and Ashok S Pattan were among them.

Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh also met Siddaramaiah. The list of probable include, Ajay Dharam Singh - Kalaburagi (Rajput), Yashwantrayagouda Patil - Indi (Lingayat), T Raghuramurthy - Challakere (Valmiki), B Nagendra - Bellary Rural (Valmiki), Shivaraj Tangadagi - Kanakagiri (Bovi Dalit), Salim Ahmed - MLC (Muslim), NS Bosa Raju - MLC (Raju Kshatriya), Santosh Lad - Kalaghatagi (Maratha), SS Mallikarjun - Davanagere (Lingayat), Vijayanand Kashappanavar - Bagalkot (Lingayat), Puttaranga Shetty - Chamarajanagar (Uppara), AS Ponnanna - Virajpet (Kodava), N Cheluvarayaswamy - Nagamangala (Vokkaliga), Shivalingegowda - Arasikere (Vokkaliga), Basavaraj Shivannavar - Byadagi (Kuruba), Laxman Savadi(Lingayat), Laxmi Hebbalkar (Lingayat), Dr Arathi Krishna (Vokkaliga), Annapoorna E Tukaram (ST), and Anekal Shivanna (SC).

Bhiwandi building collapse: Dead mason probed as contractor survivors left homeless

With the remaining wing sealed after the collapse that killed 10, migrant families are returning to their villages while police investigate whether one of the deceased masons was the contractor carrying out unauthorised repairs.

Mumbai. (Agency)

A day after one wing of the dilapidated four-storey Kohinoor building in Bhiwandi's Gangaramwadi area collapsed, killing 10 people, police intensified their probe into the unauthorised repair work that preceded the tragedy even as survivors, rendered homeless, struggled with an uncertain future.

Investigators are trying to establish whether Ashok Paswan, one of the victims killed in the collapse, was the contractor entrusted with the repair work. Three Paswan brothers, all masons, were among those who died. "We have recorded the statements of

several local residents, some of whom have claimed that Ashok Paswan had taken up the repair contract. However, we are verifying these claims and the investigation is still underway," said Senior Inspector Vikram Mohite of Bhoiwada police station.

Police have already registered a case of culpable homicide against the building owner and the contractor. The owner, Bilal Ahmed Abubakar Khan, has been traced to Dubai after officers found he had travelled there a few days before the collapse. Police said he will be arrested on his return to India.

According to the FIR filed by the Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC), Khan ignored

repeated civic notices declaring the building dangerous and continued to allow residents to stay there. The



complaint also accuses him of carrying out unauthorised repairs by breaking a damaged structural pillar without civic permission.The FIR states that around 10.30 pm on Thursday, Assistant

Commissioner Arvind Ghughre and other civic officials visited the building after receiving information about repair work. They allegedly found labourers breaking and repairing a cracked pillar whose reinforcement bars were rusted and bent and which had been temporarily supported with a wooden prop. Officials photographed the site, ordered the work to stop immediately and directed residents to evacuate. While some occupants left, others reportedly said they would leave later. Within 10 to 15 minutes of the officials leaving, a portion of the building collapsed.The complaint further states that the 13-year-old building had been constructed without municipal approval.

Kulgam attack: UP Police amp up security along Kanwar Yatra routes, Lucknow on high alert

Lucknow. (Agency)

A day after two migrant labourers from Chhattisgarh were shot dead at point-blank range in South Kashmir's Kulgam, the Uttar Pradesh Police heightened security across the state, with special vigilance in the state capital and along the Kanwar Yatra routes.Also, Lucknow, the state capital, was put on high alert, in view of the state Assembly's monsoon session starting on Monday, officials said.

Police personnel deployed along the Kanwar routes have been instructed to stay on high alert and respond immediately to any suspicious person, object or activity. Field officers have been directed to intensify surveillance, carry

out regular inspections and maintain constant coordination to ensure a swift response to any potential security threat.



Senior police officials have also been asked to conduct routine field visits to monitor security arrangements and ensure that instructions are being implemented effectively.

Army, Rajasthan Police bust fake uniform racket, 1,000m cloth seized

Sriganganagar. (Agency)

A joint operation by Indian Army intelligence units and Rajasthan Police has uncovered an alleged counterfeit military uniform supply network in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar district, leading to the seizure of nearly 1,000 metres of unauthorised Army-pattern combat cloth from multiple shops.

The operation stemmed from a June seizure of counterfeit combat cloth in Bareilly, which investigators traced back to a manufacturing source in Sriganganagar. Following the lead, Indian Army intelligence personnel conducted a discreet investigation that identified a local firm as a key link in the supply chain allegedly distributing fake Army-pattern combat fabric across the

region.

According to officials, the firm was suspected of supplying counterfeit military-pattern cloth to vendors in



Sriganganagar town as well as markets in Lalgarh Jattan, Suratgarh and nearby areas.

LEAD FROM BAREILLY SEIZURE TRIGGERED PROBE

After gathering evidence, Army intelligence units shared an interim investigation report with Rajasthan Police in mid-July. Based on the findings, a coordinated operation was launched on July 30, with police and security personnel carrying out searches at multiple shops across the district.

The raids resulted in the recovery of around 1,000 metres of unauthorised new-pattern combat cloth resembling material used for military uniforms.

SECURITY RISK DUE TO POTENTIAL IMPERSONATION

Officials said the unauthorised possession, sale or use of military-pattern combat fabric is a punishable offence. Such counterfeit material poses a significant security threat as it can be used to impersonate armed forces personnel and facilitate unlawful activities.

Woman GRP constable saves man from moving train at Dadar after alleged suicide bid; rescue caught on CCTV

Mumbai.(Agency)

An alert woman head constable of the Government Railway Police (GRP) saved the life of a 28-year-old man who allegedly attempted suicide by placing his head beneath a moving local train at Dadar railway station late on Thursday night. The dramatic rescue, captured on CCTV, took place within seconds as the train pulled out of the platform.

The incident occurred around 10.52 pm on July 30 on Platform 1 of Dadar station. Head Constable Anita Narwade was on night patrol with Assistant Sub-Inspectors Pathan and Chavan, Head Constable Rupnavar and Police Constable Tapole when a slow Borivali-bound local began departing after boarding passengers.

According to the GRP, the unidentified man suddenly lay down on the platform and placed his head beneath the footboard of the moving train in an alleged attempt to end his life. Spotting his actions, Narwade sprinted towards him, grabbed his legs and pulled him away from the moving train just in time.

"Head Constable Narwade acted swiftly and pulled the man to safety, preventing what could have been a fatal accident," said Senior Inspector Ravindra Katkar of the Mumbai Central GRP.

Police said the man sustained no major injuries and was taken into custody for questioning. Preliminary inquiries revealed that he was distressed over a family dispute. He is married, had recently moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh and was staying with relatives.

However, the man refused to disclose his identity or address to the police. Officials said he was allegedly under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident."He will be counselled so that he does not take such a drastic step again. We will also send him to a de-addiction centre," a senior GRP officer said.

Rs 20-25 lakh from one acre: How a Gulf engineer and an Army veteran build dragon fruit empires

One factor common to both farmers is that they each dedicated one acre to dragon fruit, believing it would generate 20 to 25 times higher returns than conventional wheat-paddy farming.

Jalandhar. (Agency)

For someone who had worked as a civil engineer for nearly 15 years, including more than seven years in Oman and Qatar, farming was not a career choice. However, upon returning to his native village of Bajwara in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district four years ago, 38-year-old Dharampal Singh Saini decided to become a farmer. Nearly 220 km away in Sangatpura village in Sangrur district, 40-year-old Karamjit Singh returned home after serving in the Indian Army for more than 16 years and took up farming on his 10-acre family farm.

One factor common to both farmers is that they each dedicated one acre to dragon fruit, believing it would yield 20 to 25 times higher returns than conventional wheat-paddy farming.And four years

down, Saini on his four acres developed a diversified farming model, generating more than Rs 2 million annually, with dragon fruit as its backbone.

Karamjit, on the other hand, took up farming a few years ago and decided to experiment with dragon fruits. "My family's 10 acres were under traditional wheat and paddy farming, but after seeing the potential of horticulture, I decided to experiment with dragon fruits and installed 450 poles. I planted 14-15 varieties, selecting them according to their performance under different temperature conditions," said Karamjit, who completed his graduation while serving the Army.

Saini established his one-acre dragon fruit orchard, "Saini dragon fruit farm," in 2022 and has around 478 concrete poles, with each pole supporting four plants.

The ultra-high-density plantation has about 11 feet by 7 feet spacing between rows and plants, yielding more than 1,900 plants per acre.

Story continues below. Subscribe to see



fewer ads.The first fruiting began in August 2023. In the fourth year, Saini expects to harvest 6-7 tonnes of fruit worth Rs 12-15 lakh at wholesale prices of

Rs 200-250 per kg. He has already harvested more than two tonnes this season, with several pickings to continue till February.By the fifth year, he expects the orchard to reach full production,

yielding around 25 kg per pole, or 10-11 tonnes per acre, worth Rs 22-25 lakh, depending on weather and crop management. He factors in a plant mortality rate of around 4 percent.

The initial investment, however, is significant. Both farmers estimate that establishing the permanent dragon fruit structure and plantation costs around Rs 6.5 lakh per acre. Drip and sprinkler irrigation systems increase investment, although government assistance reduces farmers' share.

Registration portal launched: Women need endorsement letter from MP or MLA of their constituency to avail Rs 2,500 aid

Delhi. (Agency)
Women applying for the Rekha Gupta government's flagship Delhi Lakshmi Yojana will have to submit an endorsement letter from the MP or MLA of their constituency, according to fresh eligibility conditions unveiled in the scheme's registration portal that was launched on Saturday. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the portal at the East Delhi District Magistrate's office. Under the scheme, eligible women will receive Rs 2,500 every month. Speaking at the launch, Gupta said every application would undergo a four-stage verification process to ensure that "only genuine beneficiaries" receive assistance. Applications will first be scrutinised by the District Programme Management Unit, followed by verification by the District Women and Child Development Officer, before being placed before the District-Level Approval, Monitoring and Grievance Redressal Committee for a final nod. The CM said the verification process would include Aadhaar authentication, Delhi voter registration, annual family income, family details, electricity consumption, vehicle ownership, pension status and government service records. She said false declarations or fraudulent claims would invite recovery of the financial assistance along with legal and administrative action. Within hours of the portal going live, officials said more than 33,700 women had registered. Among them, 1,940 had completed the application process, while Currency (CBDC) wallet and Rs 1,500 in a recurring deposit (RD) or fixed deposit (FD) account every month, or choose to have the entire Rs 2,500 deposited into an RD or FD for long-term savings. The government has also placed spending restrictions on the CBDC wallet. Money credited to the wallet cannot be used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, narcotic substances, lottery tickets, gambling or betting services, or other prohibited goods and services. Among one of the major eligibility conditions imposed is a three-child cap – an exclusion criterion that is uncommon among major social welfare schemes in Delhi. It has drawn criticism from Opposition parties and civil society groups. The other conditions are applicants must be the eldest eligible woman in the family, aged between 21 and 60 years, belong to a household with an annual income of not more than Rs 2.5 lakh, have at least 10 years' residence in Delhi, their parents or husband, be registered voters in the Capital. Also, a recent electricity meter reading has to be submitted to establish that their household's annual power consumption does not exceed 2,400 units. Further, the scheme excludes families in which any member is a regular or contractual employee of the Union or Delhi government, public sector undertakings or local bodies. Households in which any member pays income tax or is a registered GST filer are also ineligible. Those already receiving financial assistance, including widow, retirement or disability pensions, cannot avail the benefits to prevent.



another 9,170 applications were awaiting MLA recommendations, they added. The scheme, approved for an initial period of three years, is expected to cover nearly 17 lakh women. Beneficiaries can either receive Rs 1,000 in a Central Bank Digital

IIT Patna student seeks uniform police SOPs in Supreme Court

Delhi. (Agency)
Toshiwa Yadav, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna student who was injured during the protest at Jantar Mantar against the alleged NEET-UG paper leak, has filed an intervention application in the Supreme Court. The application seeks the formulation and implementation of uniform, nationwide Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) governing police action. It also seeks mandatory display of name badges on police uniforms and requests medical treatment for those injured during the protest.

SEEKS UNIFORM SOPs FOR POLICE ACTION
According to the application, the matter is likely to be heard on Monday along with other petitions related to the case. The Supreme Court has already directed the Delhi government to provide adequate medical facilities to those injured during the protest. The next hearing is scheduled for August 3, 2026.

Yadav, 27, sustained injuries during police action at the student protest held at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on July 20, 2026. His intervention application also seeks public and uniform SOPs for crowd control, mandatory display of nameplates or identification numbers by police personnel, and immediate medical examination and treatment for the injured.



Two Nigerian women held, Rs 20 cr cocaine seized in Nizamuddin

New Delhi. (Agency)
--Delhi Police's Railway Unit has arrested two Nigerian women and seized 2.28 kg of cocaine worth around Rs 20 crore in the international market, busting an alleged interstate drug trafficking network operating between Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, officials said. The accused, identified as Chikanso James (43) and Happiness Okoye (41), were apprehended during intensive patrolling at Platform No. 1 of Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. Police personnel grew suspicious of their movements and initiated legal proceedings under the NDPS Act before conducting a search. During the search, police recovered 11 packets containing cocaine from the possession of James. Crime Team and Forensic Science Laboratory experts examined the seized substance and confirmed it to be cocaine. Police said the seizure disrupted the alleged supply chain and prevented a substantial quantity of narcotics from reaching the illicit market. A case has been registered under sections of the NDPS Act at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station police station. During interrogation, James allegedly disclosed that the consignment had been collected from Vikaspuri. Police are now working to identify the other members of the interstate syndicate, besides tracing its financial trail and supply network. James has been remanded to police custody, while Okoye has been sent to judicial custody.

Red Fort turns security citadel for 80th Independence Day

New Delhi. (Agency)
As the national capital prepares to celebrate the 80th Independence Day, the iconic Red Fort has turned into a high-security zone, with extensive preparations underway for the August 15 celebrations. The historic monument, from whose ramparts the Prime Minister unfurls the Tricolour and addresses the nation every Independence Day, is witnessing hectic activity as authorities give final touches to preparations. Barricades, scaffolding, temporary structures and heightened security now dominate the area, reflecting the scale of arrangements for one of the biggest national events. The Red Fort has remained closed to visitors since July 15 and will continue to remain inaccessible until August 15, in line with an order issued by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The closure is aimed at facilitating security deployment and officials prepare stage installations, seating arrangements, media facilities and other essential infrastructure for the grand ceremony. Security has been significantly tightened across the monument's perimeter. Multiple layers of barricades have been put in place, with Delhi Police personnel and other security agencies maintaining constant vigil at key entry points. Gates leading to the monument are under close surveillance, while movement in surrounding areas is being carefully regulated. Construction activity is also visible near several access points, including Gate No. 3, where scaffolding work is underway. Gate No. 6 remains under heightened security, with police personnel deployed outside. logistical preparations for the annual function. Outside the fort, scaffolding has been erected while temporary infrastructure is being installed. Yellow protective coverings surround ongoing work as



L-G calls for affordable imaging and timely diagnosis for breast cancer

New Delhi. (Agency)
Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu inaugurated the country's first-ever Congress of the Asian Oceanian Society of Breast Imaging on Saturday, calling for greater emphasis on early breast cancer detection, affordable diagnostic imaging and equitable access to cancer care. Addressing doctors, radiologists and healthcare professionals from India and abroad, Sandhu said breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women globally, but timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment can significantly improve survival rates and quality of life. The event was organised under the theme, One Region, Many Voices: Advancing Breast Imaging Across Asia and Oceania. Highlighting the importance of preventive healthcare, the Lieutenant-Governor said early detection not only saves lives but also preserves the dignity and hope of patients. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on preventive healthcare, he said India's healthcare approach has increasingly shifted from treating illness to promoting well ness through early diagnosis and timely intervention. Sandhu also urged doctors and medical entrepreneurs to work towards making diagnostic imaging more affordable. He called for greater Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) participation to ensure advanced screening and detection technologies become accessible to a wider section of society.



Haunting image shows mountaineer Nirmal Purja and team moments before disaster

A picture taken from base camp is believed to be the last visual of mountaineer Nirmal Purja and his expedition climbing Broad Peak before a deadly avalanche struck. Purja was declared dead, while a search is on for the rest of the team.

Delhi. (Agency)
As the world mourns the death of famed mountaineer Nirmal Purja, a haunting image believed to be the last visual of his expedition climbing the world's 12th-highest peak has surfaced online. Shared by Pakistan-based tour operator Karakoram Vision on Instagram, the photo and accompanying footage from Thursday (July 30) show Purja and nine other climbers making their way up Broad Peak shortly before a devastating avalanche swept across the slope. The tour operator said the image was captured "right before tragedy struck". "We were watching from base camp and could clearly see the 10 international climbers—including world-famous mountaineer Nirmal 'Nims' Purja—pushing up the mountain," the group said in the post. "Suddenly, a massive avalanche triggered above them. After the snow cleared, we

scanned the upper slopes with horror. No one was visible anymore. It's a big tragedy on Broad Peak," it said. The video shows a huge wall of snow crashing down the mountainside, engulfing everything in its path. "Oh my god!" a woman watching from below exclaims, before anxiously wondering whether the avalanche would reach the base camp. A search-and-rescue operation was launched after reports of an avalanche on July 30 on the 8,047-metre peak in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Karakoram range. Broad Peak is regarded as one of the more challenging mountains for climbers. The 10-member multinational expedition was led by 43-year-old Nepalese climber Nirmal Purja, who shot to global fame after scaling all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter peaks in just over six months in 2019. The record-setting feat was later chronicled in the Netflix documentary

14 Peaks. Purja was killed after the avalanche struck the team, his expedition company Elite



Exped confirmed in a statement on Saturday. Pakistani officials said search crews have located the bodies of four climbers and recovered three of them. The three have been identified as American Mallory Geis, Oman's Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy and Nepal's Pur Bahadur Gurung.

Rescuers continued searching for the remaining climbers while braving harsh weather conditions, officials told the Associated Press. The search is reportedly focused on a "remote and difficult area". **NIRMAL PURJA'S LAST POST** Just days before the expedition, Purja revealed that climbing Broad Peak had not been part of his original plan. "Initially, the plan was to climb just G2," Purja wrote on X, referring to Gasherbrum II, another major peak in the Karakoram. But before leaving, he realised that adding Broad Peak to the expedition would leave him just one summit away from becoming the "first person in history to climb all 14 eight-thousanders twice. Without oxygen". An eight-thousander is a mountain rising more than 8,000 metres above sea level. "This wasn't planned," Purja wrote. "But opportunities don't scream: they whisper to those already working in silence." In what

Delhi High Court transfers judge hearing paper leak cases to anti-terror court

New Delhi. (Agency)
Judge Anu Grover Baliga, whose court was recently designated as the special fast-track court to hear criminal cases related to question paper leaks, is among the dozens of judicial officers who have been handed new postings in a major reshuffle within the judiciary in Delhi. While she has been transferred to a Special NIA Court, her place in the anti-paper leak court will be taken by Judge Ajay Gupta. The transfers are part of a massive reshuffle ordered by the Delhi High Court, which reassigned 138 judicial officers across various courts in the national capital. The move has cleared the way for the posting of judges in several newly established special courts, including those for trial in cases pertaining to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Besides Judge Baliga, five other judges – Vikas Dhull, Prashant Sharma, Amit Bansal, Kiran Bansal and Pulastya Pramachala – will assume charge as Special NIA judges. The mass transfer order came roughly a week after Judge Baliga's court was designated by the Delhi High Court as the dedicated court to hear criminal cases under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 on July 23 this year. The notification came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that fast-track courts would be established to ensure speedy trials and strict action against those involved in examination paper leak cases. The announcement was made amid a growing agitation over NEET-related irregularities. **NEW NIA COURTROOMS TO BE INAUGURATED** The newly constructed NIA courtrooms at the Rouse Avenue Courts Complex are scheduled to be inaugurated on Monday, August 3, marking the shift of all anti-terror trials out of the Patiala House Courts Complex. In addition to the NIA courts, dedicated MCOCA and NDPS courts have also been established at Rouse Avenue. Four judges—Sandeep Yadav, Anuradha Shukla, Devendra Kumar Sharma and Bhupinder Singh—have been posted as Special Exclusive NDPS judges, while Gaurav Rao, Gagandeep Singh and Surbhi Sharma Vats have been appointed as Special Exclusive MCOCA judges.

NEWS BOX

Taipei Open: 17-year-old Tanvi Sharma ends India's 18-year title wait

Kolkata. (Agency)

Saina Nehwal had remained India's lone women's singles champion at the Taipei Open since 2008. On Sunday, Tanvi Sharma ensured that list finally had another name, defeating Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen 21-16, 21-16 to lift her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title. The victory was another significant step in the rapid rise of the 17-year-old, who has quietly established herself as one of India's brightest badminton prospects over the past two seasons. After falling short in the US Open Super 300 final last year, Tanvi made sure there would be no repeat this time.The Punjab shuttler arrived in Taipei carrying the confidence of a string of impressive performances on the junior and senior circuits. A former world junior No. 1, she became the first Indian to win two medals at a single edition of the World Junior Championships and was also part of the team that secured India's maiden Asian Team Championships gold. Coached by Park Tae-sang, the former



mentor of two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, Tanvi has steadily developed into one of the most exciting young players on the BWF Tour. Sunday offered the biggest opportunity of her career so far, and she grabbed it with both hands. **TANVISTAYS COMPOSED** The final lasted only 36 minutes, but Tanvi was in control for most of it. She raced into an early lead with clever deception at the net and powerful cross-court smashes that repeatedly caught Nguyen off guard. Although a brief spell of unforced errors allowed the Vietnamese sixth seed to narrow the gap, the Indian quickly regained her rhythm to take the opening game 21-16.

Duleep Trophy: Patidar to lead Central Zone, Tilak named South Zone skipper

CHENNAI. (Agency)

India batter Rajat Patidar will lead Central Zone in the upcoming Duleep Trophy while Tilak Varma has been named as captain of South Zone. The zonal first-class tournament will be played at the BCCI Centre of Excellence from August 23 to September 10. Tilak, the Hyderabad batter, will lead the South team with senior Andhra batter Ricky Bhui as his deputy. Meanwhile, senior Karnataka batter is also named in the squad which includes his state teammate R Smaran. Hyderabad's K Himateja are also part of the squad. From Tamil Nadu, N Jagadeesan is



named as the keeper. For Central Zone, Rinku Singh has been named as Patidar's deputy wile off-spinner Saransh Jain has also been added to the squad. However, Jain is expected to miss the initial part of the tournament as he is a part of the India Test squad for the Sri Lanka tour which will go on till August 27.Jain is tipped to make his Test debut at Galle since off-spin all-rounder Washington Sundar was ruled out of the first match. The first Test starts on August 15 at the Galle International Stadium, and the second Test will begin in Colombo from August 23.South Zone.

Usman Tariq vs Jude Bellingham: Cricket meets football in fun The Hundred duel

➡**Jude Bellingham swapped football for cricket in a fun challenge against Pakistan spinner Usman Tariq during The Hundred, with the entertaining crossover quickly going viral.**

Glasgow. (Agency)

It is not every day that one of football's biggest stars swaps boots for a cricket bat. But that is exactly what happened at The Hundred as Real Madrid and England midfielder Jude Bellingham stepped into the crease to face Pakistan spinner Usman Tariq in a light-hearted challenge that delighted fans.With players and support staff watching from behind the pitch, Tariq rolled his arm over while Bellingham confidently took guard, producing an entertaining crossover between two of the world's



most popular sports. There was no official winner, and that hardly mattered. The clip quickly went viral, with fans enjoying the rare sight of a Champions League-winning footballer testing himself against one of Pakistan's most talked-about mystery spinners.Bellingham's appearance was

fitting given his growing association with The Hundred. The England football star recently acquired a minority stake in Birmingham Phoenix as part of the tournament's new investment model, strengthening his ties with the franchise and the city where he began his football journey with Birmingham City.

BELLINGHAM MEETS BIRMINGHAM PHOENIX'S MYSTERY SPINNER

The challenge also shone the spotlight on Usman Tariq, who has become one of the most intriguing overseas signings in The Hundred 2026. The Pakistan spinner was snapped up by Birmingham Phoenix for £140,000 after attracting interest at the player auction, with his unusual stop-start bowling action making him one of the competition's biggest talking points. Although Tariq's action has sparked debate among batters and pundits alike, it has also made him a fascinating bowler to watch. The 31-year-old recently defended his action, insisting that it is for the umpires—not opposition players—to judge its legality.For one afternoon, however, there were no appeals or controversies—just plenty of smiles. Whether Bellingham middled every ball or Tariq sneaked one past him was almost beside the point.

CWG 2026: Ahmedabad's road to 2030 begins with Glasgow closing ceremony

New Delhi. (Agency)

After 11 days of competition in Glasgow, the curtain will come down on the 2026 Commonwealth Games on Sunday night. For India, however, the closing ceremony will be less about saying goodbye and more about looking ahead.Ahmedabad will officially be welcomed as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games during the traditional handover ceremony, receiving the Commonwealth Games flag and the King's Baton in front of a global audience. The moment will formally launch India's preparations for hosting the Games for only the second time, with the 2030 edition carrying added significance as the centenary Commonwealth Games.The ceremony is expected to offer the first



glimpse of Ahmedabad 2030, with India using the cultural handover segment to showcase its heritage while signalling its ambitions of staging one of the biggest sporting events in the country's history. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi will represent India during the formal handover in Glasgow. The Indian segment will celebrate the country's cultural diversity with a special focus on Gujarat, while organisers have promised performances that symbolise the friendship between Scotland and India ahead of the official transfer of hosting responsibilities. AHMEDABAD GEARS UP FOR CWG 2030 The handover ceremony will feature three acts showcasing India's cultural identity.

India ends boxing campaign with seven golds, records best-ever Commonwealth Games performance

GLASGOW. (Agency)

Indian women boxers lived up to their billing with five gold medals while Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal sealed men's titles as the country produced its best-ever performance at the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.Reigning world champion Jaismine Lamboria (57kg), Asian Games medallist Preeti Pawar (54kg), Asian champion Priya Ghanghas (60kg), Sakshi Chaudhary (51kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (70kg) won gold medals, while Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) settled for silver. In the men's competition, Sachin (60kg) and Ankush (70kg) struck gold, while Jadumani Singh (55kg) and Asian Games bronze medallist Narender Berwal

(+90kg) finished with silver medals. India's previous best boxing campaign at the Commonwealth Games came in



Gold Coast in 2018, when it won seven medals, including three gold. With chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai and "India, India" reverberating around the SEC arena, the Indian boxers enjoyed near home-like support."The crowd support was brilliant, it really pumped me," said the 20-year-old Priya.Preeti

kick-started India's golden run with a commanding 5-0 victory over Canada's Scarlett Delgado in the women's 54kg final.Jaismine followed with another clinical 5-0 win, defeating Northern Ireland's defending champion Michaela Walsh in the 57kg summit clash.Fighting from long range and relying on her sharp footwork, Preeti made a measured start before gradually finding her rhythm. Once she settled in, the Indian dictated the pace, keeping Delgado at bay with crisp counters and timely combinations to cruise to victory.Jaismine, meanwhile, was made to work much harder against the vastly experienced Walsh. Commanding the centre of the ring and making full use of her superior reach, the Indian edged the opening two rounds 3-2 before closing out a deserved unanimous victory.

Commonwealth Games 2026: Full List of medal winners for India

Commonwealth Games 2026: India have collected 39 medals (13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze) in Glasgow, with boxing, weightlifting, athletics, judo and para-sports driving the country's impressive campaign.

Glasgow. (Agency)

India continued its impressive run at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, delivering medal-winning performances across athletics, boxing, weightlifting, judo, para-athletics and para



powerlifting. The Indian contingent has already secured 39 medals, comprising 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze, with several athletes still in contention to add to the tally on Sunday.Boxing has emerged as India's biggest source of gold medals, with seven champions finishing

on top of the podium. Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Sakshi Chaudhary, Priya Ghanghas, Arundhati Choudhary, Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal led the charge, underlining the country's growing dominance in the sport.Weightlifting also produced a rich

haul, headlined by Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu's gold, while India's para-athletes enjoyed a memorable campaign with multiple podium finishes, including historic gold medals for Sharmila Dhankar, Dilip Gavit and Soman Rana. Judo contributed three medals, with Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh winning golds, while Unnati Sharma and Yamini Mourya also reached the podium. Athletics delivered several standout moments as Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra claimed silver in the men's javelin, while Yashvir Singh added bronze in the same event. Murali Sreeshankar, Praveen Chithravel, Gulveer Singh and Tejaswin Shankar were also among the medal winners, highlighting India's depth on the track and field.

FPIs reverse 4-month selling trend with 20,200 crore inflow in July

New Delhi. (Agency)

After four straight months of selling, foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in July, pumping in Rs 20,200 crore, aided by attractive valuations, improving corporate earnings and easing global headwinds.The latest inflow marks a sharp reversal from the preceding months, when Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew Rs 49,340 crore in June, Rs 32,963 crore in May, Rs 60,847 crore in April and a massive Rs 1.17 trillion in March, according to data from the Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL).

Prior to the four-month selling spree, FPIs had invested Rs 22,615 crore in Indian equities in February.

Despite the turnaround in July, foreign investors have pulled out a net Rs 2.54 trillion from Indian equities so far in 2026, way more than the Rs 1.66 trillion withdrawn during the whole of 2025.

Market experts attributed the renewed foreign investor interest to relatively stable domestic markets, reasonable large-cap valuations, improving earnings prospects and a more favourable global environment.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, said excessive volatility in markets such as South Korea and Taiwan, coupled with concentration risk in the "chip trade", is prompting FPIs to look for relatively stable markets like India.

Coal India July coal supplies hit record high, production rises 8.44%

New Delhi. (Agency)

State-owned miner Coal India Limited (CIL) today announced that its production in July 2026 grew 8.44 per cent to 50.36 million tonnes (MT), while supplies of the fuel rose 18.38 per cent to 64.19 MT over the same month last year.

The coal supplied in July 2026 marks the highest-ever coal offtake for the month in the company's history. The previous highest July supply stood at 60.5 MT, achieved in 2024-25.

"The strong operational momentum follows another record performance in June FY27, when CIL supplied 65.95 MT of coal, its highest-ever supply for the month of June. Consequently, the company's cumulative coal supplies during the first four months of FY27 (April-July) rose 6.9 per cent at 262.04 MT, the highest-ever volume supplied for the corresponding period," the company said in a statement.The previous record for highest supplies in the April-July period stood at 259.4 MT, achieved during 2024-25. The company said despite the challenges posed by heavy rain, it had recorded healthy growth in coal production.

"Simultaneously, it has sustained strong momentum in coal supplies through a demand-responsive inventory optimisation strategy, enabling it to maintain a comfortable balance between production and supplies," CIL said.

Global FMCG majors to boost investments in India, widen retail presence

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global consumer products makers have reported strong consumer demand and market share gains in India in the June quarter, highlighting India's role as a long-term growth engine and have indicated plans to step up investments to strengthen their presence in one of the world's fastest-growing consumer markets.

Global consumer goods majors such as Mondelez International, L'Oreal, Reckitt, Unilever, Nestle and The Coca-Cola Company see India as a key growth market and a major driver of future growth.

In their earnings calls, their top executives have pointed to resilient consumer demand, accelerating premiumisation, expanding distribution networks, focus on low-price packs, strong performance of digital and e-commerce channels, and rising market share across categories in India.

American snacking major Mondelez International, maker of brands such as Oreo, Cadbury Dairy Milk and Toblerone, said demand remained "solid" in India during the second quarter of 2026 and that it expanded its retail reach by adding another 1,00,000 stores in the country.

"Consumer confidence in the emerging markets, I would say, overall is stable and pretty good. India is very strong," Mondelez Chairman and CEO Dirk Van de Put said during the company's earnings call.French beauty products maker L'Oreal said its India business continued to accelerate in the first half of 2026.Giving a "Special shout-out" to India, which saw a strong acceleration at over 70 per cent in the June quarter, ahead of the market, its CEO Nicolas Hieronimus.

Tukaram Mundhe's Big Warning To Pharmacists Amid Rising Antimicrobial Resistance

Mundhe cautioned citizens against casually taking antibiotics for minor ailments, explaining that while such use might offer temporary relief, it risks building resistance to the drugs over time.

New Delhi. (Agency)

practices.er than the user.The Maharashtra FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has sounded a warning over rising antimicrobial resistance in the state, saying pharmacists dispensing prescription drugs without valid prescriptions will face strict action.

Mundhe told The Economic Times that antibiotics being given out without prescriptions was a significant concern, and that pharmacists found selling such drugs without valid prescriptions would not be spared.

The FDA has already begun suspending licences of errant pharmacies, he said, and warned that the regulator would "come after you heavily if we see something wrong."

He cautioned citizens against casually taking antibiotics for minor ailments, explaining that while such use might offer temporary relief, it risks building

resistance to the drugs over time. Mundhe said the FDA intended to spread awareness on the issue



through multiple channels, given the scale of the risk to public health. Acknowledging that the department faces a shortage of drug inspectors,

Mundhe said the FDA would nonetheless build up enough capacity to act on the issue soon.

The remarks came as part of a wider interview in which Mundhe outlined the FDA's expanding enforcement agenda, from cracking down on overpriced medicines to barring hospitals from forcing patients to buy drugs at in-house pharmacies.He said the regulator was also examining alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as spices and edible oil, as part of its next phase of scrutiny, and that manufacturing units would face tighter compliance checks around packaging, temperature control and testing standards.

EPFO to settle PF withdrawal claims within 24–48 hours, UPI facility coming soon

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has announced a major overhaul of its PF withdrawal process, reducing claim settlement time to 24–48 hours through an automated system, with UPI-based withdrawals expected to be introduced soon.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has announced a significant improvement in its provident fund (PF) withdrawal process, enabling subscribers to receive their funds within 24 to 48 hours of submitting an online claim. In some cases, the amount may even be credited on the same day.



automated claim settlement system, withdrawal requests will begin processing immediately after an application is submitted.

According to Krishnamurthy, nearly 90 per cent of claims are now being settled automatically without delays, while pending claims are also being cleared at a faster pace. Previously, PF withdrawal applications typically took seven to ten days to be processed. With the introduction of the automated system, employees will no longer have to wait for extended periods to access their savings during emergencies.The faster claim settlement process will benefit subscribers seeking funds for medical emergencies, education expenses, home purchases, or other eligible financial needs, making access to PF savings quicker and more convenient.

RBI rate decision, West Asia developments likely to steer markets this week

New Delhi. (Agency)

The domestic stock market is entering a significant trading week, with the RBI's interest rate decision, West Asia situation involving the US-Iran conflict, and crude oil prices emerging as the major driving factors for investors' sentiment, analysts said.Besides, quarterly earnings and trading activity of foreign investors would also be tracked by investors to determine further movement, they added.

"This week is expected to be eventful, with the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting (August 3-5) emerging as the key domestic trigger. Market participants will

also closely monitor the ongoing Q1 FY27 earnings season, with several largecap and midcap companies scheduled to announce



their results," Ajit Mishra SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Globally, developments surrounding the US-Iran conflict, stability of crude oil supplies through key

shipping routes will remain important drivers of market sentiment,he added.

After four straight months of selling, foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in July, pumping in Rs 20,200 crore, aided by attractive valuations, improving corporate earnings and easing global headwinds.Investor attention this week will remain firmly focused on geopolitical developments in West Asia, with any further escalation in the US-Iran conflict likely to have an immediate impact on crude oil prices and broader global risk sentiment, Ponmudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Towards UPI unlimited: July clocks a record of Rs 1.11 crore transaction every second

Kolkata. (Agency)

Cash is not necessarily the default medium of payment in India now. Often one reaches for the smartphone in one's pocket when making sundry payments from eateries to groceries, hospitals to shopping malls. An app and a few clicks are sufficient to close a transaction without any cash changing hands. While it has started a quiet revolution in a traditional society like India, the month of July has set a new record in UPI usage, when as much as Rs 29.9 trillion exchanged hands through this app. The number of transactions, too, reached a record of 23.66 billion in the last month. The data was released by the National Payments Corporation of India or NCPI, the agency behind India's most successful digital revolution platform.

Transaction value rising constantly

On an annual basis, the value of UPI transactions increased by as much as 19% from Rs 25.08 lakh crore in July 2025 to Rs 29.88 lakh crore in July 2026.

The latest data shows a steady increase in the use of UPI both on month-on-month and annual basis. Transaction volumes rose from 22.72 billion in June to 23.66 billion in July. The number of UPI transactions in May was 23.2 billion.

UPI in which countries?

UPI is now operational in the following countries – Singapore, UAE, Nepal, Bhutan, France, Sri Lanka, Qatar and Mauritius. UPI's rising adoption is increasing remittances, promoting financial inclusion and strengthening India's position in the global fintech ecosystem. The National Payments

Corporation of India (NPCI), an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), is the umbrella organisation that



manages retail payments and settlement systems in the country.

Does one need a smartphone for UPI transactions?

NCPI has also enabled ways of making UPI payments without a smartphone.

"UPI 123PAY is an instant payment system for feature phone users who can use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment service in a safe and secure

manner. Through UPI 123PAY, feature phone users will now be able to undertake a host of transactions based on four technology alternatives," the NCPI mentions in its website.

Industry experts now say that the next phase of growth in UPI should focus on increasing confidence and accessibility among users across the country. He added that as UPI adoption grows, the focus should be on building trust, awareness and ease of use at the grassroots level. Strengthening these foundations will be essential to ensuring.



Shilpa Shetty

Visits Nepal's Pashupatinath Temple, Seeks Lord Shiva's Blessings

Shilpa Shetty is making the most of her time in Nepal, and her latest Instagram post has given fans a glimpse of a deeply spiritual moment. The actor visited the iconic Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu and shared a serene picture from the revered shrine, offering a peek into her ongoing trip. Dressed in a bright traditional outfit, Shilpa was seen standing with folded hands in front of the centuries-old temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Shilpa Shares Moment From Pashupatinath Temple

Taking to Instagram, Shilpa posted a photograph from the temple complex, where she posed with folded hands against the backdrop of the sacred shrine. Wearing a vibrant yellow ethnic ensemble, the actor kept the caption simple, writing, “@pashupatinath temple #nepaldiaries.” The post quickly drew reactions from fans, many appreciating the actor’s traditional look and expressing admiration for her spiritual journey. Over the years, Shilpa has frequently shared moments from her visits to temples and religious sites, often speaking about the importance of faith and gratitude in her life.

About The Sacred Shrine

Located on the banks of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu, Pashupatinath Temple is one of the most revered shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is devoted to Pashupati, a form of Shiva worshipped by millions of devotees across the world.

The sprawling temple complex is home to hundreds of smaller shrines and historic structures, making it one of Nepal’s most significant pilgrimage destinations. It has also been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the Kathmandu Valley’s cultural heritage. Every year, thousands of pilgrims, particularly during Maha Shivaratri, travel to the temple to seek blessings.



Salman Khan Gets Emotional As He Gives A Tight Hug To 'Bada Bhai' Sanjay Dutt: 'I Love You'



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan treated fans to heartwarming pictures of his reunion with his longtime friend Sanjay Dutt. Sharing an emotional note celebrating their bond, Salman expressed his heart out in the wee hours of Saturday.

Taking to his social media account, Salman dropped two pictures of him warmly hugging Sanjay Dutt. In the first picture, the two actors are seen hugging each other, at what seems to be at Sanjay Dutt’s house. The second picture captures the same image but from the camera angle of Sanjay Dutt being more in focus.

Sharing the pictures, Salman wrote, “Babaaaa for ever baba aur baba, baba hota hai. Sanju baba hai hum sab ka baba n Sanju baba now apne bacchon ka baba, mera bada bhai Sanjay Dutt, Allah, Bhagwan Jesus sab iss Aadhi ko khush rakhain, I love you Baba.” The post received love from Sanjay Dutt’s wife Maanayata Dutt, who commented, “brothers for life.” Sanjay’s daughter Trishala Dutt also dropped a string of pink heart emoticons in the comments section.

Talking about Salman and Sanjay’s bond, they have shared one of Bollywood’s most enduring friendships and have also collaborated on many films over the years. The duo has appeared together in “Saajan” released in 1991, followed by “Chal Mere Bhai” in 2000.

Both movies went on to become superhits. While Saajan starred Madhuri Dixit as the lead heroine, Chal Mere Bhai starred Karisma Kapoor.

For the uninitiated, both Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt hail from respected Bollywood families. Salman Khan is the son of legendary writer Salim Khan and Sanjay Dutt is the son of legends Sunil Dutt and Nargis.

On the work front, Salman will next be seen in “Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace” based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.

'Because Varun Dhawan Was David's Son...': When Karan Johar Accepted Being 'Guilty Of Nepotism'



Kangana Ranaut’s remark on Karan Johar in 2017, during her appearance on Koffee with Karan, had everyone talking. The actress called the filmmaker the “flagbearer of nepotism”. Following the episode, relations between Kangana and Karan soured. Now, while the two have left things in the past, a video of Karan accepting being guilty of nepotism remains on Kangana’s profile.

In the old video of Karan Johar’s interview with Anupama Chopra, he was seen accepting that he is guilty of nepotism. While talking about nepotism, Johar said, “In the lot, I picked up a chubby girl. I saw something, and I can’t lie, maybe the fact that she was Mahesh Bhatt’s daughter also excited me. Right now, I would like to say no, but it may have been a very strong sublayer, and that is nepotism, and we are guilty. I am definitely guilty. Would I have cast Varun Dhawan if he wasn’t David Dhawan’s son? Because he was David Dhawan’s son, he was on my set as an AD, and that is why I spent enough time with him for me to understand that he can be a movie star. So, as I said, it’s a lot to do with the fact that there are too many factors in this country to determine movie stardom, and I think true talent is the least of them. It is very sad, and it is truly tragic.”

Johar further continued and said he is a filmmaker courtesy of his father, Yash Johar, and added, “Would I have been a filmmaker? I am a producer’s son, with no experience. I was an assistant on a film. My father had a platform to give me, and that is why I am a filmmaker. So, if I go through any struggle in my career, I deserve it.”

In 2017, Kangana had posted this video on her feed and captioned the post, “Hahaha! #KaranJohar getting caught in his own old video. #KanganaRanaut was right all throughout. Here, he accepts it as well!”

Kangana Ranaut And Karan Johar’s Work Front

On the work front, Karan Johar is all set to return to his hosting duties with The Traitors Season 2. The Traitors India Season 2 will start streaming on Prime Video from August 13. The second season was shot during March and April at the grand Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Kangana Ranaut was last seen in Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata. Presented by Dr. Jayantilal Gada (PEN Studios), the film is produced by PEN Studios, Manikarnika Films, and Paramhans Creations, in association with Eunoia Films LLP and Floating Rocks Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

Karishma Tanna

Wrapped Up Neha Dhupia's Podcast, Then Rushed To Hospital For Delivery

Actress Neha Dhupia revealed that actress Karishma Tanna and her husband Varun Bangera headed straight to the hospital to welcome their first child immediately after wrapping up the shoot for her podcast, “Double Date”, which she hosts alongside husband Angad Bedi.

Neha took to her social media account and shared a fun behind-the-scenes video from the day. The clip



opened with the text, “When the baby says ‘it’s go time’”. It showed a visibly pregnant Karishma Tanna hurrying out of the house, while Neha, Angad Bedi and Varun Bangera followed closely behind carrying the hospital bag and other essentials before leaving for the hospital. Sharing the clip, Neha captioned it, “#truestory ... as soon as we were done with @doubledatetheshow ... we packed our bags n left for the catch @karishmaktanna @varun_bangera in their cutest interview ever on our #youtube.”

The podcast episode featuring Karishma and Varun was shot on July 28 and released just a day before the

couple embraced parenthood. During the conversation, the two had opened up about their relationship, pregnancy journey and excitement over becoming first-time parents. On July 29, Karishma and Varun announced the arrival of their son with a heartfelt joint post. The couple wrote, “Our little miracle. Our greatest blessing. It’s a Baby Boy.” The announcement was accompanied by a black and white illustration as they revealed that they had welcomed their first child on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. For the uninitiated, Karishma, 42, tied the knot with Mumbai-based businessman Varun Bangera on February 5, 2022, in an intimate ceremony attended by family members and close friends.

The couple has announced their pregnancy in April this year with the caption, “A little miracle, our greatest gift, August 2026.” On the work front, Karishma Tanna began her career with television before becoming a household name through shows such as Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, Naagin 3 and reality shows including Bigg Boss and Khatron Ke Khiladi. She has also featured in films such as Sanju, and went on to earn widespread acclaim for her performance in Hansal Mehta’s Netflix series Scoop.



Your anxiety is making your kids Aggressive

You may want to be warm as well as restrictive if you want to limit the amount of violent video games that your kids play as a recent study has suggested so.



Parents who are more anxious and emotional can impact the amount of violent video games their children play, according to new consumer research from Iowa State University.

Researcher Russell Lacznia says given the harmful effects of violent video games, he and his colleagues wanted to better understand how parents influence children's behavior. They found that parents who were more warm and restrictive

were successful in limiting children's play of violent video games. However, highly emotional and anxious parents had the opposite effect - their children played more. It's not surprising that warmer and more restrictive parents, or what we call authoritative, are most effective at reducing the amount of violent video games played by their children, Lacznia said, adding that if parents are more anxious, their message is not as well received by their children and it inhibits what they're trying to do. In the paper, researchers explain

d that warm parents tend to refrain from physical discipline and show approval through affection. Restrictive parents set and enforce firm rules for the household. Anxious-emotional parents are often overprotective and show elevated emotions when interacting with their children. Lacznia says the biggest takeaway for parents is to set limits and be more calmly detached in the relations with their children, adding that for parents, who are more anxious, the rules become less effective and those kids are going to play more.

Right from the time corporal punishment has been banned, it is extremely difficult to control children. However, it is for parents to take it up in a fun way....



To inculcate good values and discipline in kids is surely an umpteen task as schools these days have taken a rather lenient way to educating them. Right from the time corporal punishment has been banned, it is extremely difficult to control children. However, it is for parents to take it up in a fun way....

Reward them when do good
This helps a lot, whenever your child is seen in his best of behaviour, reward him. For instance, if there's a month when there's not a single complaint from school about his in discipline or he has been a good child when you were away for some work till late. This will motivate him to stay disciplined.

Set ground rules
Make a list of all his indisciplinary actions and a punishment for every action. This will make your child cautious of his

behaviour. Monitor his actions regularly, and never let any indiscipline go unnoticed. Also, let the child also understand how gruesome his act is and hence always keep someone as a trump card to complain about him, someone who can set him straight.

Try subtle tactics
Make sure you correct the child depending at times, on the seriousness of the issue. Also, a better way are the subtle things like not talking to them for some time, not buying their favourite candy when grocery shopping. This will make him realise his mistakes and the child would make an effort to clean up his act.

Set a routine
As a parent, it is your responsibility to correct your child. Hence, do not leave any scope for indiscipline. Set a fixed routine for him like going to the art class, cycling, sports along with dedicated hours for homework as well as play and tv time. This will make him understand that you understand his age and are making space for things he likes to do, this will ensure that he doesn't indulge in any indiscipline whatsoever.



Don't buy dogs if you can't commit for a lifetime



older, their needs go up. Shruti and Zubi's non-profit initiative 'A place to bark' registers that labradors top the abandonment list. "People buy them thinking they are cute as pups. But once they grow older, their energy multiples and so do their bodies. They need a lot of exercise and most people can't give them that much of dedicated everyday time," they say.

Labs are followed by Pomeranians. "Poms, as pups, are very small and adorable. But as they grow they tend to yap and bark a lot. It is also very difficult to rehouse them as they come under the category of 'single parent' dog. So they need to be socialised before they can be re-sheltered," adds Shruti.

Another people-run organisation Noah's Army also reveals that 35-40 per cent of their rescue cases have been pedigree dogs, including ill-treated dogs. "Our rescues are mostly accident-hit, injured, or tortured dogs. We just started in February this year and although our primary focus was to feed and help strays, we were surprised to see the number of pedigree dogs that are ill-treated," says Rahul, a member of Noah's Army.

Once these dogs are rescued, these animal-lovers foster them at homes and after a span of six weeks, they are given to loving families. Some of these non-profits have tie ups with shelters as well. For rescue and fostering, these volunteers work with help from donors of money, pet food or medical needs.



Thoughtful ways of disciplining Your kids