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Nayab Singh Saini rules out BJP-SAD alliance in Punjab; Poonia deputed to quell dissent in state BJP

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, ruled out any possibility of an alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in the state. Despite Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, triggering fresh speculation about a possible SAD-BJP alliance for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, the SAD on Saturday demanded the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill and fair and equitable delimitation to ensure equal representation for all states. On the other hand, the BJP found itself firefighting this week, mostly around the public display of dissent in poll-bound Punjab, where a newly constituted state body left many leaders fuming, as party's Haryana in-charge Satish Poonia has been deputed to quell the dissent in the Punjab unit of the saffron party.

Brij Bhushan calls sexual harassment case a 'conspiracy' after WFI poll win over Deepender Hooda

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday alleged that a "conspiracy" was launched against him following his victory over Congress leader Deepender Hooda in the wrestling body's election. Brij Bhushan's remarks come a week after his acquittal in a sexual harassment case. Singh, a BJP leader, claimed that subsequently some women wrestlers were made to speak against him under pressure from the Hooda family. Talking to reporters at his residence in Vishnoharpur, about 40 km from Gonda city, Singh said the Delhi court's decision reflected what he has been saying from the beginning. Saying that he was repeatedly portrayed in media debates as an accused in a rape case, he claimed he was not present with the wrestlers at the time the alleged sexual harassment is supposed to have happened. He also blamed the Congress and AAP for using the controversy as a "toy". A Delhi court last week acquitted former WFI chief Singh in a sexual harassment case filed by six women wrestlers.

Amit Shah will speak on students' protest, says government amid Parliament logjam

New Delhi. (Agency)

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the Parliament that the government is ready to discuss all issues related to students and will respond to the points raised by the Opposition.

As Parliament remained deadlocked over the Opposition's demand for a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the police action against students protesting in Delhi, the government on Monday said Shah will respond in the House, potentially paving the way for an end to the logjam that has continued since the Monsoon Session began. Pushing back against the Opposition pressure, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government is ready for a detailed discussion on all issues concerning students -- not just a statement -- and would respond to every point raised by the Opposition.

"The government is ready for a discussion on issues related to students. We are ready

and will respond to all the points that will be raised by the Opposition. The Home Minister will respond," Rijiju said.

He also urged the Opposition not to disrupt proceedings during the discussion and



allow the Home Minister to make his statement.

"My only point to the Opposition is that while the discussion and a reply are being made, the Opposition should not create

disturbances to prevent the statement of the Home Minister. They must listen to the reply of the Home Minister and the government. Once discussion begins, we must have a threadbare discussion," Rijiju said.

The Opposition has alleged that the police action against students protesting on June 20 under the banner of the CJP was disproportionate and condemned the reported use of pellet guns. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the action was carried out on Shah's orders. The Opposition has alleged that the police action against students protesting on June 20 under the banner of the CJP was disproportionate and condemned the reported use of pellet guns. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the action was carried out on Shah's orders.

No compromise: Vijay's push to mandate Tamil anthem gets all-party backing

Tamil Nadu. (Agency)

The Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passed a resolution requiring Tamil Thaa Vazhthu before government functions. The move, backed by all parties, came amid a row over the Centre's advisory on Vande Mataram.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution mandating the rendition of 'Tamil Thaa Vazhthu' at the beginning of government functions, with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay asserting that he would not compromise on the linguistic and cultural rights of the state.

Moving the resolution, Vijay described Tamil as more than a language, calling it an integral part of people's identity and emotions. "Tamil is not only a

language but also our life and emotions," Vijay said, stressing that the mother-tongue carries the same sanctity as one's mother.



"Singing the Tamil Thaa Vazhthu is not against the political system or India's unity. On the contrary, it reflects the nation's high principle of unity in diversity," he

said.

The Chief Minister questioned whether Tamil Nadu did not have the right to give its state anthem the first place at official events. He said his government had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking appropriate respect for state songs and made it clear that the TVK government would not compromise on the dignity accorded to the Tamil anthem. "Tamil is 'gethu' (pride) and power," Vijay said, adding that whenever the identity of Tamil is invoked, people across the state come together.

Sharad Pawar's MPs meet PM Modi amid buzz over delimitation bill support

New Delhi. (Agency)

A delegation of MPs from Sharad Pawar's NCP, led by senior leader Supriya Sule, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Monday amid speculation that the INDIA bloc ally could support the government on the proposed Delimitation Bill in Parliament.

According to sources, the meeting lasted around half an hour. The MPs raised concerns over drought conditions and irrigation-related issues in Maharashtra, besides taking up constituency-specific matters. The delegation also demanded

that Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Savitribai Phule, Shahir Anna Bhau Sathe and



Tukdoji Maharaj be awarded the Bharat Ratna. They also sought the naming of Navi Mumbai Airport after former Maharashtra minister D Y Patil, sources

said. The MPs submitted a written memorandum to the Prime Minister listing their demands and concerns and described the meeting as positive. Modi told the delegation that the issues raised required attention and assured them of concrete action, sources said.

However, the proposed Delimitation Bill and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill were not discussed during the meeting. The MPs have said they will oppose the FCRA Bill.

Ahead of the meeting, Sule had said the MPs sought an appointment with the Prime Minister as they were not receiving funds for assistance in Maharashtra.

SC allows Abhishek Banerjee's foreign trip for treatment, cancels High Court order

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee to travel abroad for three weeks for eye treatment, setting aside the Calcutta High Court's refusal to relax a restriction on his movement outside the country.

The order was passed by a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. Banerjee had challenged the High Court's dismissal of his plea seeking permission to travel abroad.

While passing the impugned order on August 5, the court had noted that the parliamentarian was unwilling to appear before a medical board at a state-run hospital in Kolkata for an assessment of his medical condition.

The High Court had noted that had the TMC leader appeared before the medical board, then, based on the opinion furnished by the medical experts, the issue could have been examined by the court in order to find out whether he needed to go abroad for treatment or not. Two days before that, on August 3, the Supreme Court had asked the high court to take up within a week Banerjee's plea seeking permission to travel abroad.

The travel-related application was linked to conditions imposed on Banerjee in a case over alleged comments made at a public meeting during the West Bengal Assembly polls.

New Karnataka ministers intensify lobbying to bag plum portfolios

Kharge loyalist and MLC Manjunath Bhandari, who was also in the race for a ministerial berth, also met the AICC president in Delhi.

BENGALURU (Agency)

With Chief Minister D K Shivakumar holding talks with the Congress High Command in New Delhi to resolve the crisis that has erupted following the recent cabinet expansion, lobbying for key portfolios has intensified. Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa and newly inducted minister Shivaraj Tangadagi are already camping in Delhi. Amid speculation that Muniyappa could be asked to resign from the ministry to make way for his daughter and KGF MLA Rupkala Shashidhar, Muniyappa made it clear that he has no plans to quit. He is reportedly seeking the social welfare portfolio. Tangadagi is also said to be

interested in the same department, though he described his Delhi visit to meet Kharge as a courtesy call after his induction into the cabinet.

Kharge loyalist and MLC Manjunath Bhandari, who was also in the race for a ministerial berth, also met the AICC president in Delhi.

Within the party, several possibilities are being discussed as part of efforts to settle the crisis. These include replacing Ron MLA G S Patil with former minister H K Patil to make the latter as Assembly Speaker, making way for M Krishnappa by dropping either N Chaluvarayaswamy or Balakrishna, replacing Basavaraj Rayareddy with Hampanagouda Badarli, paving the way for Rupkala Shashidhar by

asking K H Muniyappa to step down and replacing B Nagendra with Annapurna E Tukaram. There is also speculation about giving representation to women legislators by replacing Rizwan Arshad with Kaneez Fathima. In such an arrangement, Rizwan Arshad could be appointed as the state's special representative in Delhi, while Rayareddy could be accommodated as economic adviser to the chief minister or as chairman of the KKRDB, party sources said.

The party is also considering chairperson posts in various boards and corporations for several disgruntled legislators, including Yashwant

Rayagouda Patil, Appaji C S Nadagouda, Sharath Bachegowda, S R Srinivas, B G Govindappa, Belur Gopalakrishna, G S



Patil, B R Patil and Kampli MLA Ganesh, besides former minister N S Boseraju's son Ravi Boseraju.

Krishnappa's son and Govindarajnagar MLA Priya Krishna could be considered for a key position in one of the Bengaluru development authorities, while T B Jayachandra may be appointed chairman of the Guarantee Implementation Committee.

Narasimharaja MLA Tanvir Sait and Shantinagar MLA N A Harris are also among those being considered for the post of political secretary to the chief minister, sources said.

Meanwhile, supporters of Narasimharaja Assembly constituency MLA and former minister Tanvir Sait staged a massive protest on Sunday, demanding that he be inducted into the cabinet.

News box

Two teachers died, colleague injured as scooter crashes into parked truck on Dwarka Expressway

Noida.(Agency)

Two 25-year-old teachers were killed and another seriously injured after the scooter they were travelling on crashed into a stationary truck on the Dwarka Expressway on Saturday night. Police said the truck was parked on the expressway without reflectors.The deceased were identified as Lakshay Gahlot, a resident of Karola village in Farrukhnagar, and Nidhi Tiwari of Uttam Nagar. Their colleague, Ankita Upadhyay, a resident of Kotla Vihar, is undergoing treatment at a hospital. The three, who teach at a private school in Uttam Nagar, had come to Gurgaon for some personal work and were returning to Delhi when the accident took place around 9 pm. Their scooter rammed into the stationary truck, police said. Bystanders rushed them to a hospital, where Lakshay and Nidhi died during treatment on Sunday morning.Police have registered a case against the truck driver at Rajendra Park police station. “A notice has been sent to the owner of the vehicle, and further action will be taken after the investigation,” a police officer said.In another accident, a 25-year-old man died after his motorcycle was hit by a car on the service road near Hyatt Regency in Sector 83 in the Kherki Daula area around 1.15 am Sunday.The deceased, Abhishek, a resident of Nuh, was returning home after a night shift at a company in Manesar when a Hyundai Alcazar allegedly being drive rashly and at high speed hit his motorcycle.Police said Abhishek was taken to General Hospital in Sector 10 and later referred to Arvy Hospital in Sector 90, where he died during treatment. An FIR was registered at Kherki Daula police station under Sections 281 and 106 of the BNS.

After a spell of rain, Gr Noida’s office hub turns into a muddy mess

Noida.(Agency)

Persistent waterlogging near district consumer forum and other govt offices at Surajpur collectorate has led to repeated complaints from advocates and officegoers. After every spell of rain, dirty drain water spills onto roads, leaving the area resembling an impromptu pond. The situation persisted after the weekend showers. This issue affects not only litigants but also advocates, judges, and several government officials who frequent the bustling office hub.“For years, residents and concerned citizens have lodged complaints with the district magistrate’s office, yet the situation remains unchanged. Instead of a proper solution, the drainage system was redirected toward the district court area, exacerbating the problem and leaving litigants, advocates, judges and govt officials to wade through foul-smelling water. It shows the kind of neglect those who rely on essential services are facing. This is unacceptable,” said Aditya Bhati, an advocate at the district court.He said even light rain submerged the area and triggered waterlogging issues, and expressed concern about whether the administration would be able to tackle flood-like situations after heavy showers.

Sub-standard steel in skywalk, drain projects? Noida orders quality tests

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has ordered quality tests on steel being used in the under-construction Sector 51-52 skywalk and an RCC drain between sectors 50 and 51, after an inspection found alleged sub-standard steel at both sites.The authority’s technical audit cell has collected steel samples from both projects and will get them tested by specialised institutions such as IIT Delhi, IIT Roorkee or Shri Ram Institute. Payments to the contractors have also been ordered to be withheld until the test reports are received. S P Singh, general manager, Noida Authority, said strict action would be taken against the contractors if the steel fails to meet prescribed quality standards. “The manager concerned has also been asked to submit an explanation regarding the use of the material,” he said.Officials of work circles 1 to 5 have also been directed to ensure that cement, steel, bitumen and other construction materials used in ongoing and proposed projects meet prescribed standards, with the authority saying such materials should be tested by specialised institutions before payments are released. The Sector 51-52 skywalk, whose main elevated structure is largely ready, has been facing delays over an obstruction at the entry point near the Sector 51 Metro station. A beam at the station is blocking access, prompting the authority to modify and extend the skywalk by around 100 metres.

Dry spell to end in Gurgaon, heavy rain likely for 2 days as monsoon axis shifts north

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After a relatively dry Sunday, rainfall activity is expected to increase over the city and other parts of Delhi-NCR and Haryana from the second half of Monday and continue into Tuesday, as the monsoon axis begins shifting northwards again.India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for Haryana for Monday and Tuesday, forecasting heavy rain at isolated places, with another yellow alert for Thursday. According to IMD’s KVK automatic weather station, Gurgaon recorded a maximum temperature of 34.3 degrees Celsius on Sunday, up 3.4 degrees Celsius from Saturday. The minimum temperature also rose to

25.7 degrees Celsius from 24.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier.Rainfall readings also varied across the city. While the Gurgaon automatic weather station recorded no rain in the 24 hours ending 8.30am on Sunday, Gurgaon KVK recorded 6.5mm and NorthCap University recorded 19mm during the period.

Rainfall was similarly uneven across Haryana. In the 24 hours ending 8.30am on Sunday, Bhiwani recorded 25mm, Bhiwani AWS 18mm, Hisar 17.2mm, Narnaul 16.5mm, Charkhi Dadri 11mm, Rohtak 9.8mm and Sirsa 8mm. While the IMD bulletin reported heavy rain at isolated places in Haryana, the individual figures above do not meet the IMD’s technical threshold for

heavy rainfall, which begins at 64.5mm in 24 hours.Weather



forecaster Navdeep Dahiya said the monsoon axis had shifted south on Sunday, resulting in mainly dry conditions over Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Dahiya said isolated parts of the region could still

receive brief spells of moderate rain on Sunday afternoon or evening, but widespread rainfall was not expected. He forecast a significant increase in rainfall over parts of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana during the second half of Monday and on Tuesday.The northward shift of the monsoon axis is expected to end the brief break in rainfall activity and bring back wetter conditions over the region. In Gurgaon, renewed showers could lead to waterlogging and traffic disruption, particularly in vulnerable areas.According to IMD, after the Monday-Tuesday spell, heavy rain is not forecast on Aug 12, while another spell of isolated heavy rain is possible on Aug 13. No heavy rain warning has been issued for Aug 14 and 15.

1 year on, key road in Gurgaon Sector 9A riddled with craters, commute a nightmare

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The main access in Sector 9A, connecting ESI Hospital to GMDA’s main pumping station, has now become unmotorable, leaving residents negotiating a bumpy stretch and posing a serious risk of accidents for two-wheeler riders and cyclists. They said MCG laid the 900m sewer line in the area in Sept last year. However, even after the work was completed, the agency failed to restore the road properly.Suraj Bhola, general secretary of the Sector 9A RWA, said the road serves as one of the sector’s main entry points and carries considerable traffic throughout the

day.“For nearly a year, residents have been waiting for proper restoration,



but the issue has remained stuck between different contractors and MCG. Earlier, we were assured that the work would be taken up separately following the resurfacing of sector roads. Then they said a water pipeline

needed to be laid, then a crisis in the Middle East was causing a bitumen supply issue, and now they are planning some drainage. There seems to be no end to the excuses from the civic body, while residents continue to suffer,” Bhola said.

The ongoing monsoon season has further battered the road. Residents said cars can still negotiate the uneven surface, albeit uncomfortably, but those travelling on two-wheelers face a greater risk of losing balance. “After rains, the condition of the road becomes worse. The public should not be made to suffer because of poor planning and execution failure,” said Manbir Singh, a resident.

Guard shoots teen dead at project site, says he came to steal rods

Noida.(Agency)

A 17-year-old boy was shot dead at an under-construction building in Sahibabad on Sunday after a guard allegedly suspected him of trying to steal iron rods from the site. The boy’s family, however, claimed he had gone there to shoot a Reel with a mobile phone bought just two days earlier. Police said the shooting took place at an under-construction building of Parsvnath Developers near the boy’s house in Arthala. The guard, identified as Vivek Yadav, was detained and his licensed gun seized. But no FIR was registered till late on Sunday evening. The boy’s elder brother, Yusuf, said

the teenager had been working as a welder with a contractor in Lucknow. When work slowed after the beginning of Sawan, he had returned home on a month-long break. He started work at a chicken shop, which, too, was shut for the holy month. Since then, he had been driving a bike taxi to augment his income.On Sunday morning, Yusuf said, his brother returned home around 11.30am. Soon after, a teenager from the neighbourhood told him that his brother had been shot at the construction site. Yusuf rushed there with his cousin Faheem. “I raised an alarm when I saw four persons beating my brother. They shot him and fled,” Yusuf alleged. He took his

brother on a bike to MMG Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Yusuf alleged that the teenager had gone to the site to shoot a Reel after getting his new phone. He said he later found several videos shot at the construction site on the phone.Police said preliminary inquiry suggested the guard had fired the shot. ACP (Sahibabad) Amit Saxena said, “The guard told us that some youths were stealing iron rods and other material from the site, and that he fired to scare them.”Yadav was taken into custody for questioning. “We are investigating the case from all angles. A case will be registered under relevant sections of the BNS on the basis of a complaint.

Monsoon revives dry Aravali slopes with streams, check-dam overflow

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

For much of the year, the Aravalis around the city, Faridabad and Nuh are a landscape of dry rocky slopes, scrubland and dusty valleys. After the recent spell of heavy rain, that has changed. Water is now flowing through the valleys, spilling over rocky outcrops and turning seasonal streams into temporary waterfalls, from Ghamroj, Gairatpur Bas, Khod Basai and Kotla to stretches of the range near Faridabad.Videos of cascades cutting through the usually dry terrain have spread on social media, drawing visitors to several spots. In the space of a few heavy showers, waterfalls have appeared on slopes that were bone dry a fortnight ago. Check dams built by the forest department are full to the brim and spilling over, and rocky depressions that sat empty through April, May and June are now quiet pools ringed by startlingly green vegetation.At Ghamroj, rainwater is cascading down exposed rock faces in a clean, seasonal waterfall — footage

that has been widely shared, with visitors making their way into the hills on weekends to see it in person. Pali has drawn a similar crowd.At Silkho, the scale of change is harder to capture in a single frame. A long stretch of water runs through a broad rocky depression, the characteristic grey-orange Aravali rock rising on either side. Slopes that usually carry little more than scrub and bare stone are thickly covered in new green growth.At Khod Basai, a check dam built by the forest department this March — constructed precisely for this moment — has filled to capacity. Water is spilling over the edge in a steady sheet, following the natural slope of the terrain towards the KMP corridor. What is striking is not just the structure but what follows it: the water does not vanish. It travels, finding old channels and continuing downstream.At Gairatpur Bas, the scene is quieter. Water has gathered in a broad, still pool at Raisena Baba Bilasiya, held against a masonry structure, with rocky slopes rising around it.At



Ankhir, near Parsn Mandir on the Faridabad face of the range, a stream runs through a wooded ravine, breaking over several layers of dark exposed rock before gathering in a natural pool at the base.At Sohna Mandawar-Neel Kund and Kotla in Nuh, seasonal watercourses that spent the summer as dry, rocky channels are carrying water again, moving through the folds of the terrain and collecting

in depressions before draining further downhill.The waterfalls are the part that gets shared — the part that brings people out on Sunday mornings.

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National Parliamentarians' Badminton Championship: Meet Hayer wins three titles

The Sikh Times

Chandigarh, August 10: Sangrur Member Parliament Meet Hayer on Monday won three titles in different category and finished runner-up in another category during the sixth National Parliamentarians' Badminton Championship, held at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi. Hayer won men's single final by defeating Uday Srinivas 11-21, 21-17 and 22-20. In Men's



double final, Member Parliament along with teammate MP KD Singh defeated Aga Syed Ruhela and Medha Raghunandi Reddy 21-13, 18-21 and 21-14. In the MPs and Partners' Doubles final, Hayer and Biplab Mishra defeated Arshad Khan and Rajiv Pratap Rudy 21-10, 21-16. Hayer and Ranjita Ranjan finished runners-up in the MPs' Mixed Doubles event. Sangrur MP said that the championship provided an excellent opportunity for Members of Parliament to play sports, strengthen bonding and promote fitness. He said he felt happy and proud to be part of the memorable sporting event. It is pertinent to mention here that Hayer had also won five titles in last year's championship.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Sanjay Gupta** is purchasing the Plot No. 18, area measuring 357.63 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 476/2Mm, 477/1 & 477/2, situated at Vedah Industrial Park, Village Jagola, Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, UP from Mr. Anuj Mathur who is the owner of the property vide Court Order Suit No. 570/05 and intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited**. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

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

NAME CHANGE

I, NITISH GUPTA S/O MAHESH KUMAR GUPTA R/O Flat No-118, 7th Floor, Rashi Apartment, Plot No-3, Dwarka Sector 7, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110075 have changed the name of my minor son DISHANT GUPTA aged 05 years and he shall hereafter be known as NEAL GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, LAXMIBAI NAG W/O SONU NAG R/O Kursad, Po: Kursad, Dist: Balangir, Odisha-767035, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAXMINI BAI.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SANDEEP LAL S/O SHIV LAL R/O P-14/4, YOGENDER VIHAR, SHANKAR VIHAR, DELHI CANTT-110010, declare that hitherto my minor son known as RONAK LAL aged 10 years, now, have changed his name and he shall hereafter be known as RONAK.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, HARISH CHANDRA SHARMA S/O VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA R/O N-228, JJ Colony, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, S.O-West Delhi, Delhi-110027 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as HARISH CHANDER and VIJAY KUMAR in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father are HARISH CHANDRA SHARMA and VIJAY KUMAR SHARMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUNIL RAWAT S/O KALAM SINGH RAWAT R/O H NO-4271, GALI NO- 110/4, B-BLOCK, NEAR 25 FUTA ROAD, SANT NAGAR, BURARI, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110084 hereby undertake that I SUNIL RAWAT want to change my name to SHRISTI RAWAT and Gender as FEMALE. I, SUNIL RAWAT henceforth be known as SHRISTI RAWAT D/O KALAM SINGH RAWAT.

NAME CHANGE

I, HRITIK KHANNA S/O SHYAM LAL R/O 73-D, Jhang Apartment, Sec-13, Rohini, Rohini Sec-8, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 hereby undertake that I HRITIK KHANNA want to change my name to RYALA KHANNA and Gender as FEMALE. I, HRITIK KHANNA henceforth be known as RYALA KHANNA D/O SHYAM LAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, ARVIND KUMAR SINGH S/O ARUN PRATAP SINGH R/O J177/11, Gali No-11 Sangam Vihar, Block J-1, Deoli, Po: Deoli, Dist: South Delhi-110062 have changed the name of my minor daughter AISHA aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as ISHA SINGH.

Public Notice

It is for general information that I, PARVEEN SHARMA D/O GYAN SWAROOP VATS, W/O VIJAY KUMAR R/O H.No.4586, Kucha Bibi Gohar, CharkheWalan, North Delhi, Delhi-110006, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PRAVIN SHARMA in my pan card no.BZXP88445Q. The actual name of mine is PARVEEN SHARMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, FARMAN S/O LIYAKAT Residing at HOUSE NO-776/1 GALI NO-23 NEAR SAEEDIYA MASJID CHAUHAN BANGAR SEELAMPUR, North East Delhi 110053 have changed my name to MOHD FARMAN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as YOG DEEP alias YOGDEEP SONPAT S/o PRADEEP KUMAR SONPAT R/o-52, KOTLA VILLAGE MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1 EAST DELHI 110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YOGDEEP SONPAT.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as RAI SAHAB alias DHARMENDRA SINGH S/o SHITALA PRASAD R/o -25/291, TRILOK PURI EAST DELHI 110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHARMENDRA SINGH.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-14681348A Rank-HAV Name-PRAKASH CHOUGULE legal father of SAATVIK residing at-VILL-OLD DIGEEWADI, PO-DEGGEWADI, TEHSIL-RAIBAG, DIST-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591317, have changed my minor son's name from SAATVIK to SAATVIK PRAKASH CHOUGULE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 09/07/2026 Before Notary Public, Chikodi, Karnataka.

NAME CHANGE

I MAHIMA D/O KAMAL SHARMA R/o H No-1/6625, GALI NO-4, AGGARWAL PETHE WALI GALI, SHAHDARA, Delhi-110032 have changed the name to MAHIMA KAU SHIK.

NAME CHANGE

I KAMAL KAUSHIK D/O KAMAL SHARMA R/O E-2/28, JHUGGI, NAND NAGRI, DELHI-110093 have changed the name to KAMAL SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

I DIMPLE JAIN W/O NARESH GUPTA R/O 4/2506 MASJID KHAJOR KINARI BAZAR CHANDNI CHOCK DELHI 110006 CHANGED MY NAME TO DIMPLE GUPTA

NAME CHANGE

I PAVAN KUMAR S/O ANIL KUMAR R/O 28A GALI NO-8 INDRAPARK CHANDER NAGAR KRISHNA NAGAR DELHI CHANGED MY NAME TO PAVAN KUMAR SHARMA

NAME CHANGE

I MADINA BEGUM W/O MUSTAFA ALI R/O H NO-205 KH NO-334/1 F/G GALI NO-5 B- BLOCK GOVT SCHOOL NO-2 NEHRU VIHAR GOKAL PUR DELHI-110094 have changed my name to MADINA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANJALI LOHIA D/O SANJAY LOHIA R/O H.NO V-15/4 DLF CITY PHASE 3 (NEAR) POLICE STATION, NATHUPUR 67/GURGAON, HARYANA-122002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANJALI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-15680257A, Rank-HAV, Name-ISHWAR RADERATTI residing at VPO-KHANATTI, TEHSIL-MUDALAGI, DIST-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591312, have changed my minor son's name from SAI to SAI RADERATTI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 10/08/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, LAKSHMI BHARATHI YETRA wife of No 2611905M, Rank-HAV, Name-BAJI BABU TUMMA residing at DH NO-4-292, VILL-YETRAVARIPALLE, POST & TEHSIL-KARLAPALEM, DIST-GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH-522111, have changed my name from LAKSHMI BHARATHI YETRA to TUMMA LAKSHMI BHARATHI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I KHUSHBOO S/O RAGHIB MASOOD KHAN R/O H NO-129 DDA QRTS NEW SEEMAPURI SHAHDARA DELHI-110095 have changed my name to KHUSHBOO KHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, VEERAMM mother of JC-442610F, Rank-SUB, Name-NARASAIHA VENKATA K residing at 21/7 KOTTAPALLI, KONDUVARIPALLI, CUDDAPAH, ANDHRA PRADESH-516503 have changed my name from VEERAMM to KURUVA VEERAMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOUMITA DEBNATH wife of No-14871205W, Rank-SEP, Name-CHANDI CHARAN DEBNATH residing at VILL-EKARPUR, PO-BHUPATINAGAR, TEHSIL-CONTAL, DIST-PURBA MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL-721425, have changed my name from MOUMITA DEBNATH to MOUMITA KHALUA DEBNATH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, POOJA AGRAWAL W/O TARUN GOYAL R/O HOUSE NO.151 AND 152,3RD FLOOR, BLK-H-PKT-17, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, ROHINI, DELHI 110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE

I Samiksha Patel W/o Hiten Dubey R/O J/8/6 Digiya Ausanganj Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221001, has changed my name from Samiksha Patel to Sameeksha Dubey for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, AFSANA MALIK W/O LIYAKAT Residing at HOUSE NO-776/1 GALI NO-23 NEAR SAEEDIYA MASJID CHAUHAN BANGAR SEELAMPUR, North "East" Delhi 110053 have changed my name to AFSANA KHATOON for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, LIYAKAT MALIK S/O WALI MOHD Residing at HOUSE NO-776/1 GALI NO-23 NEAR SAEEDIYA MASJID CHAUHAN BANGAR SEELAMPUR, North East Delhi 110053 have changed my name to LIYAKAT for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRIYANKA AGARWAL W/O SAKSHAM AGARWAL R/O A2481, FIRST FLOOR, GREEN FIELD COLONY, SHIVAJI MARG, SEC-42, NHPC COLONY, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121010 have changed the name of my minor son from VIRAJ to VIRAJ AGARWAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-14681348A Rank-HAV Name-PRAKASH CHOUGULE legal father of SAANVI residing at-VILL-OLD DIGEEWADI, PO-DEGGEWADI, TEHSIL-RAIBAG, DIST-BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA-591317, have changed my minor daughter's name from SAANVI to SAANVI PRAKASH CHOUGULE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 09/07/2026 Before Notary Public, Chikodi, Karnataka.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Arvinder Singh** is purchasing the Flat No. F4, 2/75, Steel No. 75, Punjabi Bagh West, Delhi from Mrs. Meena Bharrara who is the owner of the property vide Court Decree, Suit no. 419/76 & Partition Deed dated 22-10-1990 and intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited**. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

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

NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, LAXMIBAI RAGHO SONUNE mother of NO - 4583687M, Rank - NK, Name - SONUNE CHAN-DRAKANT RAGHO residing at VILL-TARADKHE, PO-GUMMI, TEHSIL & DIST-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443001, have changed my name from LAXMIBAI to LAXMIBAI RAGHO SONUNE for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 08/06/1943 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1953 vide Affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Bhudayal & Mr. Bodal Ss/o Mr. Uday Singh are the owner of Residential Vacant Plot of Land area measuring 140 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 267, by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 18.05.1971, executed by Mr. Jagdish Chandra S/o. Mr. Vasdev in favour of Mr. Bhudayal & Mr. Bodal Ss/o Mr. Uday Singh, vide Doc. No. 2834, Thereafter, Partition Executed Between Mr. Bhudayal & Mr. Bodal Ss/o Mr. Uday Singh in respect of said property, Thereafter, Mr. Pramod Kumar expired on 17.01.1998, Mr. Bhudayal expired on 01.05.2001, and Mrs. Shanti expired on 19.08.2013, and Since the SMC of Mr. Pramod Kumar, Mr. Bhudayal and Mrs. Shanti not available a Sale Deed Dated 10.02.2025, executed by Mr. Vijay Pal Sharma & Mr. Vinod Ss/o. Late Mr. Bhudayal Sharma, Mrs. Veena Devi W/o Late Mr. Pramod Kumar, Mr. Vishnu Kumar, Mr. Dinesh, Mr. Lalit & Mr. Abhishek all Ss/o Late Mr. Pramod Kumar in favour of Mohd. Naimuddin S/o Mohd. Samsuddin, who became owner of 70 Sq. Yds., i.e. 58.52 Sq. Mtrs. Out of Total Area 140 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 269, Subsequently, Correction Deed Dated 21.04.2025 (Regarding Khasra No. 267) in respect of the said Property, Duty Registered in the Office of the SR-1, Ghaziabad, as Doc. No. 4516, In Book No. 1, Volume No. 2254, On Pages 133-164, Registered on dated 21.04.2025, and said property to be sold to Mr. Gajender, and same to be finance by Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interests/tittle in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj Pathak Advocate,
B-01, Plot no. 20,
Koushambhi
near HDFC Bank, U.P.
E-MAIL:
legal.rahulraj@gmail.com,
Ph: 8130309204

IMPORTANT NOTICE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KANWAR MELA-2026

For the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2026, Northern Railway has decided to run Kanwar Special Trains, extend the nominated train services upto Haridwar and to provide temporary stoppages to some of existing services. The details are as under:-

Extension of Train No. 74023/74022 Delhi Jn.-Shamli-Delhi Jn. DEMU upto Haridwar (Daily)

Train No. 74023	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 74022	ARR.	DEP.
---	20:00	---	Delhi Jn.	09:25	---	---
No Change between Delhi-Shamli						
22:50	22:55	---	Shamli	06:25	06:30	---
23:20	23:22	---	Thana Bhawan	05:11	05:12	---
23:44	23:45	---	Rampur Maniharan	04:47	04:48	---
00:15	00:17	---	Tapri Jn.	04:32	04:33	---
00:56	00:58	---	Roorkee	04:03	04:05	---
01:38	01:40	---	Jwalapur	03:15	03:17	---
01:55	---	---	Haridwar	---	03:05	---

Days of run : 74023 Ex. Delhi Jn. upto 13.08.2026 (Daily) and 74022 Ex. Haridwar upto 14.08.2026 (Daily).

Composition: General

Extension of Train No. 64557/64558 Delhi Jn.-Saharanpur-Delhi MEMU Jn. upto Haridwar (Daily)

Train No. 64557	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 64558	ARR.	DEP.
---	16:15	---	Delhi Jn.	08:45	---	---
No Change between Delhi-Saharanpur						
20:50	21:10	---	Saharanpur	03:40	04:20	---
21:48	21:50	---	Roorkee	02:53	02:55	---
22:25	22:27	---	Jwalapur	02:10	02:12	---
22:50	---	---	Haridwar	---	02:00	---

Days of run : 64557 Ex. Delhi Jn. upto 13.08.2026 (Daily) and 64558 Ex. Haridwar upto 14.08.2026 (Daily).

Composition: General

RUN OF MELA SPECIAL TRAINS AS PER TIME-TABLE GIVEN BELOW

04314/04313 Haridwar-Delhi Shahdara-Haridwar Unreserved Mela Special (Daily)

Train No. 04314	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04313	ARR.	DEP.
---	15:30	---	Haridwar	04:25	---	---
20:40	---	---	Delhi Shahdara	---	22:25	---

Days of run : 04314 Ex. Haridwar and 04313 Ex. Delhi Shahdara upto 13.08.2026 (Daily)

Composition: Sleeper/General

Stoppages: Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapri Jn., Muzaffarnagar, Meerut City & Ghaziabad Stations.

04316/04315 Yog Nagari Rishikesh-Delhi Shahdara-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Unreserved Mela Special (Daily)

Train No. 04316	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04315	ARR.	DEP.
---	20:35	---	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	11:00	---	---
03:50	---	---	Delhi Shahdara	---	04:20	---

Days of run : 04316 Ex. Yog Nagari Rishikesh upto 13.08.2026 (Daily) and 04315 Ex. Delhi Shahdara upto 14.08.2026 (Daily).

Composition: Sleeper/General

Stoppages: Raiwala Jn., Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapri Jn. & Shamli Stations.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No.
139

Visit RailMadad website:-
www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad app.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD AKIL S/O SHAFI AHAMAD R/O. IX-4060 GALI NO-15 AJEET NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR DELHI-110031 have changed my name to AKIL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I DHANISH WADHWHA S/O KAPIL WADHWHA R/O. 344 DDA FLATS NEW RANJEET NAGAR DELHI-110008 have changed my name to DHANISH SINGH WADHWHA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD ZAHIR KHAN alias ZAHIR AHMED S/o ZAHUR AHMED KHAN R/O 456. GALI MATIA MAHAL, JAMA MASJID, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to ZAHIR AHMED KHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I FAJZANA KHAN W/O SHAFI AHAMAD R/O. IX-4060 GALI NO-15 AJEET NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR DELHI-110031 have changed my name to FARZANA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, REENA alias REENA DEVI W/o Sheetal Kumar R/O Flat No-112 3rd Floor Pocket-8 Dwarka Sector-12 New Delhi 110078 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS REENA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Atul Sharma S/o Mr. Shiv Charan Sharma is the owner of Freehold Residential Entire First Floor, Built-on Property No. 317-A-C, on Part of Plot No. 46, area measuring 45 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 144 Mm, situated in the area of Village Sikdar Pur in the Abadi of Gali No. 5, Anand Marg, Chhajju Pur, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi, by virtue of Notarized, GPA, ATS & Regd. Will (Vide Doc. No. 18450) dated 09.10.2002 now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mr. Akash Verma and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

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

NAME CHANGE

I, LAKSHMI DEVI W/O DHARAM VIR R/O WARD NO 01, LAKHIMPUR KHERI, TEHSIL GOLA, MAILANI, DIST KHERI, UTTAR PRADESH PIN CODE 262803, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM LAKSHMI DEVI TO LAKSHMI FOR ALL PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, Jaituni Begham W/O Harun Khan R/O. Ward No-12, Near Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital, Raipur(188) Sohra, Gurgaon Haryana-122103 have changed my name to Jaituni permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, Harun S/O. Ward No-12, Near Indira Gandhi Eye Hospital, Raipur(188) Sohra, Gurgaon Haryana-122103 have changed my name to Harun Khan permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, AZIZUDDIN, Resident of House No. 2145, Gautampuri, Phase-1, Near Aali Vihar, Badarpur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed my name from AZIZUDDIN to RAMESH CHOUHAN and shall hereafter be known as RAMESH CHOUHAN for all purposes. AZIZUDDIN and RAMESH CHOUHAN are one and the same person.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Manish** is the owner of **Janta Flat bearing No. 293-A, on Ground Floor, in Block-B-4, situated in the layout plan of Lawrence Road Residential Scheme, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi;** vide **Sale Deed dated 21-02-2022 which is duly registered vide as Document No. 10725, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 1490, Page Nos. 158166 on 21-02-2022 (SRO-VI-A),** and intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. That the (1) Original General Power Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL executed by Mrs. Kiran Bedi in favour of Mrs. Kavita Jain, (2) Original Regd. ATS dated 02.04.2009 executed by Mrs. Kavita Jain in favour of Mrs. Madhu Ahuja, (3) Original WILL dated 15.**

NEWS BOX

16 Bangladeshi Workers Killed In Fire At Saudi Furniture Factory

Riyadh.(Agency)

A major fire at a sofa manufacturing factory in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, killed 16 Bangladeshi migrant workers, officials in Dhaka said on Monday.The fire broke out on Sunday in the Musa Sanaiya industrial area. Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is monitoring the situation, while officials from the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh are working with Saudi authorities to complete the repatriation formalities.Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Ariful Haque Choudhury has instructed officials to bring back the bodies as soon as possible and ensure necessary government assistance and compensation for the bereaved families.With around 3.5 million Bangladeshis living in Saudi Arabia, the country remains the largest destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers, who sent home more than \$2.7 billion in remittances last year.

North Korean Hackers Develop AI Tools To Automate Cyberattacks: Report

world.(Agency)

A North Korean hacking group built large language model tools and collected software that could help automate cyberattacks, analyse stolen material and produce more convincing phishing campaigns, a South Korean cybersecurity firm said on Monday.The cybersecurity firm, Genians, said it found evidence that the North Korean-linked group Kimsuky had set up tools for running and managing AI models locally, including Ollama, GPT4All and Msty, alongside document search technology known as retrieval augmented generation (RAG). According to the company, the tools could allow operators to process documents without sending sensitive information to outside AI services. Genians also found AI agent development frameworks, speech-to-text software and Cursor, an AI-assisted coding tool, on infrastructure it linked to the campaign.The findings suggest Kimsuky is moving beyond using generative AI to create phishing lures and is building capacity to integrate existing AI models into malware development, data analysis and attack automation, Genians said in a report.Genians also said it found finance and cryptocurrency-themed decoy documents that appeared to have been generated with AI. The materials were designed to resemble legitimate investment reports and other workplace documents, it said. The company's findings could not be independently verified.North Korea has for years used state-linked cyber units for espionage, financial theft and revenue generation, according to U.S. and South Korean authorities, as well as cybersecurity experts.

A Californian City Declares State Of Emergency Following Cyberattack On Emergency Systems

world.(Agency)

A city in California has declared a local state of emergency after a cyberattack crippled its digital network, impacting key public safety tools, including 911 call routing and emergency dispatch systems. According to the New York Post, officials in Suisun City, a community of roughly 30,000 residents located between San Francisco and Sacramento, reported that malicious software breached the city's information technology systems on Friday morning. The attack affected internal city records, municipal services, and the digital tools used for police and fire dispatching. To contain it, the city immediately shut down its entire IT network.After an incident happens, there's all the money in the world to go out and fix it," cybersecurity expert Alex Hammerstone told NewsNation. "But before an incident happens, it's much harder to get budget for prevention." City representatives emphasised that despite the computer network shutdown, public safety remains fully operational, with emergency calls getting automatically transferred to the neighbouring Solano County dispatch centre, ensuring no interruption in 911 call handling.Local police officers and firefighters continue to respond directly to incoming emergency calls. Meanwhile, non-emergency online services, such as permit processing and online water bill payments, remain temporarily unavailable while systems are offline.During a special meeting on Saturday, the Suisun City Council voted unanimously to declare a State of Emergency.

Bengal Tea Farmer Kidnapped, Taken To Bangladesh To Secure Intruder's Release

Dhaka.(Agency)

Tensions have gripped the India-Bangladesh border area after a 35-year-old tea farmer from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri was allegedly abducted by Bangladeshi nationals in retaliation against the arrest of a Bangladeshi intruder by the Border Security Force (BSF) two days earlier. Dipankar Gope was tending to his tea garden in Tasar Para village -- located within 150 yards of the border fence of BSF's Chaulhati outpost -- when he was taken hostage by a group of about 20 men, according to his family. The group then reportedly took Gope across the international border into Bangladesh's Panchagarh district and handed him over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).The incident came after the BSF



reportedly caught a Bangladeshi man last Thursday trying to enter India by cutting the barbed wire fence along the Chaulhati border. The man, believed to be linked to a cross-border smuggling network, was handed over to the police. Gope's family has alleged that he was kidnapped in retaliation for that

incident. A video has also emerged where Gope can be heard saying that he would be released from captivity if India releases Tamiz Uddin, the Bangladeshi intruder arrested by BSF. BGB personnel can be seen standing alongside the villagers making the threat. NDTV could not independently

verify the authenticity of the video. BSF Works To Seek Gope's Release Meanwhile, Gope is believed to be in BGB's custody. Following the incident, BSF rushed in to secure his release and held a flag meeting with the BGB on Saturday evening. However, the farmer had not been released till Saturday night and was reportedly in BGB custody. According to sources, BSF remains in regular contact with its Bangladeshi counterpart and has urged the BGB to ensure his immediate and safe return to India.The incident sparked panic across nearby border villages, with locals expressing concerns that if ordinary citizens working near the border can be abducted in such a manner, it could raise serious questions about security in the area.

Woman, infant killed as boat capsizes in New York Harbour; operator arrested

NEW YORK.(Agency)

A woman and her infant died when a boat capsized in New York Harbour on Sunday, following which the police have arrested the boat operator.The 22-foot Bayliner speedboat overturned around 10:25 pm Saturday near Liberty Island, home to the Statue of Liberty, the US Coast Guard said. Consequently, the authorities are investigating whether the vessel was an illegal charter, the US Coast Guard said.Twelve people were rescued from the water before police arrived, and police divers later located the deceased 27-year-old

woman and 5-month-old girl in the water.The mother and daughter



were declared dead when taken to a hospital. The remaining passengers were in stable condition, the Coast Guard said. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life last night, and our

thoughts are with the victims' family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time," said Capt. Doreen McCarthy, the Coast Guard Sector New York commander. "We are extremely grateful for the heroic, swift actions of our partner agencies and the Good Samaritan vessel that assisted in rescuing survivors from the water."Police arrested the 46-year-old boat operator, Manuel Hernandez, on Sunday. He has been charged with 13 counts of reckless endangerment, police said. However, no phone number for him could be found Sunday, and the case has not yet been entered into online court records.

Indian student strangulates girlfriend to death in Arizona, US; arrested in Germany

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

An Indian student was arrested in Germany for allegedly killing his girlfriend in Arizona, US, before boarding a connecting flight to his home country.The accused, Varun Batchigari, is a 20-year-old business analytics student at the University of Arizona. He reportedly murdered his 19-year-old girlfriend, Julissa Rubi Salazar, on August 6 at an apartment in Tucson. According to the Tucson Police Department (TPD), Batchigari travelled to the Tucson International Airport, where he boarded a flight to Germany with plans to continue to India. Detectives obtained an arrest warrant charging Batchigari with first-degree murder and kidnapping. "Through close coordination between TPD, the FBI Tucson Office, and the FBI Legal Attache Office in Berlin,

Batchigari was taken into custody upon his arrival in Germany, preventing him from continuing his travel," Tucson Police said in a statement. Investigators allege that



Batchigari stole Salazar's cellphone and credit cards after the killing and sent a series of text messages to her mother while posing as the victim in an apparent attempt to conceal the crime.The messages raised concern among Salazar's family, prompting a welfare check that led officers to discover her body.Local media reported that the

Tucson Fire Department (TFD) responded to a call about a cardiac arrest around 4 pm on August 6. Crews found Salazar dead on the floor of her apartment with a blanket pulled up to her neck. Salazar had strangulation marks and scratches on her neck, so the TFD crew called the city police.According to the warrant, obtained by KOLD-TV, Batchigari had previously been involved in an assault case investigated by the University of Arizona Police Department.Witnesses interviewed by investigators said Salazar moved out after experiencing problems with Batchigari in late 2025 and had planned to end the relationship because of an alleged history of domestic violence. The warrant also includes allegations from multiple witnesses describing prior violent behaviour.

US-Backed Gaza Plan Rejected By Netanyahu Only Way Forward: Trump Board Head

world.(Agency)

The US-backed plan for Gaza rejected on Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains the "only way forward" to prevent a repeat of Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, the head of President Donald Trump's implementation board said."The option we are offering today is the only way forward that ensures this tragedy does not happen again," Nickolay Mladenov, the Board of Peace's high representative for Gaza, said in an interview with Israel's Channel 12 television. He said that further talks were underway and, "I hope these discussions will lead to a positive



outcome for everyone."Netanyahu earlier told his cabinet that he rejected the plan, under which Hamas would hand over weapons to a nascent Palestinian governing body and Israel would start a withdrawal from the war-ravaged territory. Mladenov described the current stage of the agreement as a commitment involving the United States, Hamas and the Board of Peace -- notably leaving out Israel.He also reiterated an assurance he made to Netanyahu last week that Israel would pull out only after a complete Hamas disarmament, walking back earlier language that spoke of Israel starting a phased withdrawal.But Mladenov maintained that Israel would eventually pull out if there were verified disarmament."If there is genuine demilitarisation, Israel will withdraw from the Strip," he said.He said the disarmament would involve all Hamas weapons, down to Kalashnikov rifles.Israel has demanded the destruction of all weapons, not just handing them over.

Saudi Arabia Has Money, Missiles, And America. Why Is It Still So Scared?

World.(Agency)

It has finally happened. After months of meetings, news conferences, bold statements, and speculation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed a joint defence agreement in Mecca last month. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed the deal, which many had been likening to an "Islamic NATO", though nowhere has the term been formalised. The key provision in this pact is that an attack on any one of the signatories will be regarded as an attack on all. "The agreement is intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression, and stipulates that any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all. It further

provides for the enhancement of "all aspects of defence cooperation among the three states", the joint statement said.Unsurprisingly, the agreement comes against the backdrop of the Iran conflict, where Saudi Arabia has been one of the worst-hit nations. Turkey, a NATO member already with the bloc's second-largest standing army, has said that this new agreement does not clash with its commitments to NATO. In a post on X, the Turkish government's anti-disinformation service said, "The agreement is not in contradiction with the commitments of Turkey's existing international alliances, including those at the heart of NATO." In fact, Turkey had probably been waiting for a green signal from the US, which is why it did not sign the agreement before the NATO summit it convened in July. Why The Bloc Works By itself, the bloc is a formidable one,



with enormous potential. Saudi Arabia is an energy and economic powerhouse, which can bankroll military innovation and R&D. Turkey has a highly developed military industrial complex, given its proximity to NATO's cutting-edge technology. It has made a name for itself in the drone industry and is an emerging defence exporter, accounting for 1.6% of global

arms exports. Pakistan is the only nuclear-armed Muslim country in the world with a battle-hardened army and an impressive military arsenal. Both Pakistan and Turkey have close defence cooperation; in 2023, Saudi Arabia had made one of Turkey's largest drone purchases. All three countries lie on major shipping and trade routes, controlling ports, shipping, and maritime trade. Pakistan and Turkey also stand to benefit handsomely through defence cooperation and arms sales.But the genesis of the pact goes back almost a year, when in September 2025, Saudi Arabia and its long-time client state, Pakistan, signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement. That had come in the aftermath of Israel's unprecedented attack on Qatar, a close, non-NATO American ally, which also hosts the largest US Central Command base in the region.

Mumbai suburban services hit by technical snags at multiple locations

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai’s suburban train services were affected during the Monday morning peak hours after technical failures were reported at Vasai Road, Dadar and Goregaon, disrupting train movements on key sections of the network.

The glitches affected fast services as well as operations on the Harbour line, leading to delays and inconvenience to a large number of office-bound commuters. The disruptions during the peak-hour rush resulted in crowding at several suburban stations as passengers waited for delayed services or opted for alternative trains.

Railway authorities initiated efforts to attend to the technical faults and restore normal train operations at the affected locations.

Commuters were advised to allow additional travel time as services were expected to be affected until the disruptions were fully cleared.

Further details regarding the exact cause of the technical failures, the number of services affected and the time taken to restore normal operations were awaited.

Cloudy day ahead for Mumbai with moderate rain, city records 2.70mm rainfall

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai is expected to remain under a generally cloudy sky with moderate spells of rain in both city and suburbs today, the weather department said here on Monday morning.

According to tide charts, the first high tide of 4.14 metres will occur at 1015 hrs, followed by another high tide of 3.59 metres at 2201 hrs. Low tide is forecast at 1610 hrs at 1.95 metres. The next low tide, on August 11, is expected at 0412 hrs at 0.60 metres.

Rainfall data for the 24-hour period ending 0800 hrs today shows the city recorded 2.70 mm, East Suburbs 3.66 mm and West Suburbs 2.60 mm.

The month of August began on a wet note, with Mumbai and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region witnessing moderate to heavy spells of rain during the opening days. The weather department has forecast light to moderate rainfall across the city through the week.According to the IMD's monthly outlook for August, rainfall across the country is expected to remain normal to below normal, while average minimum temperatures are likely to be normal to above normal. Despite an overall forecast of below-normal monsoon rainfall this year due to El Nino conditions, heavy showers in Mumbai and neighbouring districts during early July helped the city make up for its seasonal rainfall deficit.

Major mishap averted as crane collapses on busy Vashi road

Mumbai.(Agency)

A major mishap was averted in Vashi when a crane engaged in the redevelopment of a government building collapsed onto a busy main road near Kopri Petrol Pump in Sector 26 official said here on Monday.

According to officials,on Sunday around 11 pm the crane suddenly lost balance while being used for construction work and crashed onto the carriageway, causing panic among motorists and pedestrians and briefly affecting traffic movement.

Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident.

The spot witnesses considerable vehicular and pedestrian movement, and officials said the collapse could have resulted in a major tragedy had the crane fallen on a passing vehicle or pedestrian.

The cause of the crane collapse and accountability for the incident are yet to be ascertained and are under investigation. Though no loss of life was reported, as it occurred late at night, a major accident was narrowly avoided.

UP Police shoot dead wanted gangster accused of minor’s rape-murder

BMRL is following up with the Railway Board and RDSO in the last one month to facilitate completion of the approval process.

Lucknow.(Agency)

A Rs 50,000 reward-carrying gangster, wanted in connection with the rape and murder of a minor girl, was killed in a police encounter in Uttar Pradesh’s Bulandshahr Sunday morning.

Monu, a native of Bulandshahr, had seven criminal cases registered against him across Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Bareilly, and Gautam Buddh Nagar districts, said the police.

According to Dinesh Kumar Singh, Bulandshahr Superintendent of Police, the encounter took place near Chaprawat on the Bulandshahr-Gulaothi road during a routine vehicle-checking operation. Officers signalled two men

riding a motorcycle without a registration plate to stop, but they opened fire and tried to flee.



The police chased the motorcycle and returned fire in self-defence. During the exchange, Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar and Constable Narendra Kumar sustained

bullet injuries to their arms. Bullets also struck the bulletproof jackets of Gulaothi Station House Officer Dharmendra Kumar

Sharma and Sikandrabad Station House Officer Shailendra Pratap Singh, the police said. The man riding pillion sustained gunshot injuries and fell from the vehicle, while the motorcycle rider sped off. The police approached the injured man, and he was identified as Monu. Officers rushed Monu to a local community health centre, from where he was referred to the district hospital. He died while undergoing treatment, said the police. The police recovered a pistol with two magazines, live and spent cartridges, and the motorcycle without any registration number from the scene.

Telangana govt plans special rituals for rain as weak monsoon strains reservoirs

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Telangana government will conduct a 'Varuna Yagam', a ritual worship of Lord Varuna, seeking good rainfall during the current monsoon season. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will attend the 'purnahuti', or concluding ceremony, of the ritual at the Nagarjuna Sagar project in Nalgonda district, according to an official release.

The government said the ritual is being held as the state looks for better inflows into reservoirs in the Krishna and Godavari river basins. It said the two major rivers are yet to receive enough water to ensure adequate availability in the state's reservoirs and irrigation

systems, even as the southwest monsoon has crossed its halfway stage and August is already in its second week. As many as 108 'Ritwiks', or priests, will perform the



'Varuna Yagam', for which 11 'Homa Kundams', or sacrificial fire pits, have been set up. The ritual will be conducted by priests and Vedic scholars from the Sri

Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Yadagirigutta.

A release from Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy's office said the threat of El Nino and the uneven spread of rainfall so far this monsoon have left Telangana with little room for complacency. It said Nagarjuna Sagar currently has 145.65 TMC against its gross storage capacity of 312.045 TMC, and its water level is around 518 feet compared with the full reservoir level of 590 feet.

The release said that on August 9 last year, Nagarjuna Sagar had about 310.25 TMC of water, with the reservoir level at 589.40 feet, nearly at full reservoir level. On the corresponding day this year, it has less than half that storage, it said.

Up’s Gen Z outreach: Young IAS, IPS officers to visit schools, meet students

Lucknow.

The Uttar Pradesh government has directed the Education Department to formulate a programme to rope in young state-cadre officers of the

Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Indian Forest Service (IFS) to hold regular interactions with students of government-run intermediate colleges to motivate and provide them career guidance for competitive examinations. The officers will assist the students on preparing for NDA, JEE, NEET and CUET and other examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC), Uttar Pradesh

Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC), and Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC).

Additional Chief Secretary, Secondary Education, Partha



Sarathi Sen Sharma, directed the state School Education director general to ensure effective monitoring of the programme.

The district inspectors of schools have been asked to inform the

schools concerned about the programme and ensure coordination between the officers and school managements.

Sen Sharma said, “Instructions have been issued by the Chief Secretary to all district magistrates that young IAS, IPS and IFS officers posted in the districts should visit at least one intermediate-level school every month and interact with students.

During these visits, the experiences of the officers, working methods and life struggles will serve as a source of inspiration for students. Through these interactions, the officers will also respond to the queries of the students and help them find the right direction.”

Maha: Three tribal girl students die of snakebite in Gadchiroli ashram school, three others critical

Gadchiroli.(Agency)

Three tribal girl students died and three others were seriously injured after allegedly being bitten by a snake at a government-run ashram school in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, officials said on Monday. The incident occurred around midnight on Sunday at the residential ashram school hostel in Japtalai in Dhanora taluka, where the students were sleeping after dinner. The girls reportedly complained of discomfort around 2 to 2:30 am after allegedly being bitten by a snake and were subsequently rushed to hospital for treatment. Two students , Dipika Lakda, a Class VI student and Sushmita Mandal, a Class VIII student, died while undergoing treatment at Dhanora Hospital. Meanwhile, Anu Koreti, a Class II student, died while undergoing treatment at the District Hospital in Gadchiroli. The three other students : Dipika Madavi, a Class V student, Kavita Kiranga, a Class VI student and Samruddhi Suresh Naitam, a Class VIII student are undergoing treatment at the Gadchiroli District Hospital.

Scientists are teaching AI to listen to India’s forests

Deep learning models are trained mostly on wildlife recordings from the Global North, and perform poorly in the tropics. A collective of ecologists and enthusiasts has published India's first open, crowdsourced sound library: 518 species, 5,815 minutes, 25 states and union territories.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Last year, a collective of ecologists and enthusiasts set out to capture the sounds of India’s key ecosystems. They came up with nearly a hundred hours of recordings across ecologically varied terrain — from the drenched corridors of the Western Ghats to the deciduous forests of the East Deccan. Birdsong dominated, mixed with the calls of insects, frogs, bats, reptiles and even marine animals.

Then came the hard part.

Trained ears combed through the 5,815 minutes to pin down the exact species behind each sound. Where the listener’s expertise allowed, the seconds and frequency of the call were

marked on a spectrogram, a visual map of the sound. Where it didn't, they simply noted that the species was present. On July 21, the result was published on bioRxiv, an online server where scientists post studies while a journal reviews them — in this case Scientific Data, published by Nature Research. With it, India has its first open-access, crowdsourced ecoacoustic dataset of multiple distinct groups of organisms, a library of wild sound built by volunteers and free for anyone to use — a chorus of 518 species across 25 states and union territories.

Set against the staggering scale of the subcontinent’s wildlife, the tally may be modest, but it is a step towards using

sound to study nature in the country. Until now, India’s ecoacoustic recordings existed in scattered



collections. This open-access dataset gives scientists a shared resource to improve biodiversity monitoring and helps AI identify Indian wildlife more accurately. “When ecologists do bird

surveys on the field, we usually do a point count,” said Pooja Choksi, a Mumbai-based ecological restoration scientist and a co-founder of the Indian Ecoacoustics Network (IEN), the collective behind the dataset.

“You go to a spot in a forest, wait for 15 minutes, and note down all the birds you can observe in the distance. But if you rely only on sight, especially in a dense forest, you’ll end up missing out on most of the wildlife,” she said.

“Recordings can be a perfect time capsule for how an ecosystem sounds like in time and space. They can capture more species, over frequencies the human ear can’t hear, note how they vocalise, and do it periodically over long periods of time.

What ended at Jantar Mantar was Act One

For a moment, forget about the increasingly flagrant allegations and daily discoveries of the ‘hidden foreign hand’ behind the sudden and rapid rise of the Cockroach Janta Party and the so-called Gen Z movement in the country. After all, the very Prime Minister has publicly forgiven them. Never mind that that has served almost, it would seem, a signal to his followers to go after them no holds barred. Every equation has two sides. And if it is really an equation, both sides must balance. But in this case, they don’t. Without further ado, let me provide the answer to the many questions I propose to raise below. Yes, I’m reversing things a bit. The answer comes first; the questions will follow. And this is the solution to the equation, if not resolution of conundrum, that has confronted the nation this past several weeks: Insta-kranti ? Instant revolution.I hope you appreciate how I’ve tried to emulate, if not mock, the lingo of those very tutorial mafias that are so maligned these days. After all, they provide answers to all possible questions that their highly paying clients will face in prospective entrance exams. Real questions, however, deserve real answers. Unlike mock questions with their accompanying cheat sheets. Let me spell it out: Instagram kranti is not the same thing as instant, let alone, real revolution.The former is a social media phenomenon, the latter a genuine social or political transformation, perhaps even upheaval, which takes much longer and is far harder to trigger. Especially in a complex country and diverse society like India. Bharat, thankfully, is not Bangladesh, Nepal, or Sri Lanka. Above all—and we must be most grateful for this—we are not Pakistan either.Bharat has never been a country of instant or even real revolutions. It is too large, too varied and too politically layered. Governments have survived spectacular protests only to lose power much more quietly years later. Conversely, they have weathered seemingly existential crises and returned stronger than before. Democratic politics is less like a hundred-metre sprint than a marathon run over uneven terrain. But let us pause our reflections here to take a quick snapshot of the drama, or should I say, dharna, of the last few weeks. Dharma is the right word in more senses than one. Because the mighty ruler, the very illuminator of dharna, was forced to resign. Sorry for being so literal but that is what Dharmendra means. And in both Hindu and Buddhist post-Vedic mythology, the throne of Indra is never secure. It is threatened not just by asuras, but by sages too. Well, let’s get to the point. The youth of the nation have spoken. The government has listened. The cockroaches have won. Jantar Mantar has been cleared of andolan-jeevis. In whatever manner or order, we’ve heard the above statements over and over again. So we may as well pose a most logical follow-up question: Khel khatam, game over? And, in all fairness, we must admit that the answer has also been provided over and over again: no not quite. Not in the sense of ye to mehez trailer tha; picture abhi baqi hai. This was merely the trailer; the movie remains. But much more seriously: khel to abhi shuru hua hai. The play has just begun. Or, to stretch the metaphor—for all the world’s a stage, as the great bard said. So, it’s much more like the end of Act 1.Clearly, recent events do not bring the matter to a close. There is every likelihood that the opposition, smelling blood, will try to go for the kill. The government, on the other hand, will move from damage control to akraman—counter-attack to decapitate the enemy.But where does that leave the rest of us, the ordinary and, by-and-large, well-meaning not to speak of patriotic citizens of India? Does this powerplay really concern us beyond a point, even if it titillates and provokes us?

When it's all Greek to us

Like Homer, who looked back to a heroic age before darkness fell over a flourishing Mediterranean urban culture, the world is looking at the collapse of the post-WWII global compact. An echo of Thucydides, another Greek author recently invoked by Xi Jinping, was seen in the response to student protests

The 3,000-year-old Odyssey has become compulsory viewing and reading for the whole world because of its ever-immediate relevance. Of course, Christopher Nolan’s version departs freely from Homer’s text and its trappings are determinedly inaccurate—Agamemnon’s armour is like a Batman suit with Hellenistic highlights, and the film is not a faithful depiction of Bronze Age Greece at all. Instead, it faithfully mirrors the viewer’s contemporary reality, across the world. Our experience of the cinema epic could be very much like that of Homer’s original readers, because we too are at a threshold, looking back on the collapse of certainties and looking forward to new realities. Homer’s work is dated to the early Archaic Greek period, whose beginning is marked by the first Olympic Games in 776 BCE. The region was emerging from the Greek Dark Ages, which began circa 1200 BCE with the late Bronze Age collapse, a mysterious domino event in which the cities of urban cultures like the Hittite empire and the Mycenaean and Minoan civilisations were abandoned. In 50 years, all the Mediterranean urban centres from Greece to Gaza and the Hittite capital of Hattusa in Anatolia were abandoned, mostly for ever. At the junction of Asia and Europe, urban cultures were reduced to village-based economies. Then the Archaic Greek states re-learned statecraft, and the Olympics, which bound them in a peace contract, represented a return to high civilisation. Alphabets came into use and “When ’Omer smote ’is bloomin’ lyre”, as Kipling wrote in Barrack-Room Ballads, the age of oral poetry was ending. Across the gulf of time, we can identify with Homer’s audience. Through the Iliad and the Odyssey, they were looking back to a heroic age before the darkness fell. Today, the world is looking back on the collapse of a global compact forged after the Second World War, and the culture of progress it developed over about 50 years. (Ironically, that’s how long the late Bronze Age collapse took to destroy Mediterranean urban culture.) And Janus-like, humanity is again looking forward to a new order founded on morality



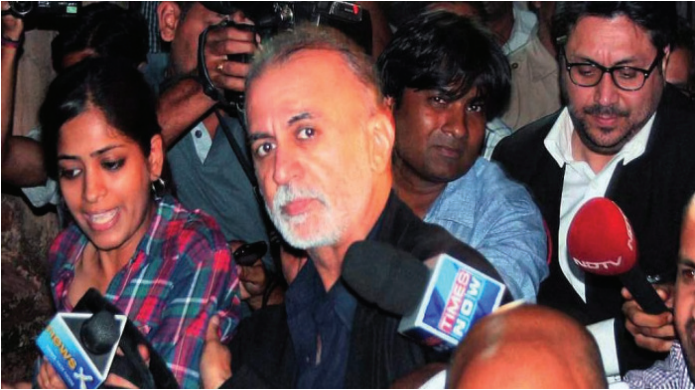
and accountability.AdvertisementAnother Greek author, Thucydides, was recently invoked in diplomatic messaging. In May, Xi Jinping laid a shot across the bows of Washington by speaking of the Thucydides Trap, the theory that when an emerging power rivals the established hegemon, war follows—a dangerous outcome between nuclear States. This is Thucydides seen through the lens of Harvard Kennedy School academic Graham Allison, but in The History of the Peloponnesian War, the Greek general himself, who campaigned in the conflicts of the Classical Period after Homer’s time, made other observations. With respect to anti-intellectualism and the security State, dominant threads in modern politics, he wrote: “The nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools.” With respect to the contempt for decency now seen in so many nations, and the withering of the idea of justice: “When will there be justice in Athens? There will be justice when those who are not injured are as outraged as those who are.” By that reckoning, justice is within reach in India. The cockroach protest served as a lightning rod surfacing the repressed discomfort of people who had thought that the idea of India was not their problem, but who

were deeply disturbed nevertheless by the dismantling of institutions by brute force, and by the rise of State-sanctioned lawlessness and cultural bullying. Unwillingly, they had been sitting it out, hoping that opposition politics would bring back decency to public life. They had been silently acceding to the most famous dictum of Thucydides: “The rich and the powerful do what they can, while the poor and the powerless endure what they must.” AdvertisementIt was not only the students’ protest which dismantled this fatalism, but especially what followed: the doxxing of young people, rape and death threats against teenaged girls, articulated by a troll army of professional frighteners which has been harassing outspoken people—academics, students, journalists and activists—for almost 30 years. When this ageing army was deployed against minors, when 60-year-old frustrated uncles were flinging abuse at 15-year-old girls, it seriously disturbed the nation. The outrageous perversion of the perpetrators of State violence, with their hands firmly in control of the levers of power, ‘forgiving’ (if only for the camera) the trivial trespasses of their powerless victims, has also not gone unnoticed. If the abuser got away with advertising the abused as the perpetrator, India would be playing out a paltry Greek tragedy—and not for the first time. Thankfully, this is not the case. Thucydides would have applauded the collapse of fear in India. “The secret of happiness is freedom, and the secret of freedom is courage,” he wrote. In his 1833 poem Ulysses, Tennyson spoke of a people “made weak by time and fate, but strong in will / To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”. It’s a good description of the present mood in India. No wonder retellings of the Odyssey are doing well, whether it is Christopher Nolan’s opus, the cascade of translations starting with George Chapman’s 17th century edition, or YouTube multimedia interpretations like Gigi’s Epic: The Musical Animatics. Today, Odysseus’s voyage holds meaning for every traveller who dreams of Ithaca.

Judicial system must imbibe lesson Bombay High Court spelt out in Tejpal case

The verdict has also restored faith in the judicial system for all women not just by calling out the trial court’s grievous errors, but also by relying on the case’s well-established facts

The Bombay High Court on Thursday convicted former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal of sexually assaulting a colleague in 2013, overturning a notorious trial court order that shamed and blamed the survivor’s character to acquit the accused. The HC order is significant not just in serving justice to the survivor, but for also acting as a corrective on the trial court’s 2021 order. Over 527 pages, the trial court had tried the survivor rather than the accused, and violated legal strictures against raising the survivor’s character and sexual history as evidence against an act of sexual violence. The trial court had allowed the survivor and prosecution witnesses to be subject to humiliating questioning by the defence. Every minor inconsistency in her version was scrutinised, whereas the defence’s versions were wholeheartedly accepted. The HC calls this out and points out that the survivor and prosecution witnesses withstood the brutal questioning and held firm to their accounts.



Significantly, the HC deconstructed the myth of the ‘ideal victim’ that the trial court had invoked—a lesson the judicial system must imbibe. The HC pointed out that survivors react in different ways to assault; the composure of a woman after being attacked cannot be seen as

evidence of no attack.The long journey towards justice was the worst nightmare of every survivor of sexual violence, evidencing why so many victims hesitate to come forward. During the trial of over seven years, the survivor was shamed and humiliated in court, subjected to what activists have termed a ‘digital strip search’, as her entire chat history was made available to the accused, which was then discredited by the accused and his powerful friends, as well as by the trial court. The case was put through a media trial, too. The HC verdict has not only vindicated her but has also restored faith in the judicial system for other women—not just by calling out the trial court’s grievous errors, but also by relying on the case’s well-established facts, including CCTV footage supporting witness accounts and apology letters written by the accused that supported the survivor’s account. Tejpal has claimed he is a political victim—the jury is out on that claim. Only one thing is certain today—he has been convicted of rape on the basis of stellar evidence.

What the Brij Bhushan ruling means for women

We cannot ask women to dream bigger if we do not also give them confidence that when they seek justice, the system will stand beside them

Last week, as news broke of the acquittal of former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case filed by several women wrestlers, the country immediately split into familiar camps.One side declared it proof that the allegations never stood up to scrutiny. The other called it a betrayal of women. As always, social media held its own trial long before anyone had read the judgment. But there is another question that deserves far more attention than the predictable political slugfest. Politics What does a judgment like this mean to the ordinary Indian woman? Not to television panellists. Not to politicians. Not to activists. But to the 24-year-old intern wondering whether she should complain about her boss. To the domestic worker who has nowhere to turn. To the college student deciding whether reporting harassment is worth the humiliation. To the journalist, the nurse, the corporate executive, the factory worker and the entrepreneur.Women do not watch landmark sexual harassment cases as spectators. They watch them as previews of their own future. That is why cases involving public figures carry a burden that extends far beyond the individuals in the courtroom. Whatever the legal outcome, they shape public confidence in our institutions. The court’s responsibility is clear: it must decide cases solely on the evidence before it and the standard of proof required by law. Courts cannot convict to satisfy public sentiment, nor should they. But the responsibility of a democracy does not end with a judgment. Governments, legislatures, police, employers, sporting bodies, educational institutions and civil society must all ask a more uncomfortable question — do Indian women believe the system will protect them if they speak up? If the answer is increasingly “I’m not sure,” then we have a problem that no single verdict can solve.India has made

remarkable progress on paper. We have stronger laws against workplace sexual harassment. We have the POSH Act. We have fast-track courts. We have helplines, awareness campaigns and the powerful message of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. GeographicReference The Prime Minister has repeatedly spoken about women’s dignity, sanitation, education and financial inclusion. Millions of girls have benefited from policies that encourage them to stay in school and participate in public life. These are achievements worth acknowledging. But laws and slogans are only half the story. Trust is the other half. And trust cannot be legislated. It must be earned. The tragedy is that many women still calculate the cost of speaking before they calculate the harm they have suffered. “Will anyone believe me?” “Will I lose my job?” “Will my family support me?” “Will I spend years in court?” “Will my private life become tomorrow’s headline?”These are not hypothetical fears. They are the questions women ask every day. High-profile cases amplify those fears because they are lived out in public. When nationally celebrated athletes spend years pursuing legal remedies, endure relentless public scrutiny and then see a case end in acquittal at the trial stage, countless women naturally ask themselves what such a journey might look like for someone with far less visibility, influence or support. That is not a criticism of the court. It is a reflection on the system. Justice is not measured only by outcomes. It is also measured by confidence. A legal system may follow



than staying quiet. In Britain, repeated scandals forced police forces to confront allegations that women lacked confidence in reporting abuse. In the United States, universities, corporations and newsrooms have spent years rethinking how complaints are handled — not because every allegation is true, but because every

complainant deserves a process that is fair, timely and credible.The lesson is simple. Women’s faith in institutions is built long before a judge delivers a verdict. It begins with the police officer who records a complaint with dignity. It continues with an investigation that is professional, impartial and prompt. It depends on witnesses feeling safe, evidence being collected thoroughly and proceedings moving without unnecessary delay. And it requires workplaces, sporting bodies and public institutions to create environments where complaints are addressed early instead of becoming national crises. This is where India must do better. GeographicReference First, investigations into sexual harassment cases involving positions of power must be faster and more transparent, without compromising fairness. Second, witness support systems need serious investment. Justice is not only about legal representation; it is also about emotional, psychological and financial support. Third, Internal Committees under the POSH Act cannot remain box-ticking exercises. Every institution — public and private — must ensure that they are independent, trained and trusted.Fourth, we need greater public legal literacy. Too often, people confuse an acquittal with a declaration that nothing happened, or an allegation with proof of guilt. The law is more nuanced than our hashtags. Finally, we must reject the toxic habit of treating every case as a political contest. The moment sexual harassment becomes another Left-versus-Right debate, women lose. Justice cannot wear party colours. Neither can dignity.Politics

Nagasaki Day: Voices raised in Patna against wars, impact on children

Patna. (Agency)

On Nagasaki Day, the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) raised their voice against wars and their devastating impact on children, at a programme held at the IMA Hall here.

Speaking on the theme "Children Under the Shadow of Bombs" on Sunday, IDPD National Secretary Dr Shakil recalled the atomic bombing of Nagasaki 81 years ago and said the world had then pledged "Never Again", but wars continued to claim innocent lives.

Referring to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, he said according to the 2026 IPC report, more than 1.2 million people were facing food insecurity and the number could rise to over 1.4 million in the coming months.

Noted physician Dr Satyajit Ray said everyone must come forward against war. Citing UNICEF figures, he said 98 per cent of school buildings in Gaza had been damaged, while more than 93 per cent required major rehabilitation or complete reconstruction.

Nearly 700,000 children had remained out of school for almost three years, he added.

Crowds throng Baba Vishwanath on the second Monday of Shravan

Varanasi. (Agency)

On the second Monday of the holy month of Shravan, long queues of devotees lined up at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple for the Jalabhishek and darshan of Baba Vishwanath.

As soon as the temple doors opened after the Mangala Aarti, the darshan, puja, and Jalabhishek began. The entire temple complex was filled with devotion, with chants of "Har Har Mahadev".

Devotees who arrived to worship Baba were welcomed with a shower of flowers. In view of the rising water levels of the Ganga, the Ganga gate has been closed as a precautionary measure. Consequently, devotees will not be able to enter the temple from the Ganga gate.

Furthermore, for safety reasons, the operation of all boats, large and small, on the Ganga has been suspended.

The Water Police have tightened security in view of the rising water levels. The venue for the Ganga Aarti, which is held at the world-famous Dashashwamedh Ghat, has also had to be changed.

Due to continuous rainfall in the hilly and plain areas, the water level of the Ganges is rising rapidly. Due to disruption in the connectivity of several ghats, devotees are facing difficulties in commuting.

Two Bangladeshi women arrested in Tripura for illegal entry into India

Agartala. (Agency)

Madhupur police arrested two Bangladeshi women yesterday for illegally entering India by crossing the border fencing in the Kaiyadhapa area of Tripura's Sepahijala district.

The arrested women have been identified as Shakila Khanum (31), a resident of Saruria in Bagerhat district, and Sonia Sultana (33), from Phuldhar village in Kalia, Narail district, Bangladesh.

Their suspicious movements in the border area caught the attention of police personnel, leading to their detention for questioning.

According to police, the two women had travelled from Dhaka with the assistance of an alleged agent. They entered India by crossing the barbed-wire fencing along the international border, with plans to seek employment in Chennai.

During interrogation, inconsistencies in their statements led the police to discover that the duo had entered India without valid travel documents. The women expressed their intention to find better employment opportunities in India and support their families back in Bangladesh, where they have families and children.

Gujarat HardLook: Fake cops, staged courts: When alert bankers, family of victims foiled digital arrest scams in Gujarat

The Gujarat Cyber police recorded 531 'digital arrest' cases so far this year, in which victims — most of them are aged over 60 and retired — lost over Rs 37 crore. A ray of hope, however, is that bank officials are more alert now, reports Brendan Dabhi.

Mumbai. (Agency)

Around 1 pm on July 21, 75-year-old Rasik Modi went to the Himmatnagar Main Branch of Axis Bank in Sabarkantha district seeking a gold loan of Rs 30 lakh. He had withdrawn 25 tolas (291.595 grams) of gold jewellery worth Rs 40.82 lakh as collateral from his locker in another bank earlier in the day. Nidhi Shah, the bank officer whom Modi met, found it odd and reported it to the head, branch operations, Ankit Chauhan.

"Usually you don't need so much money at one time... so this raised questions in my mind. I made him sit down and asked him about the loan. At first he hesitated, but then he said that police were on his phone and that they had

asked him to get the loan," said Chauhan. Suspecting that he had fallen victim to a cyber fraud, Chauhan asked for his phone and saw a man on the screen on a video call "whose face was blurred", and he called the police.

A man impersonating an officer of the Mumbai Police had been on a video call with Modi for over three days, holding him "hostage", as he told him that he needed the money for an investigation into a money laundering case. The alleged cyber criminals knew that he had just Rs 2 lakh in fixed deposits and thus asked him to withdraw the gold.

In a video statement, Modi said that he was told that his Aadhaar card data had been leaked and used in the fraud.

"They said I had engaged in money laundering for Naresh Goyal, who I believe was the owner of some airline. They said that I had given a commission



for a Rs 20 lakh fraud. In reality, I don't even know this person. They showed me a photo and asked if I knew the person, but I didn't know him. They then asked me when I had last travelled to Mumbai, and I said I hadn't been there for 13

years." They threatened me for three days from Sunday to Wednesday, said Modi. "The video call used to be on all the time. When we slept at night, the video would continue to be on and we must never cut the call. They would have meetings at any random time and both of us had to sit in on those meetings," he said.

This incident is among the few wherein alert bankers, finance consultants and relatives averted a crime. Data from Gujarat's Cyber Centre of Excellence (CcoE) shows 531 cases of digital arrests so far this year in which victims collectively lost over Rs 37.14 crore. In many cases, the police found that scamsters used the Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal alibi to trap victims.

Leader of Opposition of Tripura urges Govt to rethink power bill issue

Agartala. (Agency)

Tripura's Leader of the Opposition, Jitendra Chowdhury, criticised the recent increase in electricity tariffs and problems related to smart meters, urging the state government to reconsider the decisions.

Chowdhury pointed out that the decline of the state's electricity services began during the tenure of former Power Minister and incumbent Maharashtra Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, when five power divisions were handed over to private companies.

He went on to state that subsequent decisions placed an additional financial burden on consumers while benefiting private power companies. Chowdhury noted that public protests prevented the government from proceeding with a second round of privatisation.

He claimed that this period also allowed private power companies to exit the state after substantial financial dealings. Hitting out at Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath, Chowdhury argued that similar issues were now emerging in both the agriculture and power sectors.

Regarding smart meters, the CPI(M) leader asserted that the state government lacked adequate control over their functioning and suggested that private companies exercised considerable influence over the system. He linked the issue to consumer complaints about soaring electricity bills. Chowdhury said public frustration over rising electricity costs was growing and urged the government to act swiftly before the situation escalated. He called for an immediate review of the decisions concerning the increase in electricity tariffs and the smart meter system, advocating measures to ease the financial burden on consumers.

When a Maharashtra minister walked out of his own meeting

The Metro 1, Mumbai's first metro, is also the city's busiest metro route, serving around 5 lakh passengers per workday.

Mumbai. (Agency)

This week, a sudden burst of education announcements raises eyebrows, a minister walks out when the conversation turns to money, and the Bombay High Court once again finds that some civic problems become visible only when they reach a judge's doorstep.

Season of announcements

With the Union Education Ministry under scrutiny over the NEET controversy, there has been a flurry of activity in Maharashtra's School Education Department, with Education Minister Dada Bhuse appearing to have hit the accelerator. First came the announcement of more than 30,000

teacher recruitments. Then, the state cleared a decade-old demand to regularise over 3,000 contractual Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan employees and announced the launch of 'Super 100', a programme to prepare government school students for JEE and NEET. The flurry of announcements comes even as demands for Bhuse's resignation over the TET leak have surfaced sporadically.

Uncomfortable question

A district-level healthcare review in north Maharashtra was proceeding routinely, with officials flagging a shortage of doctors, poor infrastructure and the difficulty of posting medical staff to remote areas. The mood changed when a senior official raised the funding crunch with the minister presiding over

the meeting. The official pointed out that the district was so short of funds that even transporting medicines to rural hospitals on time had become a challenge.

That, sources said, was not a subject the minister was keen to pursue. He abruptly walked out of the meeting, leaving the issue unresolved.

Justice next door

Issues faced by citizens do not reach the courts only through formal petitions; they also surface through the judiciary's own experiences. During a hearing last week, Bombay High Court Acting Chief Justice Ravindra Ghuge raised concerns over what the court described as selective enforcement by the Nashik Municipal Corporation.

Security guard accused of raping Ahmedabad student shot at trying to escape, say police

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Ahmedabad City Police after 1 am on Monday (August 10), confirmed that they had shot and injured the man who had been arrested on Sunday for allegedly raping a 23-year-old design student on the terrace of the building where she lives on rent.

The incident took place on Sunday night when the police had taken the accused, Dharam Singh Ramshankar Singh, for recovery and panchnama of the woman's mobile phone which the accused had allegedly stolen during the rape late evening on Saturday.

Visuals from the hospital showed police vehicles peeling into the trauma ward of the GMERS Sola Civil Hospital on SG Highway and, later, the accused lying on a stretcher with a bandage around a singular gunshot wound on his right

foot. Speaking to the media outside the Hospital, Zone-7 DCP Shivam Varma said, "Dharam Singh Ramshankar Singh had been arrested by the police on



Sunday. After his medical tests and drawing of DNA samples, he was taken by the police to the Hebatpur area of the city to recover the mobile phone of the victim, which he had stolen."

"During the process of this recovery

panchnama, the accused, in an attempt to escape police custody, tried to snatch the service revolver of PI RS Parmar. A scuffle ensued and Constable

Virendrasinh was hurt in the process. An officer fired two rounds at the leg of the accused, one of which hit him. The condition of the accused and the injured Constable is stable."

An FIR of attempt to commit culpable homicide will be filed at Bodakdev police station against the accused person, said DCP Varma.

Earlier on Sunday, speaking about the incident and the arrest of the accused, Joint Commissioner of Police (Sector 1) Neeraj Badgujar had said that the accused Dharam Singh had sneaked up on the woman while she was taking an after-dinner walk on the roof of her apartment building around 10.30 pm on Saturday.

IMD forecasts heavy rain in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi; Himachal braces for very heavy showers

Panchkula. (Agency)

The monsoon will remain active across northwestern India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts heavy rainfall at isolated places over Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi on August 10.

Himachal Pradesh is likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. According to the IMD's All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued at 8.44 am on August 10, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall is likely over Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during August 10-15.

It is also expected over the Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh region during August 10-13. Isolated to scattered rainfall is likely over the remaining parts of

northwest India. For August 10, the weather department has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh region and Uttar Pradesh, among other parts of the country. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, East Rajasthan and West Madhya Pradesh.

The wet spell will continue over Haryana and the National Capital Region on August 11. Heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh and the Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh region are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places. Punjab is not included

in the IMD's heavy-rain warning for August 11. There is no specific heavy-rain warning for Haryana, Punjab,



Chandigarh or Delhi on August 12.

However, the IMD has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh region, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, as

well as several eastern and northeastern states. The possibility of heavy rain returns to the Haryana-Punjab region on August 13. The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh region, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

The IMD's seven-day rainfall forecast indicates fairly widespread rainfall over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi on August 10 and 11. Scattered rainfall is expected on August 12, fairly widespread rainfall again on August 13, and scattered rainfall from August 14 to 16. Punjab is forecast to receive fairly widespread rainfall on August 10, 11, 13 and 14, and scattered rainfall on August 12, 15 and 16.

CCTV, centralised monitoring: Panel proposes tighter security at J&K tourist spots

Delhi. (Agency)

A Parliamentary panel has recommended an "integrated security and surveillance framework" for all major tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir, with centralised monitoring facilities and clear standard operating procedures for agencies involved in security management. In its report on administrative governance, socio-economic development, border security and internal security in Jammu and Kashmir, and border security management and preparedness in Ladakh, the panel said the measures were needed to ensure a coordinated and timely response to any security-related incident. The recommendations come in the

backdrop of the terror attack on tourists on April 22 last year in Pahalgam's Baisaran valley, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists who had taken shelter in higher locations. The committee said all major tourist destinations should have comprehensive CCTV coverage, centralised monitoring facilities, regular vulnerability assessments and periodic security audits. It also recommended that clear inter-agency standard operating procedures should be prescribed and reviewed before every peak tourist season. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs further said periodic joint security audits and vulnerability assessments should be carried out,



particularly before the start of the tourist season and the Amarnath Yatra, to identify and address emerging security concerns. The panel, which visited Jammu, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Kargil from May 11 to 15, 2026, undertook an "on-the-spot assessment" of security arrangements in Gulmarg, interacted with

Jammu and Kashmir Police representatives on the law and order situation in Sonmarg, and reviewed border security establishments and operational preparedness in Kargil through interactions with Indian Army representatives. Noting a steady rise in the number of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir, the panel said security management at tourist destinations had assumed special importance as it directly affects the perception of safety, visitor experience and the continued growth of tourism. "The Committee recommends that dedicated emergency response units, adequately equipped ambulances, trauma-care facilities and clearly identified evacuation routes be made available at all high-footfall

destinations," the report said, while appreciating the overall security and preparedness of the forces. It also said emergency contact numbers and safety instructions should be prominently displayed in multiple languages at hotels, transport points and tourist facilities. In Ladakh, the panel expressed satisfaction with the induction of advanced weapon systems, unmanned aerial systems, counter-UAS technologies, modern surveillance equipment, specialist mobility platforms and all-terrain vehicles. It recommended sustained investment in integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, counter-drone systems, secure communication networks and indigenous high-altitude technologies.

Pirelli’s 2027 calendar tells India’s story through three generations of photographers

Delhi. (Agency)

“There was a time, immediately after my father passed away, when I didn’t want to pick up the camera again,” says photographer Avani Rai. “It wasn’t because I had stopped believing in photography. It was because I had lost my most important audience.” For Avani, photography had always ended with her father, veteran photojournalist Raghu Rai. “My greatest validation was always seeing him proud of me as his daughter,” she says. Months after his death, Avani is back behind her camera, taking over her father’s contribution to Pirelli’s 2027 calendar — The Cal™. The calendar marks the first time in its history that two photographers have been brought together for the same edition. It places India at its centre through the contrasting perspectives of Norwegian fashion photographer Solve Sundsbø and Indian photographer Raghu Rai, whose archival work is reinterpreted by his daughter Avani following his death in April. Launched in the 1960s as a marketing giveaway for the Italian tyre company, Pirelli’s calendar has since become one of the most influential platforms for fashion photography. But The Cal™ has also faced criticism over its lack of diversity and narrow ideals of beauty. In recent years, the publication has responded to changing conversations around representation, with editions featuring women such as Serena Williams and Yoko Ono, and an all-Black cast in 2018. For its India edition, however, the fashion calendar expands its frame to include the streets, people and stories of the country.

Multi-layered security at Red Fort, 20K personnel to be deployed on Independence Day

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ahead of Independence Day celebrations, the Red Fort has been placed under multi-layered security, with Delhi Police deploying advanced technologies, including the Abhigyan app and facial recognition system vans, to identify suspicious persons in the crowd. Nearly 15,000-20,000 Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel are expected to be deployed for the August 15 celebrations, which are likely to be attended by around 25,000 people, including VIPs and VVIPs. The Abhigyan application is being used extensively to screen people in the crowd. Officers said the application has a database of more than one crore criminals, while police personnel are using handheld devices to collec fingerprints of randomly selected persons. The fingerprints are checked against the database within seconds. A red indication means the person has a criminal record, with details appearing on the screen, while green indicates that no criminal record has been found. Nearly 1,000 CCTV cameras, including facial recognition-enabled cameras, have also been installed to monitor the Red Fort and its surroundings. A high-tech CCTV control room has been set up inside the monument, where police personnel and technical teams are monitoring the area round the clock. The surveillance network is also being used to monitor several kilometres outside the Red Fort. Snipers will be positioned at strategic locations, including elevated platforms, while anti-drone systems have been deployed, officials said.

How Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy attracted German Ambassador to India

New Delhi. (Agency)

For most diplomats, a posting to a foreign country is the result of years of professional planning, language training and geopolitical priorities. For German diplomat Philipp Ackermann, however, the journey to India began much earlier—with a chance encounter in a New York bookstore and a copy of Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy on a hot summer afternoon. Ackermann's tenure as the German Ambassador to India ends in August. The veteran diplomat had been serving as Germany's Ambassador to India from 2022. Other than his diplomatic work, Ackermann has been known for his book reviews. He has frequently spoken about the books that have shaped him through his

'Ambassador's Bookshelf' series on social media. His recommendations have ranged from Salman Rushdie's Knife and Joel Dimsdale's The Anatomy of Malice to Zahid Rafiq's



The World with its Mouth Open. But his most personal recommendation is Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy, because, as Ackermann puts it, it was "basically the book that brought me to India". Ackermann first served in New Delhi from 2007 to 2010 before returning as Ambassador in 2022. During his four-

year tenure, he became well known for his informal engagement with Indian culture, from his much-followed 'Mango Diaries' to joining embassy staff for a Naatu Naatu dance in Delhi. Yet his fascination with India began much earlier, during a diplomatic posting in New York. THE BOOK THAT SPARKED ACKERMANN'S INTEREST IN INDIA The story stars in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when Ackermann was serving at Germany's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. One summer, looking for relief from the city's unpleasant heat, he wandered into a bookstore. "And I ended up in a bookstore in New York, strolling through the shelves and trying to find something interesting," he recalled in the final video of his 'Ambassador's Bookshelf' series on social media.

Harmony between faith & civic order should be priority

Delhi. (Agency)

Every year, as the Hindu month of Shravan begins, millions of devotees undertake one of the most enduring pilgrimages, the Kanwar Yatra. They walk long distances carrying holy water from the Ganga to offer at Shiva temples, fulfilling vows rooted in faith, discipline and personal devotion. For centuries, this pilgrimage symbolised austerity rather than spectacle. Over the last decade and a half, however, the character of the yatra has undergone a visible transformation. What was once a quiet act of devotion has increasingly become a highly amplified public event. Massive

DJ vehicles, deafening music, decorative processions, temporary camps occupying roads, elaborate lighting, and sometimes



dancers accompanying the procession have become familiar features. For residents, the annual arrival of the

yatra now signifies not merely a religious occasion but weeks of disrupted mobility, uncertainty and inconvenience. Key roads are diverted or partially closed, public transport is affected, emergency movement becomes difficult and commuters spend hours negotiating traffic bottlenecks. The most worrying consequence this year, however, has been disruption of education. Administrations in parts of NCR ordered educational institutions to remain closed for more than a week because school buses could not safely operate amid traffic diversions. While many private schools shift to online classes, government schools and economically weaker students are left with few viable alternatives.

Drive soon to make Delhi free of child beggars: CM Rekha Gupta

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government will soon launch a ‘Child Beggar-Free Delhi’ campaign to protect children found begging at public places and major road intersections in the city. In a video posted on X on Saturday, CM Rekha Gupta said the campaign will be conducted across 13 districts of the capital to provide a secure future to children forced into beggary. Instead of moving the children by force, the government, along with the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and NGOs, will counsel their families, address their difficulties and provide



better alternatives, Gupta said. The campaign will also identify and expose organised gangs forcing children into begging, she said, asking people to provide their comments and suggestions on the campaign. After considering the feedback from the public, the campaign is expected to be launched around Independence Day. There are two aspects to the child beggar issue, she said. First, the government will focus on parents and ensure their counselling, so that children are weaned away from begging. The other is the involvement of organised gangs who force small, homeless and poor children into begging, which will require strict legal action. Besides NGOs, child welfare committees will also be actively engaged in the campaign.

Frame rotation policy, shift officials holding posts for long: L-G to Delhi government

Delhi. (Agency)

- Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has directed the Delhi government to formulate a policy for systematic rotation of officials and transfer those holding the same posts for longer durations, officials said. The directions were issued during a recent review of systems, processes and practices prevalent for over a decade, held by the L-G with the principal secretary (vigilance) of the Delhi government. Sandhu also instructed that the list of sensitive departments be reframed after it was found that some departments with higher financial allocations were not included in the list, while others seemingly less sensitive were included, officials said. The L-G further directed that chief vigilance officers (CVOs) be immediately posted in all sensitive departments to ensure transparency and financial probity.



He said standard mechanisms and operational guidelines should be devised for CVOs, detailing how they should supervise adherence to Chief Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines in

contracts and tender processes. The vigilance department was also asked to hold regular meetings of departmental CVOs to review vigilance work, officials added.

The directions come against the backdrop of a wide-ranging reshuffle earlier carried out by the Delhi government in the GST department. Officials posted in the same roles for extended periods were transferred to improve efficiency and accountability. A total of 162 personnel were moved in the reshuffle, including three Assistant Commissioners, 58 Section Officers (Grade I), 22 Assistant Section Officers (Grade II), 74 Senior Assistants (Grade III) and five Junior Assistants (Grade IV). According to officials, the action was part of a broader effort by the Delhi government to strengthen discipline through surprise inspections and compliance checks across departments. The government had said that public service delivery standards cannot be compromised and that accountability would apply uniformly across all levels of administration.

NEWS BOX

India win Sepak takraw bronze medal at Thai Kings Cup, video goes viral



New Delhi. (Agency)

Sindia secured a bronze medal in the men's quadrant event at the prestigious King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship in Thailand on Friday, August 7, continuing their recent rise in the sport ahead of the 2026 Asian Games. India's campaign ended in the semi-finals after they were beaten by hosts Thailand in a thrilling three-set contest. The Indian team lost 15-9, 9-15, 9-15, but the result was enough to secure them a place on the podium.7.72m, 7.84m and 7.52m.A video of India's medal-winning campaign and the team's celebrations has since gone viral on social media, drawing attention to the country's growing presence in a sport traditionally dominated by Southeast Asian nations.

WHAT IS SEPAK TAKRAW?

Sepak takraw is a fast-paced team sport that combines elements of volleyball, football and martial arts. Players use their feet, head, knees and other parts of their body, but cannot use their hands, to keep a ball in the air and send it over a net.The sport is played on a court similar to a badminton court, with teams trying to ground the ball on their opponents' side while defending their own half.Sepak takraw is particularly popular across Southeast Asia and has been a regular feature at the Asian Games, with Thailand, Malaysia and other regional powerhouses traditionally dominating the sport. WHAT IS THE KING'S CUP?

The King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the sport, attracting several of the world's top

Gurnoor Brar is an exciting player... expect a lot from him: Zaheer Khan | Exclusive

CRAIG. (Agency)

TimesofIndia.com in Colombo: Indian cricket has been hit by a barrage of injuries in the last few weeks, with more than a dozen regular players currently at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) undergoing rehabilitation. Jasprit Bumrah and Sai Sudharsan will miss the two Tests against Sri Lanka, while Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana were also unavailable when the selectors met to pick the squad for the assignment. It is far from an ideal situation for a side in a tight spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) table, but former



India cricketer Zaheer Khan, who knows a thing or two about injuries from his playing days, urges patience. On the sidelines of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) final in Colombo, the Jaffna Kings co-owner spoke about workload management, the Mohammed Shami situation, India's most exciting young bowler, the debate between speed and craft, and more. Excerpt There are a lot of quick bowlers in the country right now. What do you think is more important: speed or craft? Everything is important. More importantly, it is about the phase in which you are playing. Every fast bowler starts differently, and then understanding and experience develop. That way, things are balanced for maximum output. So, both things are important.

Sports Minister says Indian football is making excellent progress. But where?

Indian football is desperate for stability, yet the Sports Minister sees "excellent progress". Between club exits, financial uncertainty, falling broadcast value and national-team confusion, the reality looks very different.

New Delhi. (Agency)

If you are an Indian football fan reading that line, there is a fair chance you are wondering whether you have just walked into some elaborate ragebait. It is, in fact, a comment made by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya while speaking about Indian football on the sidelines of

the 85th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle.And yes, he was talking about the same Indian football ecosystem currently trying to make sense of club exits, financial uncertainty, a changing ISL structure and a national-team setup that has had its own share of confusion.The Indian Super League will return, as Mandaviya said, but the bigger picture around Indian football remains far more difficult than that one fact suggests.After the uncertainty around the competition last season, having a league back on the calendar matters for clubs, players and supporters. But the return of the competition cannot by itself be treated as proof that Indian football is in good health, or making "excellent progress" That is certainly setting the bar at a historic low.While the ISL is finding a way back, clubs are struggling to make the numbers work, investors are stepping away and the commercial

structure of the league is still being rebuilt.The latest blow came when Tata Steel decided to withdraw Jamshedpur FC from the ISL for the 2026-27 season.



That decision led to appeals from the club's players, former India captain Sunil Chhetri and AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, all asking the Tata Group to reconsider There is certainly a football ecosystem beyond the ISL, but the country's top division is currently dealing with questions that go well

beyond how many clubs are being formed.

THE ISL PROBLEMS ARE GETTING HARD TO IGNORE

The trouble with the ISL has been building for some time.The commercial agreement between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which had been central to the league's operation, expired before the previous season. The uncertainty around the commercial structure contributed to a drastically shortened 2025-26 campaign.The season, which was

initially expected to begin in September, eventually ran from February 14 to May 21 and was played in a single-leg format.

That meant fewer matches and fewer opportunities to generate revenue for clubs that were already carrying substantial operating costs.

I hate the name Narender: Why Indian boxer's Pakistan story had PM Modi in splits

Asan. (Agency)

Indian boxer Narender Berwal had Prime Minister Narendra Modi in stitches when he recalled a hilarious exchange with a Pakistani opponent after their bout at the 2015 World Military Games.Berwal, who won a silver medal in the men's 90+kg category at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, shared the anecdote while interacting with Modi at the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi on Sunday, August 9.The boxer recalled how he was drawn against a Pakistani opponent at the Military Games and was told by his army colleagues that he could not afford to lose the bout."My first-round match was against Pakistan. I got a call from the military that you cannot lose to a Pakistani opponent. I won that fight, but we suffered



cuts and went to hospital to get stitches," Berwal told Modi.'I HATE THE NAME NARENDER'

The fight, however, left Berwal and his opponent with cuts, meaning both boxers had to visit hospital for stitches after the bout.It was there that the Pakistani boxer noticed an unusual coincidence involving Berwal, his coach and India's Prime Minister.Berwal said his army coach at the Games was also named Narender. The boxer then recalled what his Pakistani opponent told him after the fight."Aapka naam Narender hai, aapke coach ka naam Narender hai, aapke Pradhan Mantri ka naam Narendra hai. Mujhe Narendra naam se nafrat ho gayi hai," Berwal recalled the boxer telling him.

Rohit Sharma should play 2027 World Cup: Ajinkya Rahane calls for BCCI clarity

Ajinkya Rahane has asked the BCCI to give Rohit Sharma clarity on his ODI future and back him for the 2027 World Cup. He said senior players such as Rohit and Virat Kohli should be supported rather than judged series by series.

St. Louis. (Agency)

Former India batter Ajinkya Rahane has urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to provide Rohit Sharma with clarity over his ODI future, backing the veteran opener to be part of India's 2027 World Cup plans. Rahane believes India's next World Cup campaign should not be clouded by repeated questions over whether Rohit will make the cut.Rohit's ODI future has remained a talking point despite his continued presence in India's plans and a timely return to form at Lord's. Speaking in an

Idea Exchange interview, Rahane said Rohit's place should not be assessed one series at a time."I think it is important to



tell Rohit Sharma he is going to play the 2027 ODI World Cup," Rahane said. "Just look at his contribution over several years. It has been amazing. You need the experience of such a player at a World Cup."Rahane believes India's selectors should look beyond short-term fluctuations when assessing a player of Rohit's stature. He argued that

experience becomes particularly valuable in high-pressure World Cup matches."

There should be no discussions around it. You can't look at it series by series because he is such a big player," Rahane added. Rohit's future has come under renewed scrutiny despite his ability to produce decisive performances. Reports earlier suggested that the England ODI series could be his last, but he answered those questions with a spectacular 138 off 110 balls at Lord's.That innings came after scores of 11 and 26 in the first two matches of the series and served as another reminder of the difference between a player's overall value and his form over a short stretch. Rohit remains part of India's squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, beginning October 19.

Cricket has given Sarfaraz Khan another chance. He has to make it count now

MADRID. (Agency)

There is a particular kind of cricketing limbo reserved for batters who score too many runs to be ignored yet never quite get enough opportunities to be trusted. Sarfaraz Khan has lived in that space for the better part of two years. On Sunday, the door opened again. The Mumbai batter was named as Sai Sudharsan's replacement in India's injury-hit squad for the two-match Test series in Sri Lanka, stepping back into the national setup for the first time since 2024.It is a recall built less on a single innings and more on a long, occasionally lonely fight to get back into the reckoning. But Indian cricket's recent past carries a

warning for anyone handed another



opportunity: the door that opens once does not always stay open, and how you use the runs you're given can matter more than how many of them you score. A CENTURY THAT SHOULD HAVE CHANGED EVERYTHING

Rewind to late 2024. India were in the

middle of a home collapse against New Zealand, a series that would end in a historic 0-3 whitewash, the first time India had been swept in a three-Test series at home. Amid the wreckage, Sarfaraz produced one of the few genuine bright spots, a defiant 150 in the series opener in Bengaluru, the kind of innings that is supposed to cement a career rather than merely punctuate it.It did not work out that way. He managed only a highest score of 11 for the rest of the series, and when India named their squad for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, Sarfaraz travelled but never got a game. His Test exile began soon after.

SL vs IND warm-up: Padikkal's rise, Jadeja's return and the questions in between

Colombo. (Agency)

India's three-day warm-up against Sri Lanka Cricket XI offered a useful glimpse into where the team stands ahead of the first Test in Galle. The six-wicket win mattered less than the selection clues that emerged, with Devdutt Padikkal strengthening his No.3 case, Ravindra Jadeja finding rhythm and India's bowling attack showing a significant improvement on the final day.

There were concerns too. Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel did not make substantial contributions, while Aujib Nabi and Saransh Jain failed to completely settle questions around their places.Caption: India's warm-up provided encouraging signs as well as selection questions ahead of the Sri Lanka Tests

PADIKKAL MAKES HIS CASE

With Sai Sudharsan ruled out of the series, India's No.3 position became one of the biggest questions heading into the Sri Lanka tour. Padikkal provided a strong answer with an unbeaten 142, combining sound defence with an ability to punish anything short. He reached his century in 121 balls and finished with 18 boundaries.His comfort against spin was particularly encouraging given the conditions India are likely to encounter. The bigger examination, however, could come in Galle if Sri Lanka produce the kind of rank turner that forces Padikkal to play spin for long periods.

For now, though, the left-hander has done what was required of him. This was a genuine audition and he made a compelling case.

JADEJA FINDS RHYTHM

Ravindra Jadeja also got an important outing under his belt after not playing a



Test since November 2025.

He scored 63 in India's first innings and picked up two wickets in Sri Lanka XI's second innings, while his partnership with Padikkal helped India recover and

build a sizeable total. There was some rust with the ball early on, but Jadeja became more effective as he attacked the stumps and settled into his rhythm. For an all-rounder whose value comes from what he provides in both departments, getting meaningful time in the middle was important.He now heads into the Test series with runs and wickets behind him rather than a long period of inactivity.

PACERS TURN IT AROUND

India's fast bowlers were one of the concerns after the opening day.

Sri Laka XI's Nishan Madushka and Ravindu Rasantha put on 110 for the first wicket, with Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna struggling to find their rhythm on a surface offering little assistance.

Sensex, Nifty open higher as FII buying and strong earnings lift mood

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened higher on Monday, with the Sensex rising more than 100 points and the Nifty 50 holding above the 24,600 mark, as investors took comfort from continued foreign buying and resilient corporate earnings. The Sensex opened at 78,501.59, against its previous close of 78,499.17, and was trading at 78,616.70, up 117.53 points or 0.15% at around 9:19 am. The index touched an early high of 78,635.15 and a low of 78,494.59.The Nifty 50 opened at 24,581.25 and was trading at 24,611.95, up 41.30 points or 0.17%. It hit an early high of 24,613.35 and a low of 24,557.95. Market sentiment was supported by foreign fund buying and expectations of continued earnings growth, although gains remained measured as investors tracked global cues and developments around crude oil prices. **BANKS, IT AND PHARMA LEAD EARLY GAINS** Among Sensex stocks, Titan was the top gainer, rising 1.76%. ICICI Bank gained 1.10%, while Axis Bank advanced 0.75%.Trent, Hindustan Unilever and Sun Pharma were also among the early gainers.Other stocks trading higher included Tata Steel, HCLTech, M&M, Tech Mahindra, SBI, Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints and Maruti.

Dhoot Transmission or Molbio Diagnostics: Which IPO deserves your money this week?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Investors will have a choice between two mainboard public issues on Monday, August 10, as Dhoot Transmission and Molbio Diagnostics open for subscription.While both companies operate in completely different sectors—one in automotive electrical systems and the other in molecular diagnostics, their grey market trends and fundamentals present an interesting comparison for investors looking for listing gains as well as long-term returns. Elaborating on the reasons for the company's bullish outlook on exports, he said, "The new Venue continues to receive an encouraging response in export markets as well. We have also started shipments for Verna PE and Exter PE, including the left-hand-drive (LHD) version of Exter. These models should further strengthen our product offerings and competitiveness in export markets."The biggest differentiator at the moment is the grey market premium (GMP). Dhoot Transmission is commanding a premium of Rs 259 per share, implying an estimated listing gain of nearly 30%, while Molbio Diagnostics' GMP has cooled to Rs 122, indicating expected gains of around 15%. Although GMP is an unofficial indicator and should not be the sole basis for an investment decision, it offers an indication of market sentiment ahead of listing.DHOOT TRANSMISSION HAS THE STRONGER GREY MARKET MOMENTUM The GMP trend clearly favours Dhoot Transmission.The company's shares are commanding a grey market premium of Rs 259 against the upper issue price of Rs 871, suggesting a possible listing price of around Rs 1,130, or gains of about 29.7%.

Bengal seeks to put Singur row behind, opens investment talks with Tata

New Delhi. (Agency)

The West Bengal government is in talks with the Tata group to bring fresh investments to the state, Industry Minister Tapas Roy said on Sunday.Tata Motors had pulled out of Singur in October 2008 and moved its Nano car project to Sanand in Gujarat following a prolonged agitation against land acquisition led by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee. "We are in touchwith Tata, discussions are ongoing to bring them to the state," Roy said.The Tata group has businesses in several sectors in West Bengal, including ITThe Tata group has many businesses other than the automobile sector. It is being explored if they want to expand these or start new units," he said. Asked about the payment of the arbitral award, along with interest, to Tata Motors by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) as the company had to abandon the Singur project, Roy declined to comment. "The state nees to contemplate such issues," he said.An arbitrl tribunal had on October 30, 2023, awarded Tata Motors Rs 765.78 crore, along with interest at 11 per cent per annum, in connection with its withdrawal from the Singur project. services, metals, hospitality and retail.Roy said the previous TMC government had left the BJP government with the liability of paying the amount along with interest.

Daily item prices may rise: Britannia, HUL, Dabur and Tata Consumer plan more hikes

New Delhi. (Agency)

Households could see a rise in montly budget as daily items face another round of price increases in the September quarter as companies grapple with elevated commodity costs, geopolitical uncertainty and rising input inflation, reported news agency .The FMCG sector, which had already implemented average price hikes of around 2-5% in the June quarter, is now looking at further calibrated increases. Companies are also considering shrinkflation, reducing the quantity or grammage of products while keeping the price point unchanged, to protect margins without sharply raising the price consumers see on the pack.Companies

are also keeping a close watch on inflation, crude oil prices and weather-related risks, including the monsoon and El Nino, as they decide how much of the higher input costs can be passed on to consumers. **BRITANNIA MAY REDUCE NET WEIGHT OF RS 5, RS 10 PACKS** Britannia Industries is preparing for another 1.5-2% pricing action in the September quarter, mainly through shrinkflation in its Rs 5 and Rs 10 biscuit packs, as sugar and palm oil prices remain elevated.The company had already relied on shrinkflation to drive pricing-led growth in the June quarter and has indicated that more pricing action could follow."If the overall impact was 1 per cent, you would probably see maybe another



1.5-2 per cent coming in," Britannia MD and CEO Rakshit Hargave said in the earnings call, as quoted byAt the same time, Britannia remains positive about demand. Hargave said the "demand environment is strong" and that the trend remained good. The company expects to preserve its FY27 EBITDA margins at least at FY26 levels if input costs remain elevated. For consumers, the pricing action may

not necessarily mean a higher MRP. If the grammage of a Rs 5 or Rs 10 packet is reduced, the consumer pays the same amount but receives less product. **HUL SEES 2-5% INFLATION IN SEPTEMBER QUARTER** Hindustan Unilever is also expected to raise prices across multiple product categories in the September quarter. HUL expects sequential inflation of 2-5% compared with the April-June quarter and plans to continue with "calibrated" pricing action to offset inflation while protecting volume-led growth.HUL CEO and Managing Director Priya Nair said the company expects inflation to rise sequentially in the September quarter.

Rural jobs under new VB-G RAM G scheme fall nearly 50% in first month

New Delhi. (Agency)

Employment generation under the government's newly launched rural jobs programme nearly halved in its first month, with person-days generated falling to 7.67 crore in July from 15.33 crore in the same month last year, according to official data.The 49.94% year-on-year decline comes just weeks after the Centre replaced the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) with the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G, from July 1.A person-day refers to one person being provided employment for one day under the programme and is the standard measure used to track work

generated under the rural jobs scheme. The government has projected VB-G



RAM G as an upgraded version of MGNREGS, increasing the annual employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days while also raising wages. The revamped programme also aims to place greater emphasis on durable rural asset creation and

improving livelihoods.The Ministry of Rural Development has maintained that the transition to the new programme has not affected implementation. In a written reply in Parliament last month, the government said more than 99.5% of workers demanding employment under VB-G RAM G had been provided work, with over 5. 2 crore person-days generated by July 22.The latest month-end figures, however, indicate employment generation slowed further through the remainder of July.The government has not yet issued a detailed explanation for the nearly 50% year-on-year decline in person-days generated during the first full month of the scheme.

62% investors follow finfluencers. Sebi is using AI to hunt down fake tips and fraud

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sebi is turning to artificial intelligence to keep a closer watch on financial influencers and fraudulent investment content on social media, as its latest investor survey shows that a large majority of investors are influenced by finfluencers.The market regulator has operationalised Project SUDARSAN, an AI-powered surveillance platform designed to monitor unauthorised digital activity and detect content that could mislead investors.Sebi's latest Investor Survey found that 62% of investors are influenced by finfluencers. The regulator has flagged the lack of accountability and verified performance data among many such influencers as a

concern, particularly when investors rely on their content to



make financial decisions. **HOW SEBI IS USING AI TO WATCH FINFLUENCERS** Project SUDARSAN, which stands for Surveillance of Unauthorised Digital Activity via Real-time Scanner for Anti-fraud, is an AI-powered intelligence platform that

Sebi has developed to move from conventional monitoring to more proactive surveillance.The system uses what Sebi describes as advanced multimodal AI. That means it can analyse different forms of information at the same time, including spoken language, visual cues and contextual intent. It can also analyse content in regional languages. The system combines these signals with behavioural and regulatory parameters and assigns risk scores to the content it identifies. It then generates structured alerts that can be examined for possible regulatory action.

Why India's banks are betting big on gold loans

New Delhi. (Agency)

For decades, India's gold loan business belonged almost entirely to specialist lenders such as Muthoot Finance and Manappuram Finance. If you wanted to pledge your jewellery for a quick loan, you rarely thought of walking into a bank. **That is changing rapidly.** Banks are making an aggressive push into gold loans as demand for credit backed by jewellery surges, turning one of India's oldest household assets into one of the country's hottest lending businesses. The shift comes as gold prices hover near record highs, borrowers seek faster access to cash and lenders increasingly favour secured loans over unsecured credit.The only way you can justify that is by focusing on core inflation.Essentially, the RBI wants to buy more time because the growth and inflation trajectory is not clear.

Obviously, we are required to stabilise interest rates; whether it should be done now or after 6 months, that is the question. I think the RBI has taken a call that it'll be prudent to do it after 6 months. They have first decided they don't want to hike rates and then looked at the (reasons). RBI has said it is looking at headline inflation. But the language which has been used shows that it is looking at core inflation. I think over the next 3-6 months they will start looking at headline inflation and make a decision.Outstanding gold loans extended by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) climbed 69.3% year-on-year to Rs 3.41 lakh crore in June 2026, according to Reserve Bank of India data. During the same period, overall NBFC credit grew 14.4%, underlining just how much faster gold-backed lending is expanding than the broader lending market.

Banks are witnessing a similar trend. Loans against gold jewellery at scheduled commercial banks nearly



doubled over the past year, making them one of the fastest-growing categories within personal loans, according to RBI data. The rapid growth has prompted lenders to expand their gold loan business at a time when growth in unsecured personal loans has moderated following tighter regulatory scrutiny.RISING POPULARITY OF GOLD LOANS Unlike a personal loan, where

approval depends largely on a borrower's income and credit history, a gold loan is backed by jewellery pledged as collateral. That reduces the lender's risk and usually allows loans to be sanctioned much faster.For borrowers, rising gold prices have made the proposition even more attractive.Take a family that owns gold jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh. A year ago, the same jewellery would have fetched a smaller loan. Today, with gold prices significantly higher, it can unlock more money without the family having to sell an asset that often carries both financial and emotional value.That has made gold loans a preferred option for many households facing temporary cash needs—whether it is paying a hospital bill, meeting education expenses, funding a small business or bridging a short-term cash-flow gap.



Tara Sutaria

Calls Toxic Her ‘Fairytale’ Years After Beginning Acting Career With Disney: 'A Dream Is A Wish...'

Tara Sutaria could barely contain her emotions after watching the Toxic trailer on the big screen. The actress joined Yash, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth and the rest of the team at the film’s trailer launch in Bengaluru on Saturday, where she opened up about what being part of Geetu Mohandas’ ambitious film means to her.

Tara described the experience as a dream that had come true for not just her, but the entire team. Calling Toxic an “incredible story”, she said she felt overwhelmed by what they had collectively created.

Tara Sutaria Gets Emotional After Watching Toxic Trailer

Addressing the audience at the event, Tara admitted that watching the finished trailer had left her struggling to put her feelings into words.

“Hello, everyone, and good evening. It’s such a pleasure to be here in Bengaluru. I’m just so overwhelmed at the moment after watching the trailer,” she said.

The actress then found an unusual way to explain what the film represented to her.

When Disney came up during the interaction, Tara recalled a line from an old fairy tale that she felt perfectly captured her journey with Toxic. “There’s actually, and because you brought Disney

up, a very popular phrase from an old Disney fairy tale, which I think goes something like, ‘A dream is a wish your heart makes,’ and it feels so fitting to Toxic and to this fairytale that we’ve all created,” Tara said. “I think it’s a dream and a wish that all of us have had, I think collectively as a team, to be a part of something and a fairytale of sorts that is really outstanding, exceptional, and something very, very special to all of us in many different ways,” she added.

Tara Says She Feels ‘Blessed’ To Be Part Of Toxic

Tara kept her speech brief but made it clear that Toxic holds considerable personal significance for her.

“I think I’m just, like I said, overwhelmed, humbled, and blessed to be with all of you and to be a part of this incredible story,” she said before thanking everyone present at the event. Her comments came as the cast assembled in Bengaluru for the unveiling of the film’s much-awaited trailer. While Tara did not reveal details about her character or how she fits into the story, her appearance in the trailer has already offered audiences a first glimpse at her role.

For the actress, the comparison was not simply about the scale or visual world of the film. She said Toxic represented something that the cast and crew had collectively hoped to create. At the same event, Yash also spoke about what Tara brought to the film. The actor revealed that her presence impressed the team enough for them to expand her character beyond what had initially been written.

“We, in fact, increased your scenes more than what was written because of your fabulous presence and your effort,” Yash told Tara. He particularly credited the actress with bringing a distinct quality to the film. “Your elegance has added a lot of elegance to our film. Thank you so much for being part of our film,” he said.



Sidharth Malhotra

Showers Love On Kiara Advani After Toxic Trailer: ‘Going To Be One Of Your Bests, Ki’

Kiara Advani has found support from husband Sidharth Malhotra after the trailer of Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups sparked chatter online. While a section of social media has targeted the actress over her intimate scenes with Yash, Sidharth chose to focus on the work she has put into the film, predicting that it could emerge as one of her finest

bests Ki!!!” he wrote.

Sidharth also congratulated director Geetu Mohandas, Yash and the rest of the team, adding, “Can’t wait to see the magic @geetu_mohandas @thenameisyash, you and the entire team has created. Best wishes team #Toxic. Looking forward to 26th Aug.”

His reaction comes amid online discussion surrounding Kiara’s chemistry with Yash. The trailer features several intimate moments between the two actors, which have led to Kiara being trolled by some social media users.

Yash Responds To Criticism Around Kiara

A day before Sidharth’s post, Yash had also spoken about Kiara at the film’s Bengaluru trailer launch. Without asking her to pay attention to outside commentary, he praised the actress for committing herself fully to her character. Yash said audiences had only seen a glimpse of what Kiara had achieved in Toxic. Calling her dedicated, he recalled watching her put considerable effort into the role during filming.

He also encouraged her to stand by her choices as an actor. “Whatever you believe in, you should do and people will celebrate, people will appreciate. It’s just that we are a little ahead of times,” Yash said.

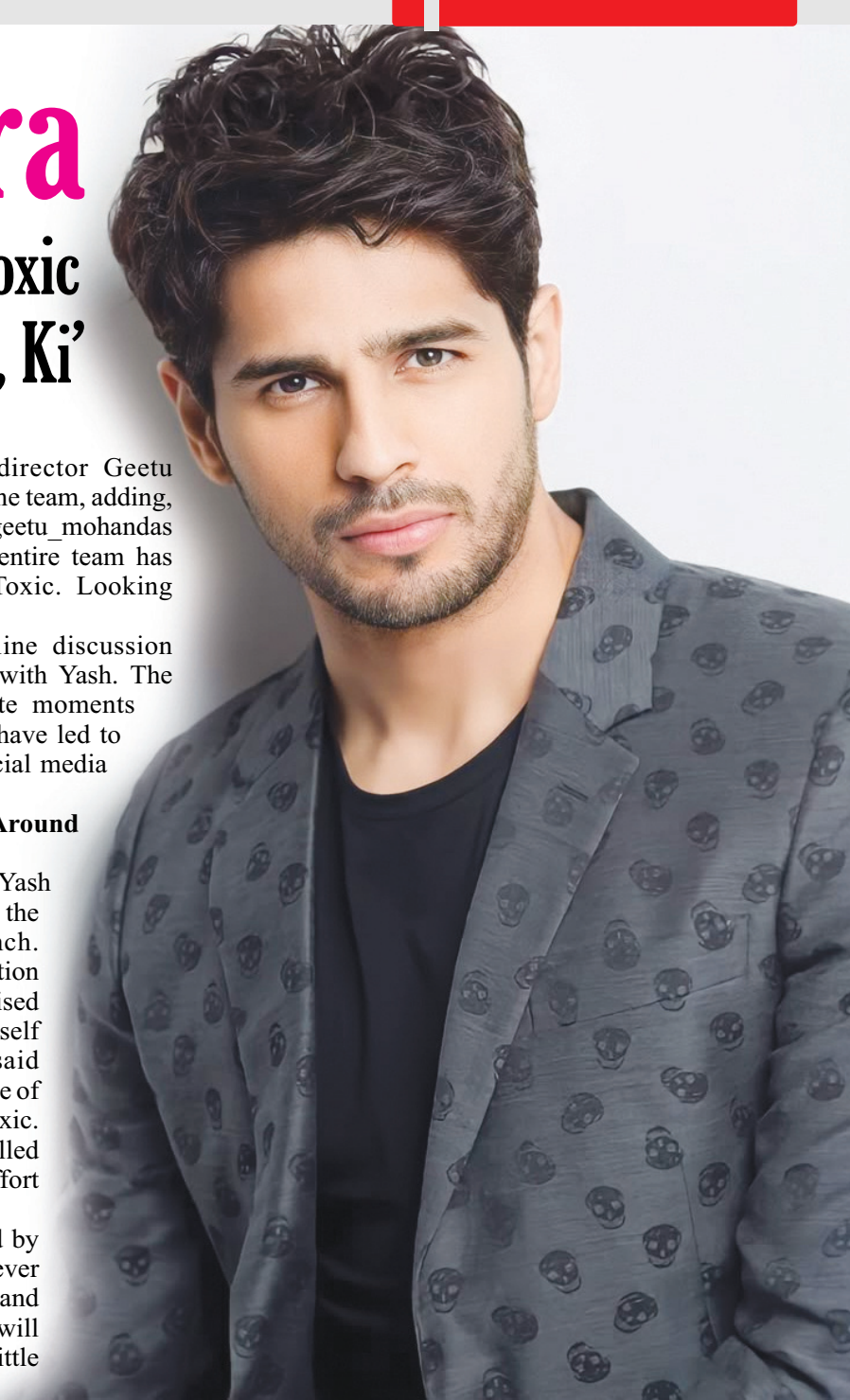


performances. The Toxic trailer was unveiled on Saturday in Bengaluru. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film brings Kiara and Yash together on screen for the first time.

Sidharth Malhotra Cheers For Kiara Advani

On Sunday, Sidharth shared the Toxic trailer on his Instagram Stories and penned a note for Kiara and the team. He highlighted the effort that went into her performance and said he was looking forward to watching the film in theatres.

“The effort, the grind, the passion, it’s all going to show on the big screen. Going to be one of your



Kiara Advani Says Toxic Will Divide Her Career Into ‘Before And After’: ‘Yash And Geetu Believed In Me’



Kiara Advani believes Toxic could prove to be a turning point in her career. Speaking at the film’s trailer launch in Bengaluru, the actress opened up about playing Nadia and credited director Geetu Mohandas and co-star Yash for trusting her with a character that demanded a leap she had not initially imagined herself taking.

Kiara, who had been waiting to watch the trailer, said seeing glimpses of the finished film only strengthened her feelings about the experience. Without revealing much about Nadia, she made it clear that the role has changed what she expects from herself as an actor.

Kiara Advani Says Yash And Geetu Mohandas ‘Manifested’ Her As Nadia

Asked what attracted her to the character, Kiara said the decision began with the faith Yash and Geetu placed in her. “I truly believe that Geetu and Yash manifested for me to be Nadia in this film,” Kiara said. “They saw it in me and believed I was capable of this much before I knew that fearless leap that I was ready to take as an actor.” The actress said watching portions of Toxic now makes her particularly grateful for that trust. She thanked both Geetu and Yash for offering her a character she expects to remember as an important milestone in her filmography.

“For giving me a part that I know will be very, very special for me as an actor in my journey. I think there will be a Kiara before Toxic and a Kiara after Toxic,” she said. Kiara stopped short of explaining exactly what makes Nadia different from the characters she has played before. When asked to describe her, she chose to keep the details under wraps.

“I cannot wait for the world to experience Nadia. I don’t think I can describe her in one word. So I’m just going to let you go and experience it,” she said.

‘You Have Spoiled Me And Every Actor In This Room’

Kiara also spoke about how the experience of making Toxic has changed her expectations from future projects. Addressing Yash and Geetu, she joked that the two had “spoiled” the actors by giving them an experience they would now want to find again.

Huma Qureshi Says She Has Learnt From Yash; Rukmini Vasanth Recalls Joining Set As His ‘Fangirl’



The trailer launch of Toxic in Bengaluru saw Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth open up about their experience of working on the film, director Geetu Mohandas’ vision and sharing the screen with Yash. While Huma spoke about the curiosity surrounding the project even before its release, Rukmini revealed that she arrived on the set as a Yash “fangirl” but was treated as a creative collaborator by the superstar.

Both actresses were present at the trailer launch on Saturday, August 8, where they largely remained guarded about their respective characters.

Huma Qureshi On The Curiosity Around Toxic

Huma said she has been inundated with questions about Toxic ever since she signed the film. Recalling her interactions with journalists over the past year, she said there has been one subject that invariably comes up. “The love that I’ve been getting since the time I signed this film has just been incredible,” Huma said.

“Whenever I go anywhere, and I’ve met so many of you, members of the media and press, over the last one year, the one single thing everyone asks me all the time is about Toxic,” she added.

Huma joked that even when she chooses not to reveal anything, her remarks somehow end up going viral. “Whether I say something or not, I think you guys just make it go viral. That is the power of this film,” she said.

After watching what was presented at the event, the actress said she was mesmerised by the world created for the film. She also praised Geetu for the way she has approached both the male and female characters.

“You have been such an amazing captain, leading us all. And the way you look at the women and the men in this film has been just so inspiring,” Huma told the director. She was equally appreciative of Yash, saying, “Yash, you have been incredible. I have learned so much from you every single day.” As for details about her character, Huma isn’t giving anything away yet. “Wait, I can’t tell you too much. You have to watch the film.



Who doesn't desire a well-painted kissable pout? It's the thought of applying the wrong shade that many of us dread. The thought of getting the right colour and the right pout is no ordinary task, unless you follow these easy but important steps for the perfect pout.

1)EXFOLIATE WITH A LIP BALM

Treat your lips just like you would treat your face. Ex-foliate lips, moisturise with a balm. Repeat the regimen daily.

2)KEEP YOUR MAKEUP MINIMAL

It's always safe to highlight only one feature of your face. If you are going for bold lips then better keep the rest of your face makeup minimal for perfect balance.

3)AVOID TOO MUCH SPARKLE

"Shimmer can look cheap," says make-up artist Troy. Look for lipsticks with a creamy finish. "Light reflection should come from moisture in the formula, not metallic pigments," he says.

4)CHOOSE RIGHT COLOUR

Finding the right shade is important. Different colours work differently on various complexion types, so try on a bunch of shades before zeroing down on the most suitable one. Advice: go for a shade that complements your skin tone. Lighter shades of reds and burgundy look fabulous with warm skin

10 lipstick rules every Woman must know

tones, while pinks and true reds work brilliantly for fairer skin.

5)USE PRIMER

Always use primer before you start

applying the lipstick. Because

- it will give the lipstick shade a better colour contrast.

- it will help your lipstick last longer (throughout the day).

In case you run out of primer or you don't have one, you can use foundation instead.

6)PICK A LIP LINER

They say liner can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Either case liner has a significant role in achieving the perfect pout. Just find the right lip liner, probably a shade that's closest to your lip colour, and outline your lips before applying the lipstick. This will give the required shape to your lip, either making them fuller or thinner. It also keeps your lipstick from feathering. FYI: Opting a much darker



10. RED LIPSTICK



Know the complete truth about your fairness Cream

India market is considered the biggest market for beauty products specially fairness solution. Among Indian society there is an absurd statement and phenomenon of beauty. Thanks to our high list of endorsement start, both men & women need variety of fairness creams. In spite of existing multimillion dollar market of fairness products in country, the question of how impactful these products are? Keep dwindling in consumer's mind. Our skin colour is determined by our race and genetic lineage which in turn decides the amount and structure of melanin. Fairness creams can only work to a certain extent. As per dermatology studies, achieving fairness up to 20% is possible, but not more than that. The fairness creams only block sun rays and prevent secretion of melanin. Thus help in reducing tan and restoring natural skin.

Side Effects of Fairness Creams

Extreme use of fairness creams can rather lead to severe skin damage. Fairness creams contain harmful bleaching agent such as hydroquinone, mercury, lead, nickel, chromium and high levels of steroids that cause following problems:

- Thinning of skin
 - Discoloration of face
 - Capillaries become prominently visible
 - Severe acne
 - Hypersensitivity to sun
 - Rebound paradoxical pigmentation
 - Unwanted facial hair growth
 - Skin allergy
 - Skin cancer
- Thus these creams should always be used judiciously only under the supervision of a certified

dermatologist. Do's and Don't What to do -Apply moisturiser daily during day and before going to bed -Wash your skin with clean water at least thrice a day -Use sunscreen lotion to prevent tanning and harsh UV rays damaging skin -Use fairness cream preferably aloe based. It works well for inflammation and tanned skin for Asian weather. -Usage external barriers like umbrella and Shades while going out. -Drink 6-8 glasses of water every day -Have anti-oxidant rich fruits -Increase the intake of Vitamin C. It increases cell turnover, helps protect against sun damage, and boosts the production of collagen and elastin, the two vital component of healthy and glowing skin.

-Exfoliation is one of the most important steps in maintaining your youthful glow. We recommend weekly exfoliation to brighten the skin tone. Regular use of an exfoliation removes the oldest dead skin cells that cling to the skin's outermost surface, or epidermis. It is an important part of both facials and body treatments What not to do -DO NOT support the common trend of fair skin and the stigma of being dark -Avoid excessive bleaching in alternate weeks. Comprising of Ammonia and hydrochloric acid primarily these ingredients can cause both minor and severe burn. -Avoid Products that Encourage Acne Breakouts

The truth is we don't need white skin to show our beauty, if you have healthy,

Benefits of using shikakai on your skin

The enriching benefits of using shikakai on hair has been proved long ago and has made it a trusted natural product in Indian households. But very few know about its benefits on the skin.

In fact, shikakai works magically for the skin, too. Here are a few ways to use this wonder herb on your skin:

- Effective in treating scabies You can use shikakai to treat skin ailments like scabies. To reap maximum benefits, you can make an antiseptic body wash using shikakai and turmeric. Soak raw turmeric in hot water and then grind it



to make a paste. Burn shikakai pods till they turn black, grind them to form powder. Mix the turmeric paste and shikakai powder with milk. Strain and use as a body wash.

- Use shikakai to treat spots

Take half a teaspoon of shikakai powder and mix it with a tablespoon each of cream, almond powder and turmeric. Add two tablespoons of honey and use it as a body scrub.

This mixture helps in eliminating dead cells and gives your skin a natural glow.

- To treat minor cuts and boils on your scalp Burn shikakai pods, grind them. Mix with a teaspoon of neem powder, make a paste using cold water. Apply on summer boils to help them heal.

5 facials you must try out in your Lifetime



Facials you must try out in your lifetime. Anti-aging Telomere Facial

What it is: Telomere is the real fountain of youth. The skin looks brighter, smoother and more translucent, as it's massaged with a replenishing cream in a way that enhances absorption. Specialised masks are used for the flower power thermoherb face lift that irons out lines and wrinkles, making the skin more firm and youthful.

USP: Anti-aging, stops wrinkles

Plant Stem Cells Facial What it is: Another breakthrough in anti-aging treatments is plant stem cell - it rejuvenates the skin powerfully. When plant stem cells are introduced into the skin during the facial, they repair dead and damaged skin cells. The skin looks tighter, firmer and younger. The products used contain active plant stem cells of the Edelweiss flower, collagen, elastin, ceramides and powerful anti-oxidants. Once the mask is washed off, the skin is toned and cold compress is given.

USP: Gives a soft glow

Platinum Facial What it is: This facial starts with a cleanser, scrub, cream, mask, serum and moisture mist. The face is first cleansed with the cleanser, followed by vegetable peel and platinum scrub. A lymphatic massage is also done to purify the skin and add radiance.

USP: Cleanses all pollutants

Diamond Facial What is it: This is for those who want to defy age. In Ayurvedic

skin care, the oxidised diamond or 'bhasma' is used, while diamond powder is used for exfoliation. This facial uses extracts of lotus, basil, dates, orange oil, carrot seed and vetiver (khus).

USP: Improves skin's vitality

Pearl Facial This is for those who need hydration. It's based on a 4,000 year old Ayurvedic and Oriental tradition of using the powder of natural pearls. Pearls influence the transfer of melanin (natural pigment) to the skin surface, preventing tanning and pigmentation.

USP: Removes pigmentation

