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Latter to Home Minister

Hon'ble Amit Shah Ji
Union Minister of Home Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi

Subject: Request for a High-Level and Independent Investigation into the Role and Conduct of the Union Home Ministry and then Home Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao During the November 1984 Massacre of Innocent Sikhs.

Hon'ble Home Minister Sahab,

With profound respect, I, Gurcharan Singh Babbar, Editor-in-Chief, Qaumi Patrika Daily Morning Newspaper Group, Author and Social Worker, wish to place before you an extremely serious matter concerning the massacre of thousands of innocent Sikhs in Delhi and other places during November 1984. For more than four decades, the Sikh community has been seeking complete truth, accountability and justice concerning the events of November 1984. Many fundamental questions regarding the responsibility of the political leadership, the Union Home Ministry, Delhi Police and other authorities, in my respectful submission, still require a comprehensive and transparent investigation. At the relevant time, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao was the Union Home Minister in the Congress Government. It has been alleged, and therefore deserves investigation at the highest level, that thousands of innocent Sikhs were massacred over four consecutive days while the authorities failed to call in and effectively deploy the Indian Army in time to protect innocent citizens. It has further been alleged that during those crucial four days, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao kept the doors of his residence and office shut, while the Union Home Ministry, which had the fundamental responsibility of maintaining law and order and protecting citizens, failed to stop the massacre of Sikhs. The extremely serious allegation is that during this period he neither met major national leaders seeking intervention nor responded to telephone calls made by several eminent personalities. Among the prominent personalities stated to have attempted to contact or seek intervention from the then Home Minister were:-

1. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
2. Shri L. K. Advani
3. Shri Inder Kumar Gujral
4. Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh
5. Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora
6. Sardar Khushwant Singh
7. Justice V. M. Tarkunde
8. Justice Rajinder Sachar
9. Justice R. S. Narula
10. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan
11. Swami Agnivesh
12. Shri Madhu Dandavate
13. Shri Somnath Chatterjee
14. Sardar Surjit Singh
15. Shri Madan Lal Khurana
16. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra

These are extremely grave matters. If official records, telephone logs, Home Ministry files, police records, Army records, contemporary correspondence, affidavits and statements of surviving witnesses are examined, the country can be told what actually happened during those four crucial days. I respectfully request the Government of India to order a fresh, independent and high-level investigation into the functioning of the Union Home Ministry and the conduct of the authorities during the November 1984 massacre. The investigation should specifically determine: Why was the Indian Army not called in and effectively deployed immediately when innocent Sikhs were being killed? Who prevented or delayed effective Army intervention? What instructions were issued by the Union Home Ministry to Delhi Police and the civil administration between 31 October and 4 November 1984? Did prominent national leaders, former judges, senior military officers and public personalities attempt to contact Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao during those crucial days? If so, what action was taken on their appeals? Why were thousands of innocent citizens allegedly left without adequate protection for several days? Who in the political leadership, Home Ministry, Delhi administration and Delhi Police was responsible for acts, omissions or deliberate failures that allowed the violence to continue? All relevant Home Ministry files, Army deployment records, Delhi Police control-room records, wireless logs, telephone records, intelligence reports, Cabinet records and other available government documents of the period should be examined and, to the extent legally permissible, placed before the people of India. This is not merely a matter of the past. It concerns the faith of citizens in the Constitution, the rule of law and the justice system of our great country. The Sikh community does not seek revenge. We seek truth, justice and accountability. I therefore humbly appeal to you, Hon'ble Home Minister Sahab, to take this matter seriously and ensure that the unanswered questions surrounding November 1984 are investigated transparently so that the truth is placed before Parliament, the people of India and the entire world. I shall be grateful for your personal intervention.

With highest regards,
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
(Editor-in-Chief)

Qaumi Patrika Daily Morning Newspaper Group

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2. Hon'ble Vice-President of India, New Delhi
3. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi
4. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi
5. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Parliament House, New Delhi
6. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Parliament House, New Delhi
7. Hon'ble Union Cabinet Ministers, Government of India
8. Hon'ble Leaders of Opposition, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
9. Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha
10. Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
11. Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi
12. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi
13. Union Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
14. Chief of Defence Staff, Government of India
15. Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army
16. Director, Intelligence Bureau
17. Director, Central Bureau of Investigation
18. Commissioner of Police, Delhi
19. Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission
20. Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities



'History will indeed remember him kindly': Sonia hails Manmohan as 'quiet but consequential PM'

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: History will remember Manmohan Singh as a "quiet but a most consequential prime minister", Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said in a signed article on Tuesday, adding that his record of

Express come days after the Supreme Court gave former prime minister Singh a clean chit in the coal block allocation case. "History will indeed remember him kindly as a quiet, gentle but a most consequential prime min-



integrity stands in stark contrast with the Modi government's. She also said that Singh's prophetic prediction of January 2014 is becoming increasingly self-evident with every passing day, in an apparent reference to his then statement that it would be "disastrous for the country" to have Narendra Modi as the prime minister. The Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson's remarks in the article published in The Indian

AAP MLA's demand to confer 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' on CM Mann over Hawara parole letter rattles SAD

Chandigarh: The demand by AAP MLA Manvinder Singh Giaspora to confer the title of 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' (pride of the community) on Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for writing to Governor Gulab

Fakhr-e-Qaum' by the Akal Takht on December 2, 2024. While showing a letter, SAD spokesperson Arshdeep Singh Kaler claimed that in February this year, the Home Department had denied parole to Hawara. The let-



ter, a copy of which is with The Tribune, was written to the authorities of Tihar Jail in Delhi. It reads: "There are 25 criminal cases registered against the prisoner Jagtar Singh Hawara. Due to which the SSP Fatehgarh Sahib and the Director, Bureau of Investigation have not recommended granting parole to the prisoner." Kaler said 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' was being sought for a man who has been declared Guru Dokhi and Panth Virodhi. "People understand the politics behind such issues. The letter is available on social media for everyone to judge.

Amid disruptions, Birla asks Govt, Opposition to arrive at common ground to let House function

New Delhi: Expressing anguish over repeated disruption of proceedings, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday asked the Government and the Opposition to arrive at a common ground so that the House can debate on key Bills that bring far-reaching changes in the country. Making a statement in the House amid noisy opposition protests, Birla said the Government has agreed to the Opposition's demand on a response from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the police action here against students protesting against the NEET paper leak on July 20. Birla said other issues raised by the Opposition can also be discussed, provided the House functions without disruptions. He said the Government has to run the House and the Opposition and Treasury benches have to arrive at a common ground and engage in constructive discussion. "I feel anguished when the House does not function," Birla said, and asked Opposition members not to display placards inside the House as it is against parliamentary norms. Since the Monsoon Session began on July 20, the Lok Sabha could not complete the Question Hour and several Bills were passed amid din without a debate.

PM Modi shares new Instagram reel, urges fervent celebrations of 80th Independence Day

New Delhi: Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Tuesday shared his sixth Instagram reel, appealing to all fellow citizens to mark the upcoming Independence Day with zeal and fervour. Chanting "Vande Mataram", the Prime Minister urged everyone to sing the National Song and dedicate themselves to the mission of making India a developed nation. The NDA MPs' customary weekly meeting, held every Tuesday, saw lawmakers waving the Tricolour and chanting "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". This is the first time that "Vande Mataram" in its full version—all stanzas—will be played at the Red Fort during the Independence Day celebrations.

News box

Monsoon spell to stay weak in Gurgaon, rain likely at isolated areas

Noida.(Agency)

Rain activity in the city is likely to remain limited over the next few days, with India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting showers at a few places over the next four days. The city recorded a maximum temperature of 33.1 degrees Celsius on Monday at the KVK automatic weather station, down from 34.3 degrees Celsius on Sunday. The minimum temperature, however, rose to 27.6 degrees Celsius from 25.7 degrees Celsius on Sunday, according to IMD data. Gurgaon recorded 1mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending at 8.30am on Monday at the KVK station. The district-wise forecast issued by IMD indicates rain at a few places in Gurgaon on Aug 11, 12, 13 and 14. The spatial spread of rainfall is expected to remain limited, with no indication of widespread showers over the district.IMD’s district-wise weather warning chart also does not show a heavy-rain warning for Gurgaon over the coming days. The warnings issued for parts of Haryana are mainly concentrated in other districts, including Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat and Sonipat.The forecast suggests a continued but relatively limited monsoon spell in Gurgaon. Showers may occur in parts of the district, but rainfall activity is expected to remain restricted through the week.

Scholarship portal lists 175 schools in Noida, only 60 found active

Noida.(Agency)

Of the 175 schools listed on the scholarship portal under the pre-matric scholarship scheme for Classes 9 and 10 in Gautam Budh Nagar, only around 60 were found to be active on the portal during a routine review, education department officials said.Similarly, only about 55 of the 133 schools listed under the post-matric scholarship scheme for Classes 11 and 12 were found to be active. Officials also found duplicate logins for some institutions.The discrepancies emerged during a review of the master data by the district social welfare officer. The district education department has now directed schools to verify their entries and submit documents and details related to inactive institutions and duplicate logins to the district social welfare office within three days.District inspector of schools Chandra Shekhar said, “There are a large number of schools in the master data where discrepancies have been found. A thorough verification of the data will now be carried out and inactive schools and duplicate entries will be identified and removed.”Officials said cleaning the master data was necessary as scholarship programmes are monitored at the state and district levels, with district performance also assessed through dashboards. A large number of inactive or duplicate entries could affect the district’s ranking. The department has also flagged schools that have not uploaded details of eligible students on the scholarship portal. Officials said delays in uploading student data could affect the timely disbursement of scholarship benefits.

NCRTC lays down 23-station plan for Ghaziabad-Jewar Namo Bharat corridor

Noida.(Agency)

The preliminary DPR for the proposed Ghaziabad-Jewar Namo Bharat corridor has been made and NCRTC is in the process of finalising it. The corridor, which will start from Ghaziabad, will be 72.5 km and will conclude at Noida International Airport. The distance will be covered in 50 minutes. Officials said a direct Delhi corridor from Sarai Kale Khan to Jewar was explored but eventually shelved. “As proposed in the Dec 29 meeting last year, the Ghaziabad-Jewar Namo Bharat RTTS cum Metro corridor will originate from Ghaziabad Namo Bharat Station and conclude at Noida International Airport. About 71.5 km of the corridor will be elevated and 1.29 km will be underground,” said an NCRTC official. “The underground segment will be in the area of Noida International Airport near Terminal-1 and the ground transportation centre.”A total of 22 stations, apart from the Ghaziabad station, are proposed along the entire corridor. Out of these stations, 21 stations will be elevated, while the last station at NIA is proposed to be underground. “Proposed metro services will be available from Ghaziabad Namo Bharat Station to Ecotech-VI, covering 18 stations, while Namo Bharat services will have 11 stations along the corridor. Seven stations will be common to both Namo Bharat and Metro services,” said the official.

Hero Honda flyover restoration hits hurdle as NHAI reworks estimate

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As the first attempt to appoint a specialised agency for restoring the Hero Honda Chowk flyover failed to attract any bidders, NHAI is now reworking the project before inviting bids again. Instead of floating the same Rs 22.3-crore tender, the authority is revising the cost estimate, technical specifications and contract conditions.NHAI had invited bids in May this year for the restoration of the flyover, more than two years after a depression was detected on the elevated structure. However, despite extending the timeline twice, agencies still did not participate.According to NHAI officials, the project’s estimated cost

and the specialised nature of the restoration work were among the factors that may have deterred agencies from participating in the bids.The revised proposal is expected to be ready within a week, after which it will be sent for approval before a fresh tender is floated.“Earlier, the tender was prepared on the basis of the initial estimate and technical specifications. However, we did not receive bids from specialised agencies,” an NHAI official said.The revised tender will also incorporate changes in the execution methodology and contract conditions, officials said. The aim is to engage an agency with experience in specialised bridge rehabilitation, the official added.“The flyover is structurally

intact overall, but repair and rehabilitation work on the deck slab are required. Since this is a specialised bridge rehabilitation project, we are examining the work methodology and technical details and will incorporate these in the revised estimate. Once the agency is finalised, our target is to complete the restoration within about a month,” the official said.The restoration involves repairs and strengthening of damaged portions of the flyover. The scope includes work on the deck slab and bearings, along with measures such as grouting, strengthening and partial replacement of damaged sections, as recommended following a structural assessment.In May 2024, a nearly 20-metre section of the Gurgaon-Delhi

carriageway developed a visible depression. NHAI barricaded the affected portion and restricted traffic on the damaged lane, which has remained cordoned off since then. The damage worsened by Dec 2024, when the affected portion developed into a cavity with reinforcement bars exposed. Further concrete chipped off in Jan last year, leaving iron rods visible and a hole in the deck. NHAI subsequently asked CSIR-Central Road Research Institute to conduct a structural audit of the flyover and the underpass at Hero Honda Chowk, both constructed by the same agency.In Oct last year, the audit found the flyover stable overall but identified weaknesses in parts of the deck slab and bearings.

8 km of roads cleared of encroachments on first day of city-wide drive

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Nearly 8 km of roads, footpaths and other public spaces were cleared of encroachments on Monday as GMDA began a drive to reclaim land falling within its Right of Way (ROW). On the first day, the drive was carried out along Old Railway Road, Sector 3A-4, Sector 4/7 and Sector 4/9 dividing roads, among other stretches. The enforcement teams of GMDA removed illegal ramps, vending carts, kiosks and temporary structures occupying road margins, footpaths, green belts and service roads.This comes following Supreme Court’s directions to clear public land of illegal occupations.The exercise aims to improve pedestrian accessibility, road safety and traffic movement while ensuring that govt land and public infrastructure remain available for their designated purpose.

The authority plans to continue the drive across other sector-dividing roads and stretches under its



jurisdiction, an official said.GMDA chief executive officer PC Meena said the available road space and public areas must be kept accessible for their intended use. “Right of way of roads, footpaths, green belts and service roads under GMDA jurisdiction has to remain free from encroachments. The

drive is aimed at restoring public spaces and ensuring that the available road space is used as intended. Action will continue against encroachments that affect pedestrian movement, road safety and the use of public infrastructure,” Meena said. Officials said both temporary and permanent structures found on govt or public land would be removed as part of the campaign. Besides clearing existing encroachments, field teams will carry out regular inspections to check whether the cleared stretches are occupied again.The drive is being carried out by 12 teams comprising 36 officials and staff under the supervision of RS Batth, DTP enforcement of GMDA. Each team has three members, including junior engineers from GMDA’s enforcement wing, Infra-1 and Infra-2 divisions and the Municipal Corporation of Manesar.

Three men abduct GST consultant, extort Rs 29L from kin

Noida.(Agency)

Three armed men, one of them dressed as a ‘cop’, abducted a GST consultant in Greater Noida West and held him captive for nearly seven hours before extorting Rs 29 lakh from his family, police said. The incident occurred on July 20, but the police repeatedly refused to register a complaint as the consultant did not give all the facts to the police.According to the consultant, Sandeep Kumar, he left his home in Gaur City that day at 11am to hand over a laptop to his colleague at a Tech Zone IV highrise — Ace Aspire. He was out in

his Grand Vitara and had taken his dog along. He told the cops that barely 15 minutes into the drive, he took a turn towards Ace Aspire, but a car blocked his way.Three men posing as police officers stepped out. One of them was wearing a uniform with stars on his shoulders. Armed with weapons, they approached his car and forcibly opened his window. They told him that a case of tax evasion had been registered against him in Lucknow and he would have to accompany them to the state capital.When Kumar agreed to cooperate, the men abandoned their car and got into the Grand Vitara. They forced him onto the rear seat, and one

of them sat beside him. Another took control of the steering while a third one occupied the passenger seat in the front. As they reached Tech Zone IV, the men stopped the car and allegedly forced Kumar to hand over his dog to a fourth person. At this point, Kumar claims he tried to escape, and in a scuffle with the man seated in the rear seat, his T-shirt was left in tatters.The men then drove through Gaur City and on Greater Noida Expressway before taking the car to Yamuna Expressway. The vehicle crossed the Jewar toll plaza around 1.18pm, Kumar claimed. The car was stopped at a roadside eatery.

Street vendors, unions protest outside Mini Secretariat; traffic hit

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Street vendors and trade unions staged a protest outside the Mini Secretariat on Monday, alleging harassment of vendors, delay in notifying designated vending zones, non-implementation of revised minimum wages and continued use of contractual labour in industrial units.The protestors demanded that the administration notify vending zones without further delay, stop repeated eviction and anti-encroachment drives against street vendors, implement the revised minimum wages across industries and abolish the contractual worker system. Trade unions also demanded repeal of the three labour codes, which they said were against workers’ interests.Rohtas, organisational secretary of Rehri Patri Mazdoor Union, Gurgaon, alleged that street vendors were being repeatedly targeted in the name of beautification and anti-encroachment drives. He also said the list of street-vending zones submitted by the organisation had still

not been notified, leaving vendors without clarity on where they could legally conduct their business. Rohtas also alleged that officials were allowing illegal vendors to operate while taking action against those dependent on vending for their livelihood. According to him, the administration had also failed to conduct a fresh survey of street vendors. “No survey of street vendors is conducted and officials are supporting illegal vendors for their personal gain,” he alleged. Another major grievance was the functioning of the Town Vending Committee (TVC). Rohtas said the committee had not met for the past five years despite the requirement for meetings at regular intervals. The trade unions raised the issue of minimum wages alongside their demand for an end to contractual employment. Anil Pawar, president of Trade Union, Gurgaon, said the state govt had announced a substantial increase in minimum wages earlier this year following labour unrest, but

many industrial units were yet to implement the revised rates. “The state govt hiked the minimum wage earlier this year and directed the industries to implement it immediately, but till now many industries have not implemented the new minimum wages,” he said. Haryana notified a nearly 35% increase in minimum wages on April 9, 2026, with the revised rates effective from April 1. The move came amid intense labour unrest in the industrial belt, including protests by contractual workers in Manesar demanding better wages and working conditions. Under the revised structure, the monthly minimum wage for an unskilled worker was raised to Rs 15,220.7, from Rs 11,274, while the rate for semi-skilled workers was fixed at Rs 16,780.7, skilled workers at Rs 18,500.8 and highly skilled workers at Rs 19,425.8.Trade unions also demanded an end to the contractual worker system in manufacturing units, arguing that it weakens workers’ bargaining power

and allows employers to avoid providing workers with the wages and benefits available to regular employees.

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Delhi Police bust interstate gunrunning racket, recover 18 firearms; 'kingpin' among 8 held

New Delhi: Eight suspects linked with an interstate arms smuggling syndicate, including the alleged kingpin, have been arrested and 18 illegal firearms, additional magazines and live cartridges have been seized following an extensive operation by Delhi Police's Special Cell, an official said on Tuesday. The accused were allegedly part of a network that procured sophisticated semi-automatic pistols and country-made firearms from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and supplied them to criminals in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas, police said. "The syndicate used encrypted

social media applications, virtual numbers and fake online identities to coordinate with suppliers, traffickers and buyers while concealing identities of its members," a senior police officer said. The arrestees have been identified as Harish Chandra (24), Pritpal Singh (24), Shishpal Singh alias Yash Chaudhary (26), Kuldeep Sagar (20), Aghesh Kumar (25), Noor Mohammed alias Taslim (36), Mohammed Shan (19) and Vikram Singh (36). Police said the operation was carried out on the basis of specific intelligence developed over several weeks regarding movement of illegal

firearms into Delhi-NCR. "During the operation, the



team recovered 12 semi-automatic pistols, five country-made pistols, one revolver, 10 additional magazines, five live 9 mm prohibited cartridges, besides one live cartridge

and an iron sickle from one of the accused," the

officer said. He further said the investigation began on July 5 when Harish Chandra was apprehended with eight semi-automatic pistols and eight magazines allegedly smuggled from Madhya Pradesh. During interrogation, he disclosed that he and his brother were transporting illegal

firearms at the direction of the syndicate's alleged kingpin Shishpal Singh, police said. Based on his disclosure, police arrested Pritpal Singh and later tracked down Shishpal from Ballabgarh in Haryana, recovering another illegal pistol from his rented accommodation. According to police, Shishpal had been involved in illegal arms trade for nearly three years and had established a network of suppliers, couriers and traffickers operating across multiple states. Subsequent raids led to the arrest of Kuldeep Sagar and Aghesh Kumar, while further searches resulted in the recovery of another pistol from the residence of an absconding accused identified as Ganesh alias Lucky. On July 14, Noor

Mohammed alias Taslim and Mohammed Shan were arrested and four country-made pistols, one semi-automatic pistol and one revolver were recovered from them. A day later, Vikram Singh was arrested and five live 9 mm cartridges were seized from his residence. Police said the syndicate allegedly procured sophisticated pistols from Madhya Pradesh and country-made firearms from Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh before transporting and storing them at multiple locations in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi-NCR for distribution. Noor Mohammed is previously involved in 12 criminal cases, while Mohammed Shan had been arrested earlier in six cases, they added.

Separated from lover, woman strangles husband to death with sari in UP's Pilibhit

Pilibhit (UP): Madho Tanda Station House Officer Ashok Pal told reporters that the accused, Mamta, allegedly confessed to the crime committed in Pilibhit district during interrogation. The deceased, identified as Umashankar, 42, had married Mamta 20 years ago and the couple had an 18-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter, police said. The incident came to light on Friday night when the couple's daughter heard a noise and woke up her brother Vikas from deep slumber. The siblings found their father lying on the bed with a saree around his neck, suspecting their mother allegedly strangled him to death. Police said he was taken to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The daughter told police that her mother brought a cold drink home on Friday evening, mixed sleeping pills in it and offered it to them. Police said later, she allegedly went to the roof with Umashankar while the children went downstairs to sleep. Police said the body was sent for a post-mortem examination on Saturday. Preliminary investigation revealed that Umashankar had gone to Gujarat for work in February 2024, where Mamta allegedly developed a relationship with a neighbour, Nakul Bhavesh, 38, and wished to enter into a court marriage, police said. The matter led to frequent disputes between the couple, and Umashankar had brought Mamta back to Pilibhit around six months ago, the family members said. Maps Police said after killing her husband, Mamta fled. Police conducted a search operation along with over 50 locals and found her hiding in a field about 300 metres from the house while allegedly trying to flee from the city.

55-year-old college accountant and gym owner shoots self in Saharanpur

Saharanpur: The incident took place on Saturday night at Salempur village under

the gunshot, neighbours and people at his gym located on the same premises rushed to the spot



the Sarsawa police station limits, and the deceased has been identified as Devdutt Sharma, they said. According to police, Sharma returned home from work on Saturday evening, had dinner and later allegedly shot himself in the head. Hearing

and took him to the Government Medical College in Pilkhahi, where doctors declared him dead. Circle Officer Pawan Kumar said Sharma worked as an accountant at Balaji College of Law and also ran a gym from a portion

of his house. Before taking the extreme step, Sharma sent a lengthy message to his niece on WhatsApp, expressing emotional distress and mentioning his last wishes. The message is being examined, Kumar said. According to the family, Sharma, who was married to Seema for 33 years, was not on good terms with his wife of late. The couple has two sons - Abhishek, who works in Saudi Arabia, and Aditya, who studies in Chandigarh, police said. Police have recovered a country-made firearm, an empty cartridge and the deceased's mobile phone from the spot. The matter is being probed from all angles, and no conclusion has been drawn yet, the officer said.

Bus carrying players overturns in UP's Gonda; 7 injured

Gonda: A bus carrying 41 local athletes overturned on the roadside in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district on Thursday, leaving seven of them with minor injuries, police said. LongDistance Bus & Rail Nawabganj SHO Abhay Singh said the players were returning from a programme organised at Nandini Nagar College to mark the acquittal of former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by a court in a sexual harassment case. The accident took place around 4 pm near the Nandini Shooting Range on the Gonda-Ayodhya road when the bus went out of control and overturned on the roadside, he said. Police personnel and local residents broke the windows of

the bus and safely rescued all the occupants, the officer said. The injured were identified as Vikas Yadav (18), Satish Maurya (22), Shivkumar (22), Shiva Singh (19), Chandan Gupta (17), Amarnath (17) and one other player. All sustained minor injuries and were taken to a hospital by ambulance, where they

were administered first aid and later discharged, Singh said.

NAME CHANGE
I, KASHIF JAMAL, S/o Mr. JAMAL AHMAD, R/O A-198, GALI NO.9, CHAUHAN BANGAR, NEW SEELAMPUR, Delhi-110053 have changed my name from KASHIF JAMAL to KASHIF JAMAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SHAZIA ASAD, wife of ASAD KHAN, resident of 2568, Kucha Tara Chand, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110002, inform that my old name in all my identity and official documents is SHAZIA KAMAL. I have permanently changed my name to Shazia Asad after my marriage. Both names belong to me, and henceforth I shall be known exclusively as SHAZIA ASAD for all legal and future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, NITU W/O KRISHAN KUMAR R/O 654, GALI GHOSIYAN MAIN, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110043 DECLARE THAT RITU JANGRA (NAME MENTION IN MY DAUGHTER'S MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE) IS SAME PERSON i.e. my self. In future I shall be known as NITU for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, BHUPENDER BISHT S/O. BHAGAT SINGH BISHT R/O. H NO-4146, GALI-14, SHYAM COLONY PART-B, SEHATPUR, AMARNAGAR, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121003, have changed my name to BHUPENDER SINGH BISHT.

NAME CHANGE
I, SABANA R/O. B-251/A, GALI NO-13/8, NEAR, MOEMEEN CHOWK, SUBHASH VIHAR NORTH GHONDA, SEELAMPUR, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to SHABANA SAIFI.

NAME CHANGE
I, EZAUDDIN R/O. B-251/A, GALI NO-13/8, NEAR, MOEMEEN CHOWK, SUBHASH VIHAR NORTH GHONDA, SEELAMPUR, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to IJAZ UDDIN SAIFI.

NAME CHANGE
I, Dinesh Goel S/O Om Prakash Goyal R/O 476, GF, Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 Have Changed My Name to Dinesh Goyal for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as CHANDAN alias ABHISHEK S/o RADHEYSHYAM R/o Dighawat, Dighawat, Chandauli, Dighwat, Uttar Pradesh 232108, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ABHISHEK

NAME CHANGE
I, Pooja Goel W/O Dinesh Goyal R/O 476, GF, Sector-14, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 Have Changed My Name to Pooja Goyal for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Asha Rani alias Asha Sachdeva D/O Atm Prakash W/o Ramesh Sachdeva, R/O Flat No-32, Plot No-24/2, Star Apartments, Rohini Sector 9, Rohini Sector-7, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHA SACHDEVA.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PRADEEP KUMAR MISHRA S/O MANGLA PRASAD MISHRA R/O H.No-C-2/11, Gali No-9, Mukund Vihar, Karawal Nagar, DIST: North East, Delhi-110094 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJU MISHRA in my driving licence no. DL05 20089157708. The actual name of mine is PRADEEP KUMAR MISHRA, which may be amended accordingly.

ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS IN ALIPURDUAR JN.

Tender Notice No: AP-EL-TRD-01-26-27-RT1; **Dated:** 07-08-2026.

E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work :** Electrical TRD Works in connection with OHE modification work at New Changanbandha Station against the Engg. Work "Provision of Direct reception at New Changanbandha by providing crossover at Maynaguri Road railway station end at New Changanbandha". **Tender Value:** ₹1,34,88,616.30/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,69,800/-; **Date & time closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 31-08-2026.** Complete information along with tender document of above e-tender are available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM/Elect.(TRD)/Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as JASPREET KAUR D/O PARAMJEET SINGH BHASIN R/O W Z-207, GALI NO.12, SHIV NAGAR, JANAKPURI B-1, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110058 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PREETI BHARDWAJ. I have changed my name only not my religion. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, PARDEEP S/o late Shri Om Prakash, resident of H.No.11 34, Aruna Nagar, Majnu Ka Tila, Civil Lines, Delhi 110054. Have changed my name from PARDEEP KUMAR to PARDEEP for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KALINDRA YADAV S/O RAM-BRIKESH YADAV R/O Kharsa No-234, Ground Floor, Mukund Pur Part-2, Mukandpur Gaon, Po: Pehlad Pur, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 have changed the name of my minor daughter MAMTA KUMARI aged 14 years and She shall hereafter be known as MAMTA YADAV.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD DANISH S/O MOHAMMED HAFEZ R/O H.No.886F, Street No.30/5, Jafraabad, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to DANISH ABBASI.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ABHIJIT SENGUPTA, son of SWADESH RANJAN SENGUPTA, resident of Milon Nagar, Near Bishnu Mandir, Digboi Town, P.O. and P.S. Digboi, Dist. Tinsukia, Assam-786171, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as ABHIJIT SEN GUPTA and SHRI SWADESH RANJAN SEN GUPTA in my Service Records. The actual name of mine and my father are ABHIJIT SENGUPTA and SWADESH RANJAN SENGUPTA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RANJANI DEVI W/o MANENDRA KUMAR R/O RZ-3, 03rd FLOOR, SANT MOHALLA, MAIN SAGARPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110046, declare that name of my minor daughter aged 14 years has been wrongly written as ADITEE in her School Records. The actual name of my minor daughter is ADITEE SINGHANIA which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Surender Kumar S/o Late Babu Lal R/o L-67, Dakshinpur, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-62, has severed all his relations and disowned his wife Ruby and Daughters Sonika Singh, Monika, Sonali Dagar from his all movable - immovable properties due to their disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for their any acts.

Bindu (Advocate)
Ch. No.836 Saket Court
New Delhi-110075

NAME CHANGE
I POOJA MAHENDRA SHARMA W/O MAHENDRA SUBHASH SHARMA R/O H-915, JALVAYU TOWERS, SECTOR-56, GURGAON, HARYANA-122011, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
It hitherto known as RICHA NEGI W/o OM PRAKASH DUBEY R/o H.NO-K-2/116, FIRST FLOOR, VATIKA INDIA, NEXT, SECTOR-83, GURGAON, HARYANA-122004, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RICHA DUBEY.

NAME CHANGE
I No. 14676657Y, Rank HAV, Name SARJEET SINGH, permanently residing at Village GAIRTPUR-BASS, Post - TEKKLI, Tehsil BADSHAPUR, Dist. GURGAON, State HARYANA, PIN No. 122101, Unit 7012 EME BN, inform That I have changed my son name from KAPIL to KAPIL SINGH, both Name KAPIL and KAPIL SINGH pertain to one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, CHANDER PARKASH VERMA S/o CHANDU LAL R/O H.No. 478, Sheesh Mahal, Bazar Sita Ram, North Delhi-110006, have changed my name to CHANDER PRAKASH VERMA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KM MOHANI W/O BANSHIDHAR R/O 21/3 RAILWAY COLONY KISHANGANJ NORTH DELHI 110007, CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHANI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE
I Vivek Dhanuka S/o Vimal Kumar Dhanuka R/O 1005, Tower Life, Vatika Seven Lamps, Sec-82, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, have changed my Minor Daughter's name "Gitika Dhanuka" To "Riddhi Dhanuka" for all future purpose.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I Mohd Shan Miyan S/O Laik Uddin, R/O House No.L-515, Sunder Nagri, Nand Nagri, PO: Nand Nagri, DIST: Shahdara, Delhi - 110093, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mohd Shaan Miyan in my minor daughter's name Fiza aged 15 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Mohd Shan Miyan, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to general public at large that my client, Md. Albad S/o Md. Ibrahim R/O A-113, Third Floor, A-Block, Sudarshan Park, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, do hereby declare that his married daughter namely Mrs. Ishrat Praveen W/o Nazir presently residing at House No. 141, 3rd floor F-Block, Sudarshan Park, Ramesh Nagar West Delhi-110015, has disowned/debarred her from all his moveable and immovable properties and also sever all his relations with her with immediate effect. My client and his other family members will not be responsible for any civil or criminal acts and deeds.

ANIL SINGH, Advocate
Chamber No. 856-B
Lawyers chambers
Dwarka courts Dwarka
New Delhi-110075

NAME CHANGE
I, SARODE VIKRAM VITHOBA, is legally father of Army No. 2820783Y, Rank - NK, Name - SARODE AKASH VIKRAM, presently residing at Vill - Ralegan Thermal, Post - Ralegan Thermal, Teh - Parner, Dist - Ahilyanagar, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 414306, have changed my name from SARODE VIKRAM VITHOBA to VIKRAM VITHOBA SARODE and date of birth from 01/06/1973 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Public Notary, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
Shashank Singh Anshul S/O Dilip Kumar Singh R/O House No. G-59 Lok-3 Sector 57 Gurgaon Haryana-122001 I have changed my Name To Shashank Singh For All Future Purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, CHHAYA is legally mother of Army No. 2820783Y, Rank - NK, Name - SARODE AKASH VIKRAM, presently residing at Vill - Ralegan Thermal, Post - Ralegan Thermal, Teh - Parner, Dist - Ahilyanagar, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 414306, have changed my name from CHHAYA to CHHAYA VIKRAM SARODE and date of birth from 01/06/1977 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Public Notary, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHELKE KASHINATH, is legally father of Army No. 2824145X, Rank - SEP, Name - SHELKE GANESH KASHINATH, presently residing at Vill - Kelgaon, Post - Kelgaon, Teh - Silod, Dist - Aurangabad, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 431112, have changed my name from SHELKE KASHINATH to SHELKE KASHINATH BARKU for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Public Notary, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANGITABAI is legally mother of Army No. 2824145X, Rank - SEP, Name - SHELKE GANESH KASHINATH, presently residing at Vill - Kelgaon, Post - Kelgaon, Teh - Silod, Dist - Aurangabad, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 431112, have changed my name from SANGITABAI to SANGITABAI KASHINATH SHELKE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Public Notary, Delhi.

REPUBLIC NOTICE

We Hari Om son of Devi Ram, Mitlesh wife of Hari Om both Resident of 317, DESU Road, Near Masjid Shalimar Village, District-North West Delhi, Delhi-110088 have disowned/ debarred our sons namely Rishi Sharma and Naman Sharma sons of Hari Om and Mitlesh from all movable and immovable properties assets, and severed them all relations due to their misbehaviour/ misconduct, disobeying towards ourselves. If anybody deals with them in any manner will do so at their own risk and responsibilities in future. \

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 14676657Y, Rank HAV, Name SARJEET SINGH, permanently residing at Village GAIRTPUR-BASS, Post - TEKKLI, Tehsil BADSHAPUR, Dist. GURGAON, State HARYANA, PIN No. 122101, Unit 7012 EME BN, inform That, I have changed my son name from MANJEET SINGH to MANJEET due to avoid future ambiguity in service records in the army. both Name MANJEET SINGH and MANJEET pertain to one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 14676657Y, Rank HAV, Name SARJEET SINGH, permanently residing at Village GAIRTPUR-BASS, Post - TEKKLI, Tehsil BADSHAPUR, Dist. GURGAON, State HARYANA, PIN No. 122101, Unit 7012 EME BN, inform That, I have changed my son name from MANJEET SINGH to MANJEET due to avoid future ambiguity in service records in the army. both Name MANJEET SINGH and MANJEET pertain to one and the same person.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

E-TENDER NO.2026RSI1741TC

Principal Executive Director, Railway Stores (S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 42,396 Nos. Constant Contact Side Bearers (CCSB) for BG bogie wagons to RDSO Specification No. WD-62-Misc.-17 (Rev-1) July-2025 variant B to drawing No. WD-12008-S/1 (Alt-3) for BOBN type wagons (34,076 Nos.) and WD-62-Misc.-17 (Rev-1) July-2025 variant C to drawing No. WD-12007-S/1 (Alt-3) for BOBRN type wagons (8,320 Nos.) through E-Reverse Auction.

2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 14.09.2026.

5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.

Director, Railway Stores (W),
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi,
For and on behalf of the President of India

2774/26
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

➔ KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! ➔

Running of Additional Trips of Train No. 04123/04124 between Prayagraj Jn.-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Prayagraj Jn. (Bi-Weekly) Special Train

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to run additional Trips of train no. 04123/04124 between Prayagraj Jn.-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Prayagraj Jn. (Bi-Weekly) Special Train as per the details given below:-

Train No.	From	To	Days to Run	Earlier notified up to	Extension up to	Trips
04123	Prayagraj Jn.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Sun & Wed	29.07.2026	30.08.2026	08
04124	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Prayagraj Jn.	Mon & Thu	30.07.2026	31.08.2026	08

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General. • Rest of other instructions will hold good.

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

Visit RailMadad website : www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in & download Railmadad app.

2772/2026

Please join us on

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE
I SUNAYANA W/O ANIL HASIA R/O 75 STREET NO-1 SHASTRI PARK CHANDER NAGAR DELHI-110051 have changed my name to SUNAINA HASIA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I No. 14676657Y, Rank HAV, Name SARJEET SINGH, permanently residing at Village GAIRTPUR-BASS, Post - TEKKLI, Tehsil BADSHAPUR, Dist. GURGAON, State HARYANA, PIN No. 122101, Unit 7012 EME BN, inform That, I have changed my daughter name from ISHU to PRIYA, both Name ISHU and PRIYA pertain to one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I MAYA is legally SPOUSE of No. 14676657Y, Rank HAV, Name SARJEET SINGH, presently residing at Village GAIRTPUR-BASS, Post - TEKKLI, Tehsil BADSHAPUR, Dist. GURGAON, State HARYANA, PIN No. 122101, Unit 7012 EME BN, inform That I have changed my name from MAYA to MAYA DEVI & 02-05-1986 to 20-03-1988, both Name MAYA and MAYA DEVI & 02-05-1986 and 20-03-1988 pertain to one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SHAJADI KHATOON W/O MD ABROL R/O 589, JEWAN PARK, BLOCK-E, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110059 declare that name of my minor daughter and my husband have been wrongly written as NAJARANNA KHATUN and NAZNIKHATOON KHATOON aged 11 years in her Aadhaar card No. 5475 9733 5744. The actual name of my minor daughter and my husband are NAZNIKHATOON KHATOON and MOHAMMAD ABROL, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I MUNIBA W/O ABUL SAQIB R/O. H.NO-3874-3879 4TH FLOOR SARAK PREM NARAIN CHURIWALAN DELHI-110006 have changed my name to MUNEEBA PARVEEN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, D TARUN TEJA son of NO-14656015H Rank-HAV Name-DANDU RAMANA is legal father of D SANJAY residing at H NO-2-39/5/10, SREE LAKSHMI COLONY, PHASE-03, LOTUS HOMES, AHMADGUDA, KEESARA MANDAL, MEDCHAL -MALKAJIGIRI, TELANGANA-501301, have changed my name D TARUN TEJA to DANDU TARUNTEJA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14656015H Rank-HAV Name-DANDU RAMANA is legal father of D SANJAY residing at H NO-2-39/5/10, SREE LAKSHMI COLONY, PHASE-03, LOTUS HOMES, AHMADGUDA, KEESARA MANDAL, MEDCHAL -MALKAJIGIRI, TELANGANA-501301, have changed my minor son's name from D SANJAY to DANDU SANJAY for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/08/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, PREMJEET SINGH NIJJAR S/O GURMAJIT SINGH residing at J-48, SAKET, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110017, have changed my name from PREMJEET SINGH to PREMJEET SINGH NIJJAR.

NAME CHANGE
I SUKHEEP S/O AMAR SINGH R/O A-43 DAKSHIN PURI DR AMBEDKAR NAGAR DELHI 110062 have changed my name to SUKHEEP SINGH Permanently for all future

NAME CHANGE
I SYED MOHAMMAD ABDUS SAMAD S/O SYED MOHAMMAD MAHMOOD R/O B-3 BLOCK AGAR NAGAR PREM NAGAR -3 KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR DELHI -110086 have changed my name to SMABDUS SAMAD Permanently for all future

NEWS BOX

Fire breaks out after attack on major Libya gasoline tank

world.(Agency)

A major gasoline reservoir in Libya's Zawiya, west of Tripoli, caught fire and collapsed on Monday after what authorities said was an attack by unknown perpetrators.The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said the tank contained about 4.5 million litres of gasoline.The reservoir is located at the second-largest oil refinery in Libya, with a refining capacity of 120,000 barrels per day."This evening, tank number 402-T, belonging to the Brega Oil Company and used for storing gasoline, was directly targeted, resulting in a severe fire before the tank completely collapsed," the NOC said in a statement.Brega said in a statement that firefighters were working to contain the blaze, adding that "cooling operations are underway for adjacent tanks to prevent the fire from spreading".The NOC condemned similar attacks in past days in Zawiya, including two drone attacks on a naphtha reservoir and a water desalination plant over the weekend.The NOC declared a state of emergency and called for an investigation. Separately, a Libyan parliamentary panel condemned the attack and called for stronger protection of oil installations."The House of Representatives' Energy and Natural Resources Committee condemns in the strongest terms the criminal attack targeting the Zawiya Refinery, one of the most vital facilities in the oil and gas sector that is a cornerstone of the national economy," it said in a statement.

Meta Unveils AI Model 'Muse Glimmer' That Can Run On Personal Computers

world.(Agency)

A Meta Platforms Inc. introduced a new, downloadable AI model that can run on a personal computer, adding fuel to a US debate over whether the increasingly powerful technology should be freely available or kept under tighter control.Users will be able to download and customize the new Muse Glimmer, a distilled version of the company's Muse Spark 1.2 model designed with a focus on efficiency to minimize system requirements, Meta said on Monday.At 30 billion parameters, the Muse Glimmer is "small enough" to need only one graphics card to power its work, which will primarily involve agent-like AI tasks such as schedule management and file organization, according to Meta.The release, along with a 6,500-word essay penned by Meta Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, challenge a vision of AI championed by startups like OpenAI and Anthropic PBC, which largely favor keeping the technology under tight control. Google offers its Gemma family of open-weight models that can be run on local devices, while low-cost open models from Chinese companies including DeepSeek, Moonshot and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. have intensified pressure on US rivals who charge for access.The weights, or values that help the AI system make decisions, for Muse Glimmer will be available via the Hugging Face collaboration platform. Meta intends to make the weights for a version of the more powerful Muse Spark available as well.

Libya Military Intelligence Chief Killed In Car Blast: Report

world.(Agency)

The head of military intelligence for eastern Libya's Libyan National Army was killed on Monday when an explosive device detonated in his car outside his home in the Hawari area of Benghazi, two security sources told Reuters. Brigadier Fowzi Mansouri was killed in the evening blast, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They did not say who was responsible for the attack or provide further



details on the device. The killing highlights continuing security challenges in Libya, where rival administrations and armed groups have retained influence despite a 2020 ceasefire that halted major warfare. Libya split in 2014 between rival eastern and western factions after a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled longtime autocrat Muammar Gaddafi.The Libyan National Army, led by military commander Khalifa Haftar, controls much of eastern and southern Libya.

At least 111 killed after 7.5 magnitude earthquake jolts western Colombia

CALI.(Agency)

The Death toll in the devastating earthquake that struck western Colombia on Monday rose to 111. The powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake damaged hundreds of buildings and left many trapped under debris while their loved ones and rescue workers searched through rubble. Search teams and civilians picked through the remains of destroyed buildings in the country's third-largest city, Cali, passing large pieces of concrete and other rubble down a long line of volunteers."Our building has basically been left in ruins, and the building next to ours? Completely collapsed," said Álvaro López, who cradled his dog as he watched the search. The desperate scene recalled

US set to make online filing mandatory for immigration applications

world.(Agency)

The US is set to make online filing mandatory for a wide range of immigration benefits, including green cards, citizenship, asylum and employment authorisation, as part of a push to modernise processing and cut operational costs.The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), in a rule published in the Federal Register on Monday, said forms that have been available for electronic filing for at least 180 days will have to be submitted online. The rule also establishes a process for making additional forms online-only, provided the agency gives applicants at least 60 days' notice.The move could affect green card applications and renewals,

Australia Introduces Optional Gender, Sexual Orientation Questions In Census

Canberra.(Agency)

Australians for the first time can reveal their sexual orientation and whether they identify as a different gender than the one recorded at birth - contentious debut questions in the latest census that occurs every five years.The 66-question census, held on Tuesday, August 11, is the first under a center-left Labor Party government since 2011. The current Labor government backflipped to allow the questions after having dropped them temporarily two years ago as "divisive." Both questions are open to members of households 16 years and older.The answer options for sexual

1,600 Buildings Collapse, 132 Dead: Videos Of 7.4 Magnitude Colombia Earthquake

Bogota.(Agency)

A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia, rattling much of the country and setting off a desperate search and rescue of survivors trapped under the rubble of hundreds of collapsed buildings in several cities. At least 132 people have died, and around 570 others have been injured in the South American nation's strongest earthquake this century. The deaths are likely to rise as rescue crews and residents continued to dig through flattened buildings, even as the Colombian Geological Service has warned of additional tremors.The disaster struck just days after President Abelarado De La Espriella took over the highest office in the country, thrusting the new administration into its first major crisis, with memories still fresh

the searches still ongoing in neighboring Venezuela weeks after that country was devastated by two powerful earthquakes.Besides Cali, the quake ravaged cities across western Colombia, including Pereira, Quibdo and Manizales, and was felt in neighboring Ecuador and Panama.The epicenter was in San Jose del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Bogota, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Colombia's President Abelarado de la Espriella said at least 87 people were injured and around 1,600 buildings were damaged, including at least 61 that completely collapsed. He declared an emergency to expedite funding for the quake recovery."We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our

US set to make online filing mandatory for immigration applications

world.(Agency)

family-based petitions, citizenship requests, asylum claims, employment authorisation applications and Temporary Protected Status filings.Applicants will generally be required to use a USCIS online account, either by completing the form electronically or uploading a PDF of the completed form along with supporting documents.USCIS said the rule is aimed at accelerating its shift away from paper-based processing and reducing reliance on the Treasury Department's lockbox system, which receives and processes applications submitted by mail.The agency said electronic filing would improve efficiency, reduce errors and strengthen fraud detection and security screening by making

Australia Introduces Optional Gender, Sexual Orientation Questions In Census

Canberra.(Agency)

orientation are straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual, don't know, prefer not to answer or a term of the respondent's choice that can be



written in a designated blank space. The options for the gender that the respondent currently identifies with that differs from that registered at birth are man,

1,600 Buildings Collapse, 132 Dead: Videos Of 7.4 Magnitude Colombia Earthquake

of devastating twin earthquakes in neighbouring Venezuela in June. According to Espriella, at least 1,575 homes, 18 health centres, and 52 schools had been damaged in the powerful quake that was followed by 21 aftershocks. The president said at least 61 buildings had completely collapsed as he declared an emergency to expedite funding for the quake recovery."We aren't going to leave people alone. They are in our hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination," he said.

The Visuals

Visuals shared on social media sites showed a four-story building crumbled in Pereira during the quake, while footage from Manizales showed one of the side towers of the city's landmark neo-Gothic cathedral collapsing and



hearts and we are going to tend to people with our full determination," he said.Most powerful quake recorded in Colombia this centuryColombia's Geological Service said Monday's quake was the country's strongest recorded "in the 21st century," and that it was followed by several aftershocks.Colombia's Pacific region around the epicenter lies along the "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults

US set to make online filing mandatory for immigration applications

world.(Agency)

immigration data easier to access and analyse.Applicants who are unable to file online can seek an exemption by submitting a new form. USCIS will assess such requests on a case-by-case basis, with approved applicants required to pay a USD 25 filing fee.USCIS processed more than 14 million benefit requests in fiscal year 2025, while its lockbox facilities handled around 453 million pages of paper submissions.The agency spent approximately USD 396 million operating lockbox intake systems and more than USD 10 million on postage alone.The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expects mandatory e-filing to reduce costs linked to manual handling, data entry, shipping, storage and scanning.

Australia Introduces Optional Gender, Sexual Orientation Questions In Census

Canberra.(Agency)

woman, nonbinary, prefer not to answer or another term that the respondent can provide.The gender and sexual orientation questions are optional, along with a question on religion that has been included since the first census in 1911.

Labor had promised such questions about sexuality and gender would be included in the next census while campaigning ahead of the 2022 elections that brought the party to power after nine years out of government.The Australian government determines the topics for each census. The Australian Bureau of Statistics decides the wording of questions.In 2024, the government decided against deviating from the 2021 census questions in the interests of maintaining social cohesion.

1,600 Buildings Collapse, 132 Dead: Videos Of 7.4 Magnitude Colombia Earthquake

scattering debris onto nearby streets. A video broadcast by Caracol Television showed a group of people pulling a small baby covered in dust from under



a pile of rubble. Caracol reported the six-month-old girl and her mother were rescued from under a five-story building in Cali.Another clip from the city of Cali showed rescue workers rappelling people out from the

encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. The Pacific, particularly the Choco region, is one of Colombia's poorest, nestled in dense jungle. Much of Choco is only reachable by boat or plane, which may pose difficulty in assessing the wider toll.Local authorities said the death toll included at least 40 people who were killed in the Risaralda region, where Pereira is located, and 27 people in the Valle del Cauca region, where Cali is located, including three children.

Authorities also confirmed nine people killed in Choco, two in the Caldas region and a 73-year-old in the Antioquia region. It was not immediately clear where the other 32 people died.

India Opens Attari Border, 10 Other Ports For E-Visa Holders

world.(Agency)

The Centre has notified 11 additional international ports, including the India-Pakistan border in Attari, Punjab, allowing e-visa holders to enter India. With the latest addition -- which included two airports and nine land ports -- the total number of international connectors enabling entry for E-Visa holders has increased to 88, including 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. All foreigners, except Pakistanis, will be allowed to avail themselves of the benefit of the new move, as India does not grant e-visas to travellers with Pakistani passports or Pakistani origin. "They may please apply for a regular visa at the Indian Mission," according to the Indian visa application e-portal. The e-visa facility is currently available to 17 sub-categories of travellers, including medical, student, mountaineering, cruise, tourist, transit, group travel, and business, among others. Around 95 per cent of applications are processed within 72 hours. The latest move is expected to enhance the attractiveness and utility of the electronic visa. List of Newly Added PortsThe Ministry of Home Affairs added 9 land ports to the list-- Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari (Road). Raxaul, Rupaidiha, and Joghani borders were already on the list. The two airports that have been added are Bhopal and Tirupati. Other airports on the list include Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bagdogra, Bhogapuram, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Calicut, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gaya, Goa (Dabolim), Goa (Mopa), Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kannur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Navi Mumbai, Port Blair, Pune, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Varanasi, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam. India has also extended the facility to 38 seaports, including Agatti, Alang, Bedi Bandar, Bhavnagar, Calicut, Chennai, Cochin, Cuddalore, Dahej, Dhamra, Haldia, Hazira, Kakinada, Ennore-Kamarajar, Kandla, Karaikal, Kattupalli, Kolkata, Kollam, Krishnapatnam, Mandvi, Mormugao, Mumbai, Mundra, Nagapattinam, New Mangalore, Nhava Sheva, Paradeep, Pipavav, Porbandar, Port Blair, Sikka, Tuna Tekra, Tuticorin, Vallarpadam, Visakhapatnam, Vizhinjam-Kovalam and Vizhinjam.

1,600 Buildings Collapse, 132 Dead: Videos Of 7.4 Magnitude Colombia Earthquake

windows of a local hospital. **Ring of Fire** Colombia's Pacific region around the epicenter lies along the "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. The Pacific, particularly the Choco region, is one of Colombia's poorest, nestled in dense jungle. Much of Choco is only reachable by boat or plane, which may pose difficulty in assessing the wider toll.Northwestern niversity seismologist Suzan van der Lee told news agency Reuters that the quake's powerful magnitude, inland location and strike-slip motion may have amplified damage in populated valleys despite its considerable depth."This one was far below the crust, and in theory it shouldn't cause as much shaking.

Four militants nabbed in Manipur

Imphal.(Agency)

The overall law-and-order situation in Manipur remained normal over the past 24 hours, according to police. Security forces continued search operations and area domination in fringe and vulnerable districts, with intelligence-based combing, cordon and search operations carried out extensively to target those involved in extortion and criminal activities.

On August 9, security forces arrested four individuals in separate operations across the state. One suspected cadre of an armed group was arrested from the Khongjom Langathel area in Thoubal district, while a cadre of a proscribed outfit was arrested during a search operation in the Yumnam Huidrom area of Imphal West district.

A self-styled cadre of an armed group was arrested from his residence in Purum Pangaltabi, Imphal East district, and an active member of another armed group was arrested from Lamlong, also in Imphal East district.

The movement of 425 vehicles carrying essential goods along National Highway-37 was ensured, with strict security measures and convoy protection provided at vulnerable and sensitive stretches.

Bengaluru eco activists revive ‘No Balloons Please’ campaign ahead of Independence Day

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Ahead of Independence Day, Bengaluru-based eco activists have renewed their ‘No Balloons Please’ campaign, urging citizens, communities and establishments to avoid balloons and balloon releases during celebrations and to opt for reusable and compostable alternatives. Spearheaded by Beautiful Bharath, a citizen volunteer community working on sustainability and clean cities, the campaign highlights the environmental, health and civic risks associated with balloons.

The volunteers said balloons are largely single-use and non-recyclable, ending up in landfills or as non-recoverable street litter. Their fragments can disintegrate into smaller particles and microplastics, contaminating soil and potentially entering water bodies through rain and drains. Balloon waste reaching oceans can also be mistaken for food by turtles and other marine animals, while strings can entangle birds and wildlife.

The campaign also flags human health and safety concerns, including choking risks from balloon fragments for infants, latex allergies and potential accidents involving hydrogen-filled balloons near heat sources.

Drugs worth Rs 55.8 crore seized, 39 arrested in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Bengaluru City Police, along with the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the CCB, have arrested 39 people, including eight foreign nationals, and seized over 200 kg of various drugs worth Rs 55.80 crore in a week-long operation.

The Amruthahalli police have arrested two men for allegedly peddling drugs and being involved in a drug manufacturing network in Delhi. Following a tip-off in connection with a previous case, the police team arrested the two men in Delhi and seized 14.4 kg of MDMA worth Rs 28.8 crore. The accused have been identified as Omni Singh, a native of Delhi, and Obam, a Nigerian national. The accused allegedly manufactured the drugs in Delhi and supplied them to students and local customers in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the Girinagar police arrested a French national, Demba Jouma Francis, and seized 4.37 kg of MDMA worth around Rs 10.36 crore. According to the police, the accused was staying in Yelahanka and allegedly procured drugs from African nationals in Delhi before selling them to known customers in Bengaluru.

KIIT International School hosts 13th MUN, focus on global issues

The two-day conference brought together around 1,500 students from nearly 100 schools across major cities, including Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata.

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The 13th edition of Model United Nations (MUN) at KIIT International School was inaugurated on Saturday by former diplomat and director general of Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi, Sujan Chinoy.

The two-day conference brought together around 1,500 students from nearly 100 schools across major cities, including Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. The participants engaged in discussions and debates on pressing global issues through 13 committees. Chinoy urged students to develop qualities of discipline, hard work, teamwork and collective effort. Recalling his long

association with KIIT and its founder the successful conduct of the event. Achyuta Samanta, he said success is driven by vision, perseverance and



teamwork. “There is no substitute for industriousness. Even a lion must rise and hunt; success does not come on its own,” Chinoy said. Samanta congratulated the organisers on

Reminiscing his first meeting with Chinoy in Australia, Samanta highlighted the former diplomat’s career spanning more than four decades and his expertise in international relations, defence and policymaking. He also highlighted KIIT and KISS’ achievements in education and sports, stating that KIIT has produced more than 24 Olympians and contributed to India’s performance at international sporting events, including the World University Games and Asian Athletics Championships. KIIT International School principal Sanjay Suar said the participation of students from nearly 100 schools reflected their growing interest in the MUN.

Rajasthan Farmer Hid Rs 5 Lakh From His Family. A Year Later, Termites Had Eaten It All

Rajasthan.(Agency)

A farmer in Rajasthan's Balotra district has reportedly lost Rs 5 lakh after termites destroyed the cash he had buried in his field for safekeeping. According to reports, Mangilal Meghwal, a resident of Newai village near Pachpadra, received Rs 5 lakh after selling a plot of land around a year ago. Fearing theft and worried that the money might be spent by his sons, he decided to hide the cash in his field instead of keeping it at home.

The farmer placed the money in a plastic bag and buried it in a pit on his farmland. He did not tell his wife or children where the money was hidden. Months later, when he needed funds to build a room on the farm, he went to

retrieve the cash. However, he could no longer remember the exact spot where he had buried it. Despite searching across his 10-bigha field, he was unable to find the



money. Eventually, he informed his family about the hidden cash. At first, they struggled to believe his story, but later joined the search. Even then, the money remained missing.

Nearly a year later, during the monsoon season, a damaged bag containing the cash reportedly surfaced in the field. When family members opened it, they discovered that termites had infested the bundle of notes. Most of the Rs 500 notes had been badly damaged and torn into pieces.

Banks Refuse To Accept Damaged Currency Notes

The family collected the termite-damaged currency notes and approached the State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Pachpadra, hoping to recover at least part of the lost money. However, bank officials reportedly refused to exchange the notes after assessing their condition. The family then visited SBI's main branch in Balotra, but their efforts yielded the same result.

'Cat-22' In Madhya Pradesh: 50 Humans Killed, 45 Tigers Dead In Just 8 Months

Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh has long worn its wildlife numbers as a badge of honour. It has the highest tiger population in India, the country's largest leopard population and some of its most celebrated forests. But behind this conservation success story, a disturbing parallel crisis is unfolding. In the first eight months of 2026, at least 50 people have died in wild animal attacks across the state. During roughly the same period, more than 45 tigers have also died.

Forest Department, tigers have attributed to a leopard. At least 16 of the victims were girls and women, while the remaining were boys and people killed, 22 died in tiger men.



attacks, eight were killed by wild tendu leaves and mahua flowers, boars, seven by elephants and four bringing them into much closer by sloth bears, while one death was contact with wildlife.

12 injured in firing along Assam-Arunachal border amid land dispute

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the situation had been brought under control and tension had eased. He said Education Minister Ranoj Pegu had been deputed to hold talks with the Arunachal Pradesh government, while Assam's director general of police and chief secretary were in touch with their counterparts in the neighbouring state.

Northlakhimpur.(Agency)

At least 12 people from Assam were injured on Monday in alleged firing by miscreants from Arunachal Pradesh along the inter-state border in Dhemaji district, police said. The clash was linked to a dispute over alleged encroachment of land.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the situation had been brought under control and tension had eased. He said Education Minister Ranoj Pegu had been deputed to hold talks with the Arunachal Pradesh government, while Assam's director general of police and chief secretary were in touch with their counterparts in the neighbouring state. According to a senior official, the incident took place

in the morning at Mingmang Basti along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border in the Gogamukh revenue circle under Gerukamukh police station. Police said the clash broke out after a dispute over alleged encroachment by people from Arunachal Pradesh on land in Assam.

As per preliminary information, miscreants from across the border allegedly opened indiscriminate fire targeting residents of Assam, the official said.

The injured were identified as Durgheswar Patir, Rohit Dole, Nagaraj Dole, Biggeshwar Patir, Pame Pegu, Sanjay Tayung, Utpal Dole and Jan Dole, while the identities of four others were yet to be ascertained,

the official said. All of them were first taken to Gogamukh Rural Hospital. Seven were later referred to Dhemaji Civil Hospital in a critical condition,



officials said. Of them, four critically injured people were shifted to Assam Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment.

"Security has been stepped up in the border area and further details are awaited," the senior official said. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function at Sonapur near Guwahati, Sarma said a "localised incident" had been reported in Dhemaji along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary. "There is nothing to do at the state level as such. The situation has been promptly brought under control and the tension has been defused," he said. Sarma added, "Our DGP is also in touch with his counterpart, and the CS is communicating with the Arunachal Pradesh government."

Centre makes load covers mandatory for all tippers, dumpers from April 1, 2027

Panchkula.(Agency)

Effective April 1, 2027, all tippers and dumpers on Indian roads must be equipped with a system that fully covers their load body, as mandated by an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2026, which require all dumpers and tippers to have fully enclosed load bodies while operating on roads.

According to the updated Rule 138B, the cover can be opened or closed by electric, electromechanical, hydraulic, or mechanical means. Any appropriate material may be used, but the load must be fully covered while the vehicle is in motion. Additionally, tippers and dumpers must be fitted with an audio-visual alert system in the driver's cabin to warn the driver if the load-body cover is open or unsecured while the vehicle is moving. This requirement applies to all dumpers and tippers from April 1, 2027.

The Centre has also amended Rule 93 to ensure that the new covering system is not counted when measuring the total height of a tipper or dumper. The cover used to enclose the load as per Rule 138B will be excluded from the vehicle's height measurement.

HEI students to get study scholarships for excelling in Gita contest

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Students in the state will get a chance to turn their knowledge of Bhagavad Gita into an opportunity to win scholarships, as colleges and universities have been asked to encourage their participation in a major state-level chanting competition and Gita Jnana Pariksha in Puri later this year.

To be organised by Prajnana Mission, the Gita chanting competition will be based on the 6th Chapter of the Bhagavad Gita (Atmasamyam Yoga) with participation of students from schools, colleges and universities at all districts.

Winners of the district-level competitions will qualify for the state-level contest, scheduled for December 26 and 27 this year, at Hariharananda Gurukulam, Balighai, Puri. There will be no participation fee for students taking part in the competition. The state-level prize winners will receive scholarships for one year.

Universe: Sacred side of educational enterprise

When Samuel Vedanayagam Pillai (1826-1889) wrote the first Tamil novel, ‘Prathapa Mudaliar Caritharam’, in 1879, he, like many of his contemporary writers, placed education at the heart of his work. The protagonist of the novel, a wealthy landowner’s son, had once refused to go to school, saying, “Ayya, do I need to study? Are not my wit and common sense enough? The poor do need to be educated, no doubt, as they have to earn their living. But is that necessary for me? If there is something to be read or written, don’t we have our clerks? And accountants?” This amusing display of adolescent arrogance from a century and a half ago may seem preposterous, but its relevance is strikingly contemporary.

Learning, in our highly technologically advanced society, is now valued chiefly for the economic opportunities it offers. Degrees have become tickets to better-paying jobs. What purpose do science and technology serve, except to bring unprecedented luxury within our reach? Ironically, prosperity often weakens our understanding of what education is for. There may be other factors operational in a society, but it is material gains that lead to the final snapping of ties between learning and potential learners. This tension between commerce and learning is not unique to our age. It has surfaced repeatedly in history, and one of its clearest expressions can be found in Reformation Europe. Martin Luther’s crusade against ecclesiastical corruption, in the early decades of the 16th century, had turned common people



suspicious towards the revered monasteries and nunneries, which were also the seats of medieval learning. The halo around the institutions related to the established Church was fading and the bonds of popular allegiance were loosening.

The period was also marked by a commercial revolution. Trade and commerce became incredibly lucrative. Many well-meaning traders in Germany began to withdraw their wards from schools, and pushed them into trade; traders, like farmers, could always do with more hands.

This created another crisis in Western Europe. Reformation needed more preachers and teachers, not fewer. Luther was constrained to write his famous sermon ‘On Keeping Children in School’ in 1530. In it, he argued that it was the “real masterpiece of the devil’s art” to keep children away from learning, and sacrifice them at the altar of mammon. He called upon communities to bring children back to schools to be trained to occupy holy offices to lead the flock in righteous living, and to guide the prince in dispensing justice.

Arguing for mass education for both spiritual and temporal ends, Luther laid the foundation of the second education revolution in the West, the first one being King Charlemagne’s groundbreaking efforts in the 9th century AD. History testifies that renewal of its spiritual foundations is the way to make learning a meaningful human pursuit.

The wise mother of that overconfident Mudaliar child counsels: “Without education, can we comprehend the nature and divine attributes of the almighty, or the teachings of the scriptures and spiritual tracts? Can we know anything of sciences like geography or mathematics...?” In a single breath, she evokes both the spiritual and the material, both the sacred and the scientific.

Lapses led to July 20 police crackdown on protesters

The authorities missed the window of preparation and planning

No accountability has been fixed yet for the July 20 police crackdown on protesters, even as the Opposition is trying to corner the government over this issue. The Tribune Edit and Op-Ed articles continue to ask questions and seek answers about the police action. Newspapers Writing about the police atrocities committed on the eventful day, the authorities missed the window of preparation and planning for the July 20 march, writes Gurbachan Jagat, ex-Governor, Manipur, and former DGP, J&K, in his Edit article What went wrong at Jantar Mantar. Usually, whenever such a march is announced, the administration at the ground level goes into overdrive. Briefing is of the utmost importance so that they understand to the last man the threat and their response. Force must be used under supervision — controlled, measured and sufficient to achieve the objective of crowd dispersal, he avers. The objective is not to vanquish an enemy at all costs as that only results in more protests and provokes the people. He pins down the problem: much of the prescribed procedure is ignored or, at best, given scant attention. writes Julio Ribeiro in his Edit article Force must be used as a last resort. The principle of using the minimum necessary force must strictly guide a command officer at all times. In the Jantar Mantar protest, the Delhi Police reported that over 200 known anti-social elements embedded themselves among the protesters to incite violence. Preventive detention of such persons before major rallies is standard policing protocol across the country. Why weren’t they rounded up in advance? Leaving them unchecked invited predictable chaos. Handling volatile crowds is a complex task — backseat driving is easy. Field officers do not take pleasure in confrontation; they take high-stakes, split-second decisions under immense pressure. SouthAsians & Diaspora

Coming to the main issue of the high-stakes NEET paper, from banking to medical colleges, just about every field now depends on the MCQ system to recruit candidates for education and employment. Why is it such a favourite? asks former NCERT director Krishna Kumar in his Edit article NEET is flawed to the core. Basically, MCQ-based tests allow the elimination of a large number of candidates. The process of elimination is mechanical

and thus impartial. This is why the process is regarded as being legitimate even if it is not quite valid, he writes. No matter how advanced is the technology used for conducting NEET, its inner crude character will remain unaddressed. We must abolish the machine called the National Testing Agency (NTA). No meaningful reform is possible unless we abolish these two high-pressure tests and come forward with creative and life-affirming alternatives, says sociologist Avijit Pathak in his Op-Ed article NEET, JEE and death of critical thinking. We must constitute a committee of great



educationists, teachers, pedagogues, good doctors and creative engineers and encourage them to evolve a decentralised pattern of tests that seeks to evaluate a young learner’s analytical and interpretative skills, social and moral sensibilities, and some basic understanding of what doctors and engineers actually do in their professional fields.

Talking about the reforms needed in the education system, the amendments to the anti-paper-leak law may expedite investigation and trials, but the deterrent effect remains an open-ended question in a country that is over-legislated and under-enforced, writes Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari in his Edit piece Education system must focus on job skills. The reform agenda should match the aspirations of the young generation, he writes. This chasm between ‘credentials’ and ‘capability’ is a consequence of an academic architecture that relegates employment integration to residual luck of campus placements and prestige hierarchy of limited eminent institutes.

Success in Godavari talks could usher in new era

Political posturing must give way to cooperation. Telangana and Maharashtra should work together with a shared commitment to protect their most vulnerable communities from the challenges posed by an increasingly volatile climate

In a welcome initiative aimed at resolving an inter-state water war, Telangana and Maharashtra seem headed towards negotiations regarding the contentious Tummidihatti barrage on the Pranahita river, the largest tributary of the Godavari by discharge and drainage. Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav has assured he would convene a Central Water Commission meeting on the issue, and between the irrigation ministers of the two states. As with all other water-sharing disputes, this long-pending issue has been prolonged by political compulsions on both sides. It all started in 2008 when Y S Rajasekhra Reddy, then the Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh, proposed a 152-metre-high barrage on the Godavari near Tummidihatti as part of the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project. Maharashtra insisted on reducing the height, claiming that a large area in the state, including a wildlife sanctuary, would be submerged. After Telangana was formed, the BRS government shifted the water source from Tummidihatti to Medigadda, and constructed the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme.



Meanwhile, Maharashtra approved a barrage height of 148 metres at Tummidihatti, which would reduce Telangana’s drawing capacity to 80 thousand million cubic feet. The Revanth Reddy government took a middle path and proposed a height of 150 metres, which Maharashtra dismissed. That’s why the Telangana CM sought the Centre’s intervention, which proposed

mediation. Telangana wants to complete the Tummidihatti barrage to use 100 tmcft of Godavari water, as the Kaleshwaram project is under repair. Telangana has a 960-tmcft share of Godavari water, out of which the state has tapped only a little over 500 tmcft till date. With rainfall patterns becoming increasingly unpredictable, prolonged political delays in decision-making are no longer sustainable if any state is to judiciously use their water resources. After all, rivers do not recognise political boundaries. Political posturing must give way to cooperation. Telangana and Maharashtra should work together with a shared commitment to protect their most vulnerable communities from the challenges posed by an increasingly volatile climate. If the two states resolve the matter with the Centre’s support, it would usher in a new era for a country affected by several river-water disputes. This is possible because the two states are now jointly constructing the Chanaka-Korata barrage across the Penganga river. It shows that parched lands can be adequately watered if politics stands aside.

The Resurgence of Terror in Pakistan

➡The bombings in Swat and Khuzdar are not exceptional incidents, but are indicators of a deeper structural deterioration

On August 2, a suicide bomber killed 17 people, including 10 civilians and seven policemen, and injured dozens more in an attack targeting anti-militancy demonstrators in the city of Kabal in the Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On the same day, a Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) suicide attacker struck the compound of Shafiq Mengal, the leader of a state-backed militia in Khuzdar, killing at least 20 people.

These attacks underscore the breadth of Pakistan’s insurgent challenge, spanning both Islamist and ethno-nationalist theatres. Crucially, these are the latest manifestations of a widening crisis that has returned Pakistan to the position it occupied at the height of its internal wars (2009-2013): the world’s deadliest theatre of terrorism. The immediate significance of these incidents lies not merely in their brutality but in what they reveal about the evolving trajectory of violence. Suicide attacks have not become more frequent in 2026; they have become markedly more lethal. According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) database, Pakistan recorded 15 suicide attacks between January 1 and August 2 in both 2025 and 2026. Yet civilian fatalities in these attacks surged more than two-and-a-half times, from 23 to 82. The civilian death toll in these incidents has already exceeded the total for the entirety of 2025. Security Force fatalities, by contrast, declined marginally, while militant deaths collapsed dramatically. Insurgent groups are increasingly able to strike civilian concentrations while avoiding sustained confrontation with state forces.

This trend is embedded within a broader resurgence of terrorism across Pakistan. After years of decline following extensive military operations, violence has risen steadily since 2022. Total terrorism-linked fatalities climbed from 971 in 2022 to 4,001 in 2025, making Pakistan the country recording the highest number of



terrorism-related deaths anywhere in the world. Fatalities in 2026 already totalled 2,842 by August 2, and the current trajectory suggests that the country will again remain at the top of global terrorism fatality rankings. Since 2000, Pakistan has recorded over 19,000 terrorist incidents claiming more than 76,500 lives, including over 23,200 civilians and more than 11,200 Security Force personnel. These are not the statistics of a state that has defeated terrorism; they are the accumulated evidence of

insurgencies that have repeatedly adapted to changing circumstances. The principal driver of the present escalation is strategic rather than tactical. Islamabad’s relationship with the Afghan Taliban has deteriorated rapidly since the latter’s return to power in August 2021, as Islamabad’s fantasies of ‘strategic depth’ crumbled against the realities of the disputed Durand Line, the present border between the two countries. Repeated cross-border attacks and Pakistan’s increasingly

aggressive military posture have followed. Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif’s declared in February 2026 that “our cup of patience has overflowed” and that Pakistan was now in “open war” with Afghanistan. The Afghan response was equally explicit, with Taliban media announcing a “battalion of suicide attackers” reportedly prepared for operations against Pakistan. The permissive environment across the border in Afghanistan has dramatically expanded the strategic space available to TTP and affiliated formations. Pakistan’s predicament is deeply rooted in decades of selective counter-terrorism. Terrorist organisations were never dismantled comprehensively; instead, distinctions were maintained between those perceived as threats to the Pakistani state and those regarded as strategic assets for external policy objectives. Such distinctions were inevitably and progressively eroded, as organisations fragmented, cadres shifted loyalties, operational capabilities diffused, and ideological ecosystems remained intact. The result is today’s security landscape, where multiple insurgencies reinforce one another while exploiting persistent weaknesses in governance, intelligence, and political coherence.

The bombings in Swat and Khuzdar are not exceptional incidents, but are indicators of a deeper structural deterioration. Pakistan once appeared to have brought terrorism under substantial control through sustained security operations. That achievement has steadily unravelled. Unless Islamabad abandons selective approaches to Islamist terrorism, restores strategic coherence, and confronts all violent extremist organisations without distinction, the present resurgence is unlikely to remain a temporary spike. It is, instead, becoming the defining characteristic of Pakistan’s internal security environment once again.

Tripura couple sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment in narcotics case

Agartala. (Agency)

A couple from Golmura in Tripura's Gomati district was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The convicts were identified as Sahid Miah and Parbin Bibi, who were arrested in connection with a heroin seizure case registered under Sections 21(b) and 25 of the NDPS Act at Kakraban Police Station two years ago.

The Additional Sessions Judge of Gomati district sentenced each of them to five years' rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000. In default of payment, they will have to undergo an additional three months' rigorous imprisonment.

For the offence under Section 25 of the NDPS Act, each was awarded another five years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 10,000. In default of payment, they will have to undergo one month of simple imprisonment. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

NHA officials visited first evening hospital in Tripura

Agartala. (Agency)

A high-level delegation from National Health Authority (NHA) visited the newly opened Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Agartala Civil Hospital on Monday in the city to oversee the facilities and patient service system.

The city civil hospital has started an evening Outpatient Department (OPD) with competent doctors and paperless digital facilities. They conducted a comprehensive assessment of the hospital's infrastructure, medical facilities, and overall healthcare delivery system.

The visit is particularly significant as the Tripura Government is committed to enhancing the state's healthcare infrastructure and improving the quality and accessibility of medical services. The newly established facility currently offers services through five major specialist departments, including Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Medicine, Dermatology, Paediatrics, and Ophthalmology.

Additionally, dental care and a variety of diagnostic blood tests are also available. The hospital has been equipped with air-conditioned facilities and a paperless service system, which has led to growing interest among patients and the general public since its inauguration.

Indian, US Navies conduct joint EOD exercise in Kochi

Kochi. (Agency)

The Indian Navy and the US Navy are conducting a five-day bilateral Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi from August 10 to 14, aimed at enhancing interoperability between specialist diving and EOD teams of the two navies. The exercise, which commenced on August 10, is designed to strengthen professional cooperation and facilitate the exchange of expertise in handling contemporary EOD challenges.

The programme includes subject matter expert exchanges, cross-training, equipment demonstrations and scenario-based practical training. It provides an opportunity for personnel from both navies to share contemporary EOD techniques, advanced technologies and best operational practices.

The exercise is also enabling the two sides to gain a better understanding of each other's capabilities, operational concepts and professional approaches, while promoting collaborative learning and operational synergy.

Heavy rain likely in Konkan and ghat regions till Aug 15, yellow alert for several districts

Pune. (Agency)

Heavy rainfall is likely to continue in parts of Maharashtra till August 15, particularly in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Palghar districts, due to moisture-laden winds blowing in from the Arabian Sea, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast.

The weather department has also predicted good rainfall over the ghat sections of Raigad, Satara and Pune districts. Mumbai, Thane and Palghar are likely to receive heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday, while the Konkan region and Goa are expected to witness a fresh spell of intense monsoon activity during the week.

Favourable weather conditions over the Arabian Sea, support from the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a low-pressure area over Madhya Pradesh are likely to strengthen rainfall along the Konkan



coast and adjoining ghat areas. Rainfall intensity is expected to increase in Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and Raigad on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for Raigad, Ratnagiri, Pune and Satara, warning of heavy showers, particularly over the ghat sections. Light to

moderate rainfall is likely at isolated places across other parts of the state.

A low-pressure area is currently active over Madhya Pradesh, with an associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level. Another cyclonic circulation has developed over the northwest Bay of

Bengal at an altitude of around 7.6 km, with indications of a fresh low-pressure area forming over the region on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Cyclone Dolphin, which struck the Chinese coast, could influence weather systems over the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. Meteorological conditions associated with major storms in the Pacific can temporarily alter the flow of moisture-laden winds towards the Indian subcontinent and slow the formation of low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal. The reduction in monsoon cloud activity over the Bay of Bengal is therefore being linked, in part, to the broader atmospheric changes associated with the cyclone. However, the overall monsoon system is expected to remain active over the Konkan coast and adjoining ghat regions during the coming days.

Indian Railways allows PwDs with UDID cards to travel in designated unreserved coaches

Panchkula. (Agency)

The Railway Board has clarified that persons with disabilities (PwDs) holding valid Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards can travel in unreserved coaches earmarked for PwDs on suburban sections and ordinary passenger trains even if they have not been granted concessional fare by the Railways.

The Board said Commercial Circular No. 11 of 2026 had earlier clarified that PwDs holding UDID cards and valid authority can travel in SLRD/LSLRD coaches of normal Mail/Express trains. The latest addendum further clarifies their eligibility for trains on suburban sections and ordinary passenger trains.

Under the latest instructions, two categories of PwDs will be considered

bona fide passengers for travelling in coaches earmarked for them on suburban sections and ordinary passenger trains. The first category comprises PwDs who have been granted concessional fare facility under existing



guidelines and hold either a concession certificate in the prescribed proforma or a Railway Divyangjan Card issued by Indian Railways.

The second comprises PwDs holding

valid UDID cards issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) who have not been extended concessional fare facility by the Railways.

Both categories must carry valid identity proof—a UDID card, Railway Divyangjan Card, or concession certificate in the prescribed proforma, as applicable—along with valid authority to travel, such as a journey ticket or season ticket.

The Railway Board has also made it clear that passengers who are not authorised to travel in coaches earmarked for PwDs will face action under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989, if found travelling in such coaches. Importantly, the Board reiterated that allowing PwDs holding valid UDID cards issued by DEPwD to travel in these coaches does not extend concessional fare facility to them.

UP: After the death of their father in Kashi, mother and son also committed suicide by consuming poison

Varanasi. (Agency)

A family from Maharashtra, who had come to the holy city of Kashi for pilgrimage, was struck by grief.

After the death of their father due to illness, the mother and son also committed suicide by consuming poison on Monday evening.

According to police, the bodies of the mother and son were found in a room at a homestay in the Luxa area on Monday night. Preliminary investigations indicate that the two committed suicide by consuming sulphas.

According to police sources, Vishal Mukherjee (56), a businessman from Maharashtra, along with his wife, Jaya Mukherjee (51), and son, Ishaan Mukherjee (25), had come to Kashi on August 5.

The family visited temples, including Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, and participated in the Ganga Aarti. It is reported that Vishal Mukherjee, who was suffering from a serious illness, had a last wish of visiting Baba Vishwanath during the month of Shravan.

Vishal Mukherjee's health suddenly deteriorated on Saturday night, and he was admitted to BHU Hospital, where he died during treatment on Sunday. After speaking with his family, his wife and son performed his last rites in Kashi.

According to the police, Jaya Mukherjee and Ishaan were in deep shock after Vishal Mukherjee's death. When the door of the homestay in Luxa remained unopened for a long time on Monday night, the operators informed the police. Upon arriving at the scene and opening the door, the mother and son were found dead. Preliminary investigations indicate that the couple committed suicide by consuming sulphas.

AAP may implode soon, Mann won't complete his tenure: Warring

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Monday bid what he termed a "farewell" to chief minister Bhagwant Mann, predicting that the current Vidhan Sabha session could be Mann's last as chief minister. Claiming that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was headed for an internal implosion, Warring alleged that the state govt could lose its majority as several party MLAs were waiting for an opportune moment to rebel.

"At no cost is Mann going to complete his tenure," Warring claimed. He added that even if the Punjab assembly elections are held on schedule in Feb 2027, Mann would not remain chief minister until then. The Punjab Congress chief alleged that most AAP legislators



had become alienated and disillusioned with their own govt.

"For four-and-a-half years, they have felt suffocated. Now they are waiting for a

breather," he said.

Launching a sharp attack on the chief minister, Warring said Mann had proved to be the "worst-ever chief minister" Punjab had witnessed. "Unfortunately, Mann could not realise that his stage had changed and that he was no longer required to survive by narrating jokes and anecdotes," Warring said.

Addressing the chief minister, he remarked, "People of Punjab did not elect you to make them laugh. For that, they already had enough of your comedy." Warring said the people had voted for AAP with hopes of "badlaav" (change), but alleged that Mann had instead surrendered his authority to "outsiders" while prioritising the security of his chief ministerial position. "You sacrificed Punjab's interests to protect your chair.

Shraddha Walkar's aunt claims to get anonymous Pak calls, fears family safety

Palghar. (Agency)

Four years after the gruesome murder of Shraddha Walkar, her paternal aunt, Rajal Naik, on Monday claimed she had been receiving anonymous phone calls from Pakistan after speaking to the media about the delay in justice in the case. Naik said the calls have frightened her family and that she plans to approach the police with evidence.

A resident of Vasai in Maharashtra's Palghar district, Naik said she has stopped answering unknown international calls because of safety concerns. She further said she has saved screenshots of the incoming call logs and will file an official complaint with the Vasai Police.



"Even after four years, Shraddha has not received justice. Ever since I started raising my voice in the media, I have been getting anonymous calls from Pakistan. We are scared, but I have

documented the call records and will be approaching the police for a probe into who is trying to intimidate us," Naik told reporters.

Walkar, 27, who was from Vasai, was

murdered in Delhi on May 18, 2022, by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala. According to police, he strangled her, cut her body into multiple pieces, kept them in a refrigerator and disposed of them over several days in different parts of Delhi.

Poonawala, who had rented a flat in the national capital's Mehrauli where the murder took place, was arrested on November 12, 2022.

The trial in the case has been pending since 2023. Walkar's father Vikas, who had pursued the case after her death, passed away in 2025. Naik has now said she will go to the police over the anonymous calls, while continuing to raise concerns over the delay in justice for Walkar.

Is the Opposition shooting itself in the foot by disrupting Parliament?

While Parliament is the workplace of both the government and the Opposition, it is the latter's most important arena. Disrupting the Monsoon Session repeatedly, is the Opposition giving up the very platform it needs to question the government and hold it to account? Who's ultimately the bigger loser here?

Delhi. (Agency)

When Parliament is disrupted, the first impression is usually that of a government unable to conduct business. That is particularly relevant now, because the Monsoon Session, which began on July 21, is facing repeated disruptions and adjournments almost from the outset, with Opposition parties protesting over a range of issues.

Bills have been delayed, Question Hour is disrupted and proceedings are repeatedly adjourned. But there is another way of looking at the cost of a dysfunctional Parliament. It is one that places the Opposition, rather than the government, at the centre of the disadvantage.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor made precisely this argument at an IIMUN (India's International Movement to Unite Nations) event. Political protests, dharnas and demonstrations have a legitimate place in a democracy, he said, but Parliament serves a different purpose. It is where political

disagreement is converted into questions, arguments, scrutiny and a permanent legislative record. A government with a majority can ultimately use its numbers to pass legislation. The Opposition, by contrast, has far fewer institutional tools to influence the government. Its most important ones are inside Parliament — Question

Hour, Zero Hour, debates, motions, amendments and parliamentary committees. That makes a functioning Parliament particularly valuable to the Opposition. “There is no problem with all sorts of political demonstrations, dharnas, hartals, gheraos, sloganeering, whatever. All those are legal, constitutional and permitted in our democratic framework,” Tharoor said. “But the temple of our democracy is a place where you go for prayer in the form of argument, debate and reasoned thinking,” Tharoor said. The distinction matters because parliamentary democracy is not simply a mechanism for counting votes. The government's majority determines whether it can ordinarily get its legislation passed. Parliament, however, is also designed to make the government answer questions, defend its policies, hear objections and place its reasoning on record. And many of those mechanisms are more valuable to an Opposition party than to the government itself.

THE OPPOSITION'S MOST IMPORTANT WEAPONS ARE PARLIAMENTARY

Question Hour is perhaps the clearest example. The Lok Sabha describes asking questions as an “inherent and unfettered parliamentary right” of its members. During Question Hour, MPs can seek information on virtually every aspect of government administration and policy, while ministers are required to answer. Starred questions permit oral answers and supplementary questions, allowing MPs to pursue the government's response in real time.

That accountability mechanism is especially useful to the Opposition.

A minister does not need to use Question Hour to establish that his or her ministry is functioning; the minister already sits inside the executive. An Opposition MP, however, can use a question to demand data, expose inconsistencies, seek explanations or force a minister to publicly defend a decision.

Deepti Gaur Mukerjee named Higher Education Secretary after NEET row

Delhi. (Agency)

Senior bureaucrat Deepti Gaur Mukerjee has been appointed as the new Higher Education Secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle carried out by the Centre on Monday. She succeeds Vineet Joshi, who was appointed Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj last month. The Personnel Ministry said late on Monday night that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had approved Mukerjee's appointment in a partial modification of its July 23 order. The appointment comes in the wake of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak controversy.

Mukerjee, a 1993 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as the Corporate Affairs Secretary. In the earlier order, Naresh Pal Gangwar, Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, had also been named Higher Education Secretary in place of Joshi.

Following the latest changes, Youth Affairs Secretary Pallavi Jain Govil will be the new Corporate Affairs Secretary in place of Mukerjee. Sunil Paliwal, Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, has been appointed Youth Affairs Secretary in place of Govil, while Sushil Kumar Lohani, Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat, will succeed Paliwal as Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.

Indian student from Andhra dies in head-on collision with pick-up truck in Ohio

New Delhi. (Agency)

An Indian student from Andhra Pradesh died in a road accident in Ohio, United States, after a pickup truck travelling in the opposite direction crossed the centre median and collided with the sedan he was driving, police said. The accident took place in the Macedonia area of Ohio on August 7.

The deceased, Dileep Kumar Bungatavula, hailed from Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district and had moved to the US to pursue higher education at Kent State University. According to police, Bungatavula was driving a sedan when a pickup truck travelling in the opposite direction crossed the centre median and crashed into his vehicle. The Consulate General of India in New York confirmed Bungatavula's death and said it was in touch with his family and providing all possible assistance.

“We are deeply saddened to learn of the untimely demise of Mr. Dileep Kumar Bungatavula, an Indian national, who tragically lost his life in a car accident in Ohio on August 7, 2026,” the consulate said in a post on X. “Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with his family during this difficult time. The Consulate is in touch with the family and is extending all possible assistance,” it added. Meanwhile, the North America Telugu Society has launched a fundraiser for Bungatavula's family.



Uttarakhand flashflood rips apart bridge, sweeps away vehicle and driver

A bridge collapse cut off the border area and around a dozen villages, with rescue teams deployed to search for the missing BRO driver.

New Delhi. (Agency)

A sudden surge of floodwaters triggered by cloudbursts and intense monsoon rains turned the Tamak drain in Uttarakhand's Chamoli into a raging torrent, sweeping away a Bailey bridge, a vehicle and a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) driver.

The bridge on the Malari-Niti National Highway connects Jyotirmath to the border area and the collapse snapped road connectivity to around a dozen villages, including Jumma and Niti and cut off the frontier.

A BRO driver, Pankaj, a resident of Pithoragarh district, was swept away by the powerful current as he was

watching the floodwaters when the bridge suddenly collapsed. He remained missing. A vehicle was also swept away as the floodwaters surged through the drain.



Rescue teams were quickly mobilised, with personnel from the district administration, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) dispatched to the site. Following the bridge collapse, authorities suspended traffic on nearby roads as well. Officials said administrative teams were assessing the damage, while the BRO began work on alternative arrangements. Traffic is expected to be restored within a day or two, Chamoli District Disaster Management Officer NK Joshi added.

Over the past several years, floods and landslides in the Tamak drain have disrupted the Joshimath-Niti road, while flood debris has repeatedly choked the nearby Dhauliganga.

Harbhajan Singh's 'zombie drug' post on Punjab backfires. Video was from Rajasthan

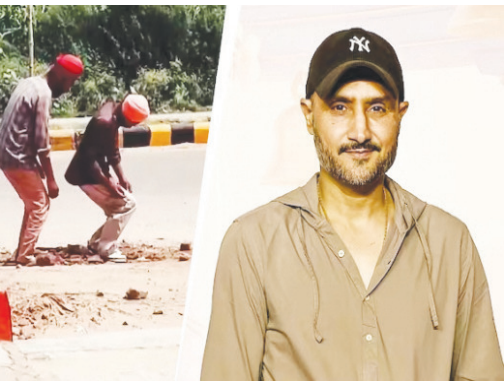
Delhi. (Agency)

BJP Rajya Sabha MP and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh came across a video showing two turbaned men apparently behaving erratically on a roadside, purportedly under the influence of a “zombie drug”. Assuming the footage was from Punjab, Singh shared it on social media, expressing anguish over what he described as the deteriorating drug situation in the state.

However, the video was later identified as being from Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, a BJP-ruled state, triggering a sharp backlash from the Punjab government and social media users.

Harbhajan Singh shared the video on X and expressed concern over the alleged

spread of drug addiction among Punjab's youth. He said the state's young people were “besieged by addictions” and urged



people to “save Punjab's youth”. “The evil eye has struck, my friend, on our Punjab,” Singh said in his post, alleging that successive governments had “ruined

Punjab and its Punjabi youth”. The post soon came under scrutiny, with users pointing out that the footage was not from Punjab. Punjab Police subsequently issued a fact-check, clarifying that the video was filmed in Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.

“The video being circulated is from Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan—not Punjab—and has no connection with Punjab Police. A Punjabi audio track does not make an incident a Punjab incident,” Punjab Police said on X while resharing Singh's post.

Harbhajan's post drew a strong response from the Punjab government. Cabinet Minister Baljit Kaur accused the BJP MP of deliberately sharing footage from another state to portray Punjab in a negative light.

Parliament's Monsoon Session heads for a washout as key bills remain stuck

New Delhi. (Agency)

When Parliament's Monsoon Session began on July 20, the BJP-led NDA appeared to have the numbers, the Opposition appeared divided, and the government seemed well-placed to push through an ambitious legislative agenda. Three weeks later, that script has been upended.

The session, which was expected to focus on major proposals including women's reservation, delimitation and tighter regulation of foreign funding, has instead been dominated by the NEET controversy, student protests and a widening confrontation



between the government and the Opposition over police action against demonstrators.

The resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on July 25 was the first major political fallout of the protests. But rather than drawing a line under the controversy, it shifted the battle to the Home Ministry, with the Opposition now demanding that Amit Shah explain who authorised the alleged police action against protesting students in Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

The immediate trigger for the disruption was the Opposition's campaign over the NEET paper leak and the treatment of students who took to the streets. What began as a demand for accountability in the examination system widened after allegations of police excesses against protesters. Pradhan's resignation gave the Opposition fresh political ammunition, but did little to ease the standoff in Parliament.

We live like rodents: Suhel Seth kicks off crusade on urban mess, bigwigs cheer

Delhi. (Agency)

“I am angry, furious and raging over the miserable life we live in the cities across India. We live like rodents. Even worse.” Speaking these words in a 2.17-minute clip, marketing expert and author Suhel Seth launched what he calls a citizens' movement against India's crumbling urban infrastructure. The clip, posted on Seth's X handle on Saturday (August 8) morning, came hours after heavy rain on Friday submerged large parts of the Delhi-NCR, including Haryana's Gurugram, where the author lives.

Asking people to send him photos and videos of civic failures, Seth pledged to amplify them until authorities were held accountable. His appeal struck a chord among eminent personalities and hundreds of people across India. Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, and Lloyd Mathias, an angel investor,

Indian Army veteran Lieutenant Colonel Sushil Singh Sheoran (Retired) said, “I am neither a communist nor an ultra socialist, but an apartment in Gurugram, which has third-world civic amenities, is being sold for Rs 271 crore. There is something extremely wrong with India”.

Sheoran was reacting to entrepreneur Manav Sardana's Rs 271 crore penthouse buy at DLF's The Dahlias in Gurugram.

On Friday (August 7), as if by annual ritual, monsoon rain once again exposed Gurugram's chronic flooding as roads submerged, traffic paralysed, and people were stranded for hours.

Hours before the Millennium City was inundated on Friday, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) had posted on X, “Every drain counts in building a flood-resilient Gurugram.” Hours later, people

responded with images and videos of waterlogged roads and stranded vehicles. Having long flagged Gurugram's civic issues, Seth has pitched the initiative as a citizens' movement, not a protest, saying



documented evidence and collective public pressure can hold authorities accountable. The campaign has spread beyond Gurugram, with people from multiple cities joining in with similar stories and visuals of urban neglect.

‘WE LIVE LIKE RODENTS’

The campaign began with a video posted by Suhel Seth on X after Gurugram witnessed severe waterlogging.

“I am angry, furious and raging over the miserable life we live in the cities across India,” the 63-year-old said, adding, “We live like rodents. Even worse.” Describing India's urban infrastructure as collapsing, Seth said potholes had become the size of “Mount Everest” while cities continued to flood every monsoon despite authorities having centuries of experience dealing with seasonal rains.

He reserved particular criticism for Gurugram's local administration. He accused it of repeatedly allowing the Millennium City to turn into “Venice every monsoon”. Instead of just venting frustration, Seth urged people to participate in what he described as a movement for accountability.

NEWS BOX

From broken track dream to Asian Games range, Kamaljeet's second shot at glory



New Delhi. (Agency)

An injury on the athletics track ended one dream, but his refusal to walk away from sport led him straight to the shooting range. Rewari's Kamaljeet turned to pistol shooting in 2019 and has since built a compelling second chapter, establishing himself as one of India's leading precision marksmen.The 22-year-old is set to represent India at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where he will aim for gold in his marquee individual event: the Men's 10m Air Pistol.

PIVOTING FROM TRACK HEARTBREAK
Kamaljeet's transition from track and field to pistol shooting was far from smooth, marked by financial hurdles and steep learning curves. Yet, his family ensured his second sporting life didn't end before it started."We are a middle-class family, but my parents never let me quit shooting," Kamaljeet recalled. "I had to manage my own expenses for course fees and matches early on, and there were times I thought I wouldn't continue. It took me two to three years to earn that money back, but my family never asked questions; they gave me whatever I needed to keep going."Building a foundation from scratch in Haryana meant relying heavily on a tight-knit support network.

"I have only one shooting coach who taught me everything from scratch. He is from my village, so our relationship feels like family," he explained. "Between my coach and my uncle at home, I've had the strongest foundation throughout this journey."

EARNING HIS SPOT ON MERIT

As domestic results began to show his potential, the initial financial strain gave way to backing from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

Afghanistan earn direct qualification for 2027 ODI World Cup with win over Ireland

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rashid Khan held his nerve under pressure to guide Afghanistan to a three-wicket win over Ireland in Belfast on Monday and secure their direct qualification for the 2027 ODI World Cup.Chasing 207, Afghanistan looked in control at 97 for two before Ireland fought its way back into the contest. They slipped to 154 for six and then 176 for seven, with Gavin Hoey's four-wicket spell putting Ireland within sight of a remarkable comeback.Rashid, however, stayed composed and finished unbeaten on 37 off 43 balls, hitting four



boundaries. Along with Yamin Ahmadzai, who remained not out on four from 26 balls, he took Afghanistan to 207 for seven in 44.5 overs to seal a three-wicket victory and, with it, their place at next year's World Cup. Afghanistan had gone into the match knowing a win would guarantee direct qualification for the 2027 tournament, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The victory also gave them a 2-0 lead in the five-match series after the opening ODI was washed out and Afghanistan won the second match by 92 runs.Rashid had earlier played a key role with the ball, taking 3/44 as Afghanistan's spinners kept Ireland's batters under pressure. AM Ghazanfar also claimed three wickets, with the pair combining to account for six of Ireland's wickets.

West Indies miss automatic 2027 World Cup spot, face Qualifier route

West Indies will have to fight through the qualification tournament once again after missing out on an automatic 2027 ODI World Cup berth. Afghanistan's win over Ireland confirmed their place among the top-ranked teams.

New Delhi. (Agency)

West Indies' road to the 2027 ODI World Cup has taken another difficult turn, with the two-time champions set to go through the qualification tournament after missing out on an automatic spot. Afghanistan's win over Ireland confirmed their place among the teams

heading directly to the tournament. The top eight teams in the ICC ODI rankings on September 30, 2026, excluding hosts South Africa and Zimbabwe, will qualify automatically. Afghanistan's victory in Belfast moved them into that group, leaving West Indies, currently ranked 10th, outside the automatic qualification places.West Indies still have two ODIs against India before the cut-off date, but even two wins will not be enough to take them into the automatic qualification bracket. They will therefore have to return to the Qualifier in February 2027 for another shot at reaching the World Cup.

WEST INDIES FACE QUALIFIER AGAIN
This is an unwanted return to familiar territory for West Indies.They also had to go through the qualification process for the 2023 ODI World Cup. But after

finishing fifth in the Super Six stage, they failed to make the tournament, missing the World Cup for the first time in their

will include:West Indies and Ireland, the two lowest-ranked non-host Full Members.The top four teams from Cricket World Cup League 2.The top four teams from the Qualifier Playoff.The Playoff will feature the bottom four teams from League 2 and four teams from the Challenge League, effectively the third tier of the qualification pathway.
A TOUGH ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP

The revised qualification system has also changed

what happens after the main Qualifier.The winner will secure direct entry into the second round of the 2027 World Cup. The teams finishing second, third and fourth will then enter a three-team Super Series, with the winner also progressing to the second round.

Know your athlete: How shooter Vidarsa's husband fuelled her Asian Games dream

Asan. (Agency)

When Vidarsa K Vinod first picked up a rifle through the National Cadet Corps (NCC) back in 2018, her goals were modest. Coming from Kerala's Kozhikode district, the youngster simply wanted to experience the sport - and perhaps, down the line, leverage it into a secure government job. Fast forward eight years, and the 27-year-old is set to represent India on one of the biggest stages in world sport: the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, competing in both the 10m Air Rifle and 50m Rifle 3 Positions events.While her journey to the national squad is a testament to grit and sacrifice, its defining spark came from an unexpected place: a single, provocative question asked by fellow shooter - and now husband - Manu S Ravi.

MODEST BEGINNINGS IN KERALA
Growing up in a middle-class family where



her father worked as a contractor and her mother as a homemaker, the eye-watering costs of competitive shooting meant Vidarsa spent her early years on borrowed equipment.Even after becoming the aggregate champion at the Kerala State Championship, the dream of owning a professional rifle remained out of reach, until Manu entered the frame. Meeting at the range after the COVID-19 pandemic, the two built a close bond as friends before eventually getting married. Today, Manu serves as a shooting coach in Kerala and remains Vidarsa's closest confidant. But back when her career was idling, he posed the question that recalibrated her life.

Sarfraz Khan in, Dhruv Jurel out for IND vs SL Tests: Mohammad Kaif picks his XI

Mohammad Kaif has backed Sarfraz Khan over Dhruv Jurel for India's first Test against Sri Lanka. He believes Sarfraz's ability against spin could make him the stronger choice in Galle.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India star Mohammad Kaif has backed Sarfraz Khan to beat Dhruv Jurel to a place in India's playing XI for the first Test against Sri Lanka. The former India batter believes Sarfraz's ability against spin makes him the better option for the conditions in Galle. Sarfraz was brought into the squad as a replacement for injured Sai Sudharsan, giving him another opportunity to return to India's Test setup. Speaking on

his YouTube channel, Kaif said India could still favour Jurel because he has already been part of the team, but Sarfraz would be his choice for the best XI."If they follow the trend of backing



the players who have already been playing for the team, then they might say, 'Jurel has been with us already. He hasn't scored consistently, but we will back him because he has already been part of the team.' If that is the approach, then Sarfraz will have to wait," Kaif

said."But if you ask me what the best XI is, Sarfraz's name comes into my best XI because of his ability to play spin at No. 5 or No. 6. His record against spin is excellent."Sarfraz has played six Tests since making his debut in 2024, scoring 371 runs at an average of 37.10. His record includes a century and three fifties, with his standout innings coming against New Zealand in Bengaluru, where he scored 150.

SARFRAZ'S SPIN GAME THE KEY

Kaif feels Sarfraz's range of strokes could become particularly useful as a Test progresses and batting conditions become tougher."He also has a wide range of shots. When you get to the fourth or fifth day, batting becomes more difficult, and that is where a player like Sarfraz Khan can be very useful," he said.

Anatomy of a jinx: Why Indian hockey teams struggle at World Cups

MADRID. (Agency)

When you think about your favourite team going into a competition or tournament, it is natural to keep your hopes high. It may be their performances in the recent past that make you feel excited, or a tactical tweak that makes you feel they could topple the other giants fighting for top honours.And as you discuss it with fellow fans or friends, you tend to end the conversation with one simple line:Let's not jinx it."For fans of the Indian men's and women's hockey teams, they would have said this line for many years now. At times, it has worked out well. The Tokyo Olympics was one

such occasion, with the men's team winning a bronze medal and the



women's team producing an inspiring fourth-place finish.There has been more success along the way. The men have added another Olympic bronze and continued to collect medals at the Asian Games. The women won an Asian

Games bronze in 2022 and have been on a resurgence since Sjoerd Marijne took over following a turbulent period. Yet there has been one tournament that has remained the kryptonite for both sides.It is almost as if the supermen and superwomen of Indian hockey just collapse when the World Cup comes around.That tournament is the FIH Hockey World Cup.This year, the World Cup will be held in the Netherlands and Belgium, with the men's and women's tournaments taking place simultaneously for the first time since Utrecht 1998.And when it comes to hockey, India once stood as the benchmark simply because of the talent it produced.

Bibiano Fernandes accepts India U-15 job as Ranjit Bajaj's role becomes uncertain

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bibiano Fernandes is set to return to the India youth setup, with the former U-17 coach reportedly accepting the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) offer to take charge of the U-15 national team. His appointment comes as India prepares for the inaugural FIFA U-15 World Cup & Festival in Azerbaijan later this year. According to a report by Times of India, Bibiano has agreed to the role after the concerns around the proposed coaching structure were addressed. The AIFF technical committee had identified him as its preferred candidate, with the federation's executive approving his appointment as head coach last week.The initial arrangement had raised eyebrows, with Minerva Academy owner

Ranjit Bajaj getting the nod as team manager. Bibiano was understood to have concerns over the possibility of interference, while Bajaj had earlier indicated that he would be willing to take up the manager's role if Bibiano decided against accepting the coaching position. With Bibiano now reportedly ready to take charge, however, Bajaj is unlikely to accept a role that would largely be administrative. The responsibilities of the coach and manager have since been clearly defined, with Bibiano expected to have control over footballing matters. **BIBIANO BACK IN YOUTH SETUP**
Bibiano's return gives India a coach with a strong track record at the youth level.

The former India midfielder guided the country to three successive AFC U-16/17



Asian Cups between 2018 and 2023 and also oversaw the memorable 2-1 win over Iran that helped India qualify for this year's championship.The AIFF has now separated the footballing and

administrative responsibilities of the two positions. Bibiano will be responsible for coaching and player selection, while the manager's role is expected to focus on logistics and other administrative duties. That arrangement could allow the coach to work without the concerns that had initially surrounded the appointment.Bajaj, meanwhile, has built one of India's most successful youth football programmes through Minerva Academy, which has won trophies at both domestic and international level. His presentation to the AIFF technical committee reportedly included an ambitious plan to help India reach the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

SEBI reviews CAS trading activity, proposes easing debt maturity norms for issuers

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reportedly examining trading activity recorded during the first week of the newly introduced Closing Auction Session (CAS) amid concerns over unusual price movements and the potential influence of low-liquidity trades on closing prices. According to NDTV Profit report, the market regulator has received transaction data from stock exchanges and is reviewing trades executed during the closing auction window, which was rolled out recently.The exercise is aimed at assessing whether any trading patterns may have affected the closing prices of securities, particularly in stocks with relatively low participation levels.

The review follows heightened volatility witnessed after the implementation of CAS and concerns raised by market participants regarding the price discovery process during the final minutes of trading.The report said SEBI is examining whether limited liquidity in the initial phase of the new mechanism could make some stocks more susceptible to price influence through relatively small orders.In a separate development, SEBI has proposed changes to debt market regulations aimed at providing issuers with greater flexibility in managing repayment schedules and reducing refinancing pressures.

In a consultation paper released on Monday, the regulator proposed increasing the maximum number of International Securities Identification Numbers (ISINs) that can mature in a single financial year from 14 to 17 for privately placed debt securities. Public comments on the proposal have been invited until August 31.

8th Pay Commission has not submitted report yet, says Govt

New Delhi. (Agency)

The 8th Central Pay Commission has not yet submitted its recommendations to the government, the Parliament was informed on Monday. The commission chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai was constituted by the government on November 3, 2025. It had been given 18 months from the date of its constitution to submit its recommendations. It may also submit interim reports on matters where recommendations are finalised earlier.The government said there were around 35.77 lakh Central government civilian employees as of March 1, 2026. The number of pensioners and family pensioners stood at around 33.76 lakh as of December 31, 2025, excluding defence pensioners.The Terms of Reference require the commission to examine matters relating to pay revision, allowances, pension, family pension, and service conditions. The commission is currently holding regional meetings with employee unions, service associations, and pensioner organisations. The 8th Pay Commission's Delhi consultations concluded on Monday, marking another important stage in its exercise to gather views from Central government employees, pensioners, unions and other stakeholders. These meetings were attended by unions and associations registered in Delhi.

US judge drops all criminal charges against billionaire Gautam Adani

New Delhi. (Agency)

A US court has permanently dismissed criminal charges against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and former Adani Green Energy CEO Vneet Jaain, bringing an end to a nearly two-year-old bribery and securities-fraud case.The US District Court for the Eastern District of New York granted the Justice Department's Rule 48(a) motion to dismiss the indictment with prejudice. The charges included securities-fraud conspiracy, wire-fraud conspiracy and securities fraud.

Judge Nicholas Garaufis approved the dismissal after seeking further explanations from prosecutors on why the government wanted to abandon the case.A dismissal with prejudice permanently ends the criminal proceedings and prevents the charges from being refiled. However, it does not amount to a judicial finding on the underlying allegations.

The case began in November 2024, when US prosecutors accused Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, Jaain and others of conspiring to pay USD 250 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure solar-power contracts expected to generate more than USD 2 billion in after-tax profits over two decades.

Can airports own airlines? Here's what the government has clarified

New Delhi. (Agency)

Can the company that operates the airport you fly from also own the airline you're boarding? The short answer, according to the government, is yes. But there is an important caveat. In a written reply in Parliament, the government clarified that there is no policy barring airport operators from owning or operating scheduled airlines. At the same time, it confirmed that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received a request seeking a waiver from existing cross-holding restrictions, although the proposal is yet to be examined by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.The clarification comes weeks after the issue emerged as a subject of debate within the aviation

industry. Reports last month said Adani Airport Holdings had sought a waiver from cross-holding restrictions under its airport concession agreement, triggering speculation that the group was looking to enter the airline business.

Adani Enterprises, however, later denied the reports, saying it was not evaluating any proposal to launch an airline. The company clarified that while a waiver had been sought in relation to the cross-holding provisions in its concession agreement, it should not be interpreted as an indication of plans to start an airline.Against this backdrop, the government's parliamentary reply makes one thing clear: there has been no change in

government policy because there was never a blanket prohibition on airport operators owning airlines in the first



place.

IF THERE IS NO POLICY BAR, WHY IS A WAIVER NEEDED?

The confusion stems from the fact that government policy and airport

concession agreements are two different things.While the government says there is no overarching policy preventing airport operators from owning airlines, some public-private partnership (PPP) airport concession agreements contain cross-holding clauses. These contractual provisions restrict airport operators from holding more than a specified stake in a scheduled airline unless a waiver is granted.In other words, an airport operator may not be barred by government policy from entering the airline business, but it could still be restricted by the terms of the concession agreement under which it operates an airport.

Sensex opens 300 points lower, Nifty below 24,500; Adani Group shares in focus

Kolkata. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened lower on Tuesday as firmer crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment, although strength in IT stocks and continued foreign buying provided some support. Investors are also tracking corporate earnings, which have so far remained largely resilient.The BSE Sensex opened at 78,509.77 but was down 315.36 points, or 0.40%, at 78,227.08 as of 9:26 am. The Nifty 50 was down 94.05 points, or 0.38%, at 24,489.75 after opening at 24,575.10.

HIGHER CRUDE OIL REMAINS A KEY CONCERN

Crude oil prices remained elevated, keeping pressure on the market. Brent crude was around \$87.71 a barrel, while WTI crude was at \$82.13 in early trade.Higher oil prices are a concern for India because the country is a major crude importer. A sustained rise in oil prices can increase the import bill and add to inflationary pressure, while also affecting corporate margins.Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said rising Brent crude remains an irritant for the market even as other fundamentals remain strong."A significant pivot in the market is the FIIs turning buyers encouraged by the better-than-expected Q1 results and stability in the rupee. These positives have the potential to keep the market resilient with a slight upward bias," Vijayakumar said.He added that robust domestic consumption could support earnings growth through Fy27.

IT STOCKS BUCK THE MARKET TREND

IT stocks were among the key gainers in early trade, helping limit the broader market's decline.HCLTech was the top gainer among the major stocks, rising 1.13%. Titan and Tech Mahindra gained 0.72% each, while Infosys rose 0.57% and TCS advanced 0.52%. The Nifty IT index was up 0.74% in early trade. The IT sector has been closely watched after a series of quarterly results, with investors looking for signs of a recovery in global technology spending.

After TCS, HCLTech faces data leak claims; firm says no systems breached

New Delhi. (Agency)

HCLTech on Tuesday said it has found no evidence of a breach of its systems or any impact on client engagements after a hacker group claimed that employee data may have been exposed.The company said its initial investigation suggests that the data in question may be limited and could date back several years. A further investigation is underway.“There is no evidence of breach to the Company’s systems or engagement with any of the Company’s clients,” HCLTech said.HCLTech said it is investigating the claims and will report any material findings from the probe.The company also said

cybersecurity remains a top priority and that it is committed to protecting information entrusted to



it.The IT major clarified that the employee data allegedly exposed appears to be limited and several years old, based on its initial investigation.

TCS ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR

ALERT

The development comes hours after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) informed stock exchanges that it had received threat-intelligence alerts about the possible exposure of certain employee information.

TCS said its investigation had found no credible evidence of a breach of its systems or customer environments.The two developments have brought attention to claims of employee data exposure at two of India's largest IT services companies. However, both companies have said they have found no evidence that their systems or client environments were breached.

94% of corporate employees fear medical bills: What's behind the financial stress?

New Delhi. (Agency)

For many salaried employees, losing a job or struggling to pay an EMI may seem like the biggest financial worry. But a new study suggests there is another concern that is weighing more heavily on corporate India: the rising cost of healthcare.Unexpected medical expenses have become one of the biggest sources of financial stress for corporate employees, according to Tata AIG General Insurance Company's The Corporate Health Protection Pulse 2026. The study found that 94% of respondents said an unexpected medical bill could put them under financial pressure.The findings also point to a worrying gap: many employees have employer-provided health cover, but are not sure whether it will be enough

when they actually need it.

WHY ARE MEDICAL BILLS CAUSING SO MUCH STRESS?

Healthcare costs have been rising, and a major hospitalisation can put



a sizeable dent in household savings. The study found that hospitalisation costs were among the top healthcare concerns for corporate employees.Other major concerns included lifestyle-related diseases, health cover for family members, mental health and

inadequate emergency savings.

For someone dependent mainly on a monthly salary, an unexpected medical bill can be difficult to absorb. The problem becomes even bigger if the treatment is not fully covered by insurance or the employee's policy has limits.The study found that healthcare expenses were the biggest financial concern during a job transition, ranking ahead of loss of income and EMI obligations.

JOB LOSS ADDS ANOTHER LAYER OF WORRY

The survey also looked at how long employees could manage their finances if they suddenly lost their jobs. Nearly seven in 10 respondents said they could sustain themselves for six months or less without a job. Only 12% believed they could manage for more than a year.

3rd party motor insurance fraud under scanner as insurers face rising claim payouts

New Delhi. (Agency)

General insurers are stepping up efforts to detect and crack down on fraudulent motor third-party insurance claims as the segment faces rising losses from higher compensation awards and a growing number of uninsured vehicles. The move comes amid concerns over claims involving fake accidents, forged documents and fabricated injuries. A recent order by the Madras High Court has also given insurers a fresh push to seek stronger action against those involved in such fraud.Go Digit General Insurance secured a July 29 order from the Madras High Court for the appointment of district-level special investigation teams across Tamil Nadu to probe suspected

fraudulent insurance claims, reported The Times of India (TOI).

The court has directed authorities to investigate claims involving fake accidents, misrepresentation, forged insurance policies, fabricated injuries and false medical reports and bills. Police have also been asked to collect relevant evidence, including call detail records, during investigationsThe court further directed that criminal proceedings be initiated against those found responsible. Departmental action has also been ordered against officials found to have facilitated fraudulent claims or failed to prevent them.

MOTOR THIRD-PARTY FRAUD BECOMES AN INDUSTRY CONCERN

The issue is gaining attention across the insurance industry as motor third-party insurance already faces pressure from rising claims



costs..Krishnamoorthy Rao, MD and CEO of Generali Central Insurance, told TOI that motor third-party fraud could become an industry-wide issue as insurers deal with higher compensation awards and an increase in uninsured vehicles. One concern flagged by Rao is the

alleged conversion of non-road traffic accident claims into motor accident claims.This can increase the number of claims being brought

under motor third-party insurance and, in turn, add to insurers' liabilities.

HIGHER COURT AWARDS ADD TO THE PRESSURE

Fraud is not the only factor pushing up costs for motor insurers.Insurers are also increasing provisions following a recent Supreme

Court judgement that introduced compensation under a separate head for loss of domestic care.The compensation under this head is based on a monthly income of Rs 30,000, with periodic revisions for inflation and socio-economic changes, according to the report.



Shraddha Kapoor

May Join Ashneer Grover Biopic As Producer, Opt Out Of Reported Rs 20 Crore Fee

The way Bollywood stars are getting paid for films appears to be changing. Several big actors are now reportedly choosing deals that give them a share in a film instead of taking a large fee upfront. This has also raised questions around Shraddha Kapoor’s reported remuneration for her next project. Shraddha is reportedly set to play Madhuri Jain Grover, the wife of Shark Tank India judge Ashneer Grover, in an upcoming biopic. Reports have claimed that she is being offered around Rs 20 crore for the film. However, she may now choose to become one of the producers instead and take a stake in the film’s intellectual property rights (IPR), according to Free Press Journal.

The film is being written and directed by entrepreneur-screenwriter Rahul Mody, who is also reportedly Shraddha’s beau.

Under a backend deal like this, an actor takes a smaller fee at the start but gets a share in the film’s IPR or profits. If the film does well, the actor can earn more from the project.

Akshay Kumar is one of the stars who has reportedly followed this model. According to FPJ, he took ₹1.8 crore for Welcome to the Jungle. When a journalist asked him about the reported fee during a promotional event, Akshay jokingly said, “Why ₹1.8 cr? I’ve taken only ₹1, as my fee.”

Trade experts reportedly said that Akshay also helped arrange the film’s financing and the sale of its ancillary rights, including OTT, satellite and audio rights. He is said to have kept a 72 per cent stake, while his home banner allegedly had another 8 per cent and the producer had 20 per cent.

With Welcome to the Jungle doing good business at the box office, Akshay reportedly earned more than ₹35 crore through his share in the project, apart from his initial fee.

Other top Bollywood stars are also reportedly considering similar deals. Salman Khan’s reported ₹70 crore fee has been debated, while actors such as Salman, Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ranveer Singh, Ajay Devgn and Akshay Kumar have been linked to arrangements involving lower upfront fees and a share in the IPR.

Coming back to Shraddha, she is reportedly being paid between ₹12 crore and ₹15 crore for Eetha. She was also reported to be getting around ₹20 crore as her acting fee for her next film, which is said to be the Ashneer Grover biopic. If the latest reports are true, Shraddha could instead take a producer credit and receive a stake in the film’s IPR. This would allow her to benefit from the film’s performance rather than taking the entire reported amount as an upfront fee.



Shruti Haasan

Forced To Give Up Adopted Cat Aslan Due To Severe Allergies: ‘I Feel I Failed’

Shruti Haasan has opened up about an unexpectedly painful chapter in her life. Three months after adopting a Persian kitten named Aslan, the actress and singer was forced to rehome him after developing severe allergies that refused to subside despite medication and several attempts to manage the situation.

In a personal Substack post on August 9, Shruti detailed what happened after Aslan entered her home and why she eventually had to make what she described as “one of the hardest decisions” of her life.

Shruti Haasan Developed Severe Allergies Two Days After Adopting Aslan

Shruti has been a cat lover for years and already shares her home with another cat, Clara. Bringing Aslan home was therefore something she had been looking forward to. “I’ve been a cat person my whole adult life,” she wrote, adding that giving an animal a loving home can be one of the most rewarding experiences.

Aslan quickly settled in as an affectionate and playful kitten. There were some initial difficulties getting him and Clara comfortable around each other, but those gradually disappeared.

The bigger problem surfaced just two days after his arrival. Shruti developed a severe skin reaction, including rashes and boils across her face. Initially, she wondered whether something she had eaten was responsible. A visit to her dermatologist, however, raised the possibility that Aslan’s fur and saliva could be triggering the allergy.

Shruti admitted that the possibility left her with a “disappointing pit in my stomach.”

‘I Genuinely Thought We Could Figure This Out Together’

Giving Aslan away was not Shruti’s immediate response. Instead, she spent weeks trying to find a way to manage her allergies without separating from him. She had his fur trimmed, installed air purifiers, wiped him down regularly and changed his food. Allergy medication also became part of her routine. When those measures failed, she eventually required stronger medication.

I genuinely thought over time we could figure this out together, me and Aslan,” Shruti wrote.

Her interactions with the kitten also became increasingly restricted. Every time she touched him, she needed to wash her hands and remain careful about getting his fur on her clothes. Even spending time away from home did not solve the problem.

“I would travel, come back home and break out into those allergy boils every single time,” she revealed.



Top Ent News, Aug 9: Mahesh Babu’s ‘Varanasi’ Look Unveiled; Nikita Rawal Shocked As Female Fan Kisses Her



It’s Mahesh Babu’s birthday, so naturally, the internet needed a little gift too! The makers of Varanasi have unveiled fresh pictures of Mahesh as Rudhra, giving us all the first proper peek at his much-talked-about character. Set against the breathtaking landscapes of Africa, Mahesh looks every bit like the larger-than-life hero SS Rajamouli has been quietly cooking up. Varanasi, also starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, is among the most anticipated Indian films lined up for 2027.

Things took an unexpected turn for Nikita Rawal during a recent red-carpet appearance when a female fan approached her for a selfie. The actress happily obliged for the picture, even smiling as she did so. However, what the fan did next shocked not only her but netizens and everyone around too. The woman unexpectedly kissed Nikita on the lips in front of the paps, leaving the actress momentarily caught off guard.

Aamir Khan is set to make a special appearance on Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 18 alongside Sunny Deol and Preity Zinta. The trio will join host Amitabh Bachchan on the quiz show to promote their upcoming film Batwara 1947, which is set to release on August 14. However, amid the promotional buzz, fans have found another reason to focus on Aamir, with many viewers trolling the actor over his third inter-faith marriage to Gauri Spratt. Ravi Kishan has finally reacted to his ‘money follows my brother’ line going viral. To give you a gist, host Raj Shamani had asked the actor during the podcast what does he want more—pehchaan (recognition) or paisa (money). What he answered next became a national trend. Ravi instantly replied, “Pehchaan. Money follows my brother!” Days after the grand finale of the reality show ‘Alliance’, which saw Mini Mathur emerge as the winner, Sohail Khan hosted a get-together at his Mumbai home. The show may have seen its share of alliances, disagreements and feuds, but with the competition behind them, the contestants appeared ready to put it all aside. The Alliance contestants came under one roof to celebrate their journey together and had a blast during the bash. Salman Khan was also among.

Kumar Sanu Recalls His Female Fan Craze, Mocks Udit Narayan’s Kiss Row: ‘Na Maine Chumma Diya, Na Liya



Kumar Sanu has taken a dig at the controversy that surrounded playback singer Udit Narayan last year. During a recent conversation with The Lallantop, Sanu was asked about his popularity among female fans in the 1990s and responded with a cheeky remark about kissing fans. Kumar Sanu On Udit Narayan’s Kissing Row The Aashiqui singer said, “Nahi mereko ko koi chumma wumma nahi khaya. Na maine kisi ko khaya. Na toh me chumma dia, na liya. Maine woh sab nahi kiya (No, nobody came and kissed me. Nor did I kiss anyone. I neither gave nor received a kiss. I didn’t do any of that).”

The comment comes a year after Udit Narayan faced massive backlash over a viral concert video in which he was seen kissing female fans, including one instance where he seemed to kiss a fan on the lips.

What Happened In Udit Narayan’s Kiss Controversy? The Udit Narayan controversy erupted in January 2025 when videos from a live performance went viral on social media. In the clips, the singer is seen posing for selfies with female fans while occasionally kissing them on the cheek. One moment drew the strongest reaction. As a female fan leaned towards Udit, apparently intending to kiss him on the cheek, the singer turned his face and their lips touched. The video went viral online, with netizens questioning the interaction and raising concerns about consent.

The controversy grew further when older clips resurfaced showing Udit interacting physically with female singers and fans. The singer later addressed the backlash and defended his actions.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Udit described such interactions as an expression of affection from fans. He said, “Fans itne deewane hote hain na. Hum log aise nahi hain, hum decent log hain. Some people encourage this and show their love through this. Udaake kya karna hai ab iss cheez ko?”

NOVEMBER 1984: NEVER FORGOTTEN

A NATION REMEMBERS ITS DARKEST HOUR

Innocent lives lost. Families destroyed. Wounds that time cannot heal.
We honour the memory of those who suffered and the strength of those who survived.



1984: A TRAGEDY THAT MUST NEVER BE REPEATED

Thousands of Sikhs were killed in organised mobs across Delhi and many parts of India in November 1984. Homes were burnt, businesses destroyed and families torn apart. The pain of that November continues to live in the hearts of survivors.

REMEMBER. REFLECT. RESOLVE.



WE WILL REMEMBER. WE WILL HEAL. WE WILL NEVER FORGET.