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Pilot in driver's seat as Congress looks to avoid crash-landing in Punjab

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Sachin Pilot has seen several ups and downs in his over two-decades-long career but the party's youth poster boy is fast-emerging as its go-to trump card to swing electoral fortunes in tough states. That his stature in the Congress is becoming formidable can be gauged from the fact that he has been entrusted with putting the house in order in Punjab where the party is facing infighting right at the cusp of assembly polls with several factions battling it out for an upper hand. The Congress on Saturday carried out a major organisational reshuffle and appointed Pilot as general secretary in-charge of poll-bound Punjab, replacing Bhupesh Baghel. Incidentally, Pilot till now was in-charge of Chhattisgarh where Baghel is a key leader and a former chief minister. Baghel will now look after Assam, replacing Jitendra Singh. Punjab goes to polls early next year and Pilot's immediate challenge will be to address factionalism within the state unit ahead of crucial elections.

Nine ISRO employee associations seek clarity on reports of core functions being shifted to private sector

New Delhi. (Agency)

Days after the successful launch of the GSV F17-EOS 05 mission, nine employee associations representing various Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres and units have sought an official clarification on the government's policy regarding the transfer or privatisation of the space agency's manufacturing and operational functions, news agency ANI reported. In a joint representation dated September 4 to Department of Space Secretary and ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, the associations raised concerns over reports and public statements suggesting that several activities currently undertaken by ISRO could be transferred to private companies and public sector undertakings (PSUs). The associations cited remarks by IN-SPACe Chairman Pawan Kumar Goenka at a summit on August 21, where he was reported to have said that ISRO would eventually stop making launch vehicles, with their production being undertaken by the private sector or PSUs. According to the representation, the transfer process has already begun with SSLV technology and production rights handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), while similar transfers are proposed for the PSLV and LVM3. The associations also claimed that routine satellite manufacturing could be moved out of ISRO and that private entities could operate new launch infrastructure, including the Space Launch Complex at Kulasekarapattinam.

Building collapses in south Delhi's Satya Niketan; 5 dead, many trapped

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Locals on Sunday complained of a persistent waterlogging problem, alleged unchecked construction and "apathy" of building owners and civic agencies in south-west Delhi's Satya Niketan area after a five-storey building housing a boys' PG collapsed on Sunday afternoon. The waterlogging worsened with incessant rains over the past two days and repair and construction work was under way in the basement of the building, they claimed as rescuers struggled to pull out the trapped students—believed to be around 30-40. Every year, new students arrive in the congested colony from outside the national capital looking for economical accommodation near Delhi University's South Campus, but, locals claim, most of the building owners who do not stay in the area do not care about the condition of the structures, nor does the MCD, they said. "New academic session mein repaint karte hain (they only repaint the building at the start of the academic session), so how will we know and find out if a building is dilapidated? MCD koi inspection nahi karti (MCD never does any inspection)," a local claimed. The residents claimed that an MCD office was located next to the collapsed building. They said that a building, which was under construction in a lane behind the collapsed structure and was intended to be used

as a girls' PG, collapsed around two years ago and has remained in the same condition since

nearby laundry shop to collect his clothes, said students were still calling their friends



then. The area had been receiving incessant rain for the past two days, locals said, adding that its sloping terrain contributes to the long-standing waterlogging problem, with water often remaining stagnant for long periods. Ram, a UPSC aspirant who had come to a

and asking for help. "We have been told around 30 people could still be trapped. I heard a loud rumbling sound and immediately ran towards the spot. Police officials arrived soon after," he said. Locals said water had accumulated in the basement of the collapsed

building, where labourers were working even as it rained. "Labourers were working in the basement even during the rain. Waterlogging is common in the basements of buildings here, and they could also be trapped," a local said. Related News: 'Delhi University yet to ascertain number of students trapped,' says South Campus Director Locals said the building had a basement and five upper floors, with boys staying in rooms on the first and second floors and girls on the third floor. The ground floor housed a mess, while construction work was underway in the basement, they said. Ram alleged that debris was not being cleared properly. Residents also alleged that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi did not conduct regular inspections of buildings in the area. The allegations could not be independently verified immediately. Priyanka, who said she had been living in the area for 20-22 years, alleged that several buildings in Satya Niketan had been converted into PG accommodations and that many owners lived elsewhere. "Buildings here are being constructed up to five-six floors. Many houses have been converted into boys' PGs, with the owners shifting elsewhere. They simply name the properties as PGs, take the rent online and leave the area without even checking back," she said. "I have not seen any maintenance work being carried out. The whole of Satya Niketan is full of PGs."

Why lathis, bullets? Rahul Gandhi meets injured students in Bihar, hears accounts

Rahul Gandhi met injured students and young protesters in Siwan and heard their allegations of police firing during the July 25 bandh protest. The meeting has sharpened the political row over the use of force, the AK-47 video and demands for an independent probe.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi met students and young protesters injured during a demonstration in Bihar's Siwan district and heard their accounts of the police action during the protest. The interaction, shared on Gandhi's official YouTube channel, comes amid a political controversy over the use of force during protests linked to demands for transparency in examinations, paper leaks and recruitment-related issues in Bihar. During the meeting, several injured students that police personnel opened fire at protesters without provocation and used excessive force to



disperse the gathering. Some of the youths showed Gandhi their injuries and recounted what they said happened during the confrontation. The protest was held on July 25 as part of a

wider Bihar Bandh called by opposition-backed student groups. Clashes were reported in several parts of the state during the demonstrations.

AK-47 FIRING VIDEO SPARKS CONTROVERSY

The controversy intensified after a video surfaced purportedly showing a Bihar Police constable firing an AK-47 during the protest at JP Chowk in Siwan. The footage triggered criticism from opposition parties, which accused the Bihar government and police of using disproportionate force against students. The constable was subsequently suspended, and departmental proceedings were initiated against him.

'Outreach only needed when you become out of reach': Mallikarjun Kharge slams PM Modi over SRCC speech

Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the event, instead of focusing on key concerns such as education, jobs and youth welfare, turned into a political campaign.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his recent interaction at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Delhi University, accusing him of using political labels to evade accountability. In a post on X, the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha alleged that the event, instead of focusing on key concerns such as education, jobs and youth welfare, turned into a political campaign. He added that assigning derogatory adjectives to the opposition has become a



routine tactic to stifle critical questions and divert attention from governance failures. Kharge said, "@narendramodi Yesterday, you visited SRCC at Delhi University. It was an

opportunity for dialogue on the country's youth, education, and their future. But alas, instead of facing the youth's questions, the speech turned into yet another political campaign."

The Congress chief accused PM Modi of attempting to suppress questions in a democracy by coining "new adjectives" for the Opposition to hide his own failures. Kharge said that while adjectives keep changing, the anti-people policies of the Modi government remain the same. "Modi ji's Modus Operandi — In democracy, to suppress questions, giving the opposition a new Adjective every year.

Bhupesh Baghel's Punjab Rescue Mission For Congress Ends With His Own Exit

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Bhupesh Baghel was sent to Punjab with a clear task: to put the Congress house in order ahead of the 2027 assembly elections. Instead, the party's internal feud repeatedly exploded in his presence, exposing the limits of the high command's troubleshooter and ultimately paving the way for his replacement.

Baghel's stint as Punjab Congress in-charge was marked by an escalating battle between rival camps led by state Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi. What was supposed to be an organisational strengthening exercise increasingly turned into an exercise in factional firefighting.

Baghel's first intervention came in July, when he held a series of meetings with Punjab leaders amid demands from the Channi camp for Warring's removal. Baghel publicly insisted that there was no rebellion and described the differences as a "spirit of competition". He also backed the high command's existing leadership arrangement and warned that indiscipline would not be tolerated. During Baghel's subsequent statewide organisational tour, the rebellion moved from closed-door meetings to the streets. At a Congress programme in Patiala, workers raised slogans such as "Channi lao, Punjab bachao" in the presence of Baghel and Warring.

The biggest embarrassment came in Ludhiana on August 6, when a Congress meeting convened to prepare the party for the 2027 elections was disrupted by protesters shouting "Bhupesh Baghel Go Back". Supporters of Channi loyalist Bharat Bhushan Ashu reportedly arrived wearing anti-Baghel T-shirts, while rival groups clashed at the venue. The irony was difficult to miss: the man brought in to unite Punjab Congress had himself become the target of the rebellion.

UN-backed proposed world map must depict J&K, Ladakh as per India's official map: MEA

New Delhi (Agency)

India on Sunday said any UN-initiated world map must show the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with the country's official map, warning that any "inaccurate" or "misleading" depiction would be unacceptable. The statement came two days after India voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution seeking to correct the world map and promote a more accurate representation of continental landmasses.

Titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa", the resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 4.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India highlighted that the resolution does not constitute endorsement of any specific map, projection or depiction of national boundaries. "India voted in favour of the resolution and also made an explanation of vote stressing on the underlying principle of promoting equal - area cartographic representation," he said. Jaiswal was responding to a media query on the issue. "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories,



Shashi Tharoor Calls For Paid Maternity Leave To Improve Breastfeeding Rates

Shashi Tharoor pointed out that over 16 crore women operate in India's unorganised sector and go back to work within weeks after delivery to sustain economic stability

New Delhi. (Agency)

Senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday raised concerns over the sharp decline in Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) for infants under six months across India as women in rural areas return to work sites within weeks after delivery to earn their livelihood.

In a post on X addressed to Union Health Minister JP Nadda and Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi, Tharoor cited data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6). Tharoor noted that while institutional deliveries in India have reached 90.6%, exclusive breastfeeding for infants under six months dropped from 63.7% to 55.8%.

"A curious data point, and what it might mean: According to the latest NFHS-6 data,

while institutional deliveries in our country have soared to an impressive 90.6%, exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) rates for



infants under six months have sharply declined from 63.7% to 55.8%. This alarming drop is steepest in rural areas and major states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," he said. "This decline exposes a tragic disconnect between public policy and

ground reality. Over 16 crore women toil in India's unorganised sector," he added.

Tharoor pointed out that over 16 crore women operate in India's unorganised sector and go back to work within weeks after delivery to sustain economic stability, making the very important time frame of six months of breastfeeding for the development of a child impossible.

"Without paid maternity leave or job security, thousands of working mothers are forced back into informal labour within weeks of delivery just to survive, making the recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding an economic impossibility," he said. The Congress leader further attributed the decline to structural challenges within the healthcare and commercial sectors, specifically highlighting.

Two-wheeler theft gang
busted in Noida, three held

Noida.(Agency)

Police have busted an alleged two-wheeler theft gang with the arrest of a 20-year-old man and detention of two juveniles, recovering nine motorcycles and a scooter suspected to have been stolen.

The action was taken by Phase-3 police on Wednesday following beat policing and confidential information. The accused, Vansh, a native of Bijnor and currently living in Mamura, was arrested near an HP petrol pump on the service road in Sector 71, police said.

A .315-bore country-made pistol and two illegal knives were also recovered from the accused, officials said.According to Central Noida ADCP Swatantra Kumar Singh, Vansh conducted reconnaissance in different parts of Delhi-NCR before targeting two-wheelers parked at isolated or deserted locations. The stolen vehicles were then kept at secluded places before being sold at low prices, police said.Police said the accused cited financial difficulties and allegedly used the proceeds for personal expenses and leisure activities. The weapons were acarried to intimidate people, officials said.Police records show that Vansh has 12 cases registered against him in Gautam Buddh Nagar since 2023. The cases include allegations of robbery, dealing in stolen property, narcotics, illegal arms and liquor, among other offences. Several cases were registered at Sector 58 and Phase-3 police stations.

Man falls to his death from
23rd floor of Ghaziabad
condo

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 35-year-old man died after falling from the 23rd floor of ATS Advantage Society in Indirapuram on Saturday morning, with his body found stuck in the balcony of a first-floor flat.Indirapuram ACP Suryabali Maurya said the victim, Tarun, a resident of nearby Gyan Khand 3, had been undergoing treatment for mental health problems in Delhi for around three years. CCTV footage from Tower 10 of the society showed him taking the elevator to the 23rd floor around 8 am.Police suspect Tarun may have jumped, but the fall was broken when he got stuck on the balcony awning of a first-floor flat.

According to police, Tarun left home, where he lived with his elder brother and parents, around 7 am and was seen walking outside the society for some time. He initially tried entering through the main gate but could not do so as security guards were stationed there. Around 7.45 am, he allegedly managed to enter the premises amid the movement of schoolchildren, then went directly to Tower 10 and took the lift to the top floor.After being alerted, a police team reached the spot and retrieved Tarun’s body from the balcony. The body was sent for autopsy.ACP Maurya said police were examining CCTV footage from the society to establish how Tarun entered the premises and reached the top floor. Police said there was no immediate indication of any other person’s involvement.

Second day of rain leaves
roads flooded again, Ggn asks
residents to avoid non-
essential travel

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Heavy rain lashed the city for a second consecutive day on Saturday, waterlogging roads in sectors 3, 5, 10, 14 and 31, along Sohna Road, Sheetla Mata Mandir Road and Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road, and pushing daytime temperatures down by seven degrees.Manesar recorded the day’s highest rainfall at 64mm between 8am and 3pm, followed by Sohna at 52mm, Kadipur and Harsaru at 39mm each, Gurgaon tehsil at 28mm, Wazirabad and Pataudi at 25mm each, Badshapur at 24mm and Farrukhnagar at 13mm. The district had already recorded substantial rain in the preceding 24 hours: Manesar logged 54mm between Friday and Saturday 8am, followed by Wazirabad at 42mm, Gurgaon tehsil at 41mm, Kadipur and Harsaru at 29mm each, and Sohna at 26mm.

With more intense rain forecast, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued an advisory asking residents to avoid non-essential travel and stay clear of waterlogged roads, underpasses and low-lying areas. The advisory followed an IMD nowcast issued at 10.38am, warning of rainfall exceeding 15mm an hour, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds. The administration also asked commuters not to attempt crossing flooded stretches and to stay away from trees, electric poles and overhead wires during the storm.

“All concerned departments and emergency response agencies to remain vigilant and take precautionary measures,” the order said. DDMA circulated the warning to GMDA, police, MCG, traffic police and education authorities for wider dissemination. Some residents said the advisory shifts responsibility onto them. “Instead of working to fix the problem facing Gurgaon every monsoon, the authorities are refusing to take the responsibility and issue advisory asking people to stay indoors,” said Sushant Sharma, a resident of Sector 47.IMD has forecast light to moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning at a few places in Haryana on Sunday, tapering to isolated rainfall thereafter, with isolated heavy showers still possible. Thunderstorms and lightning are also forecast over the city, Palwal, Faridabad, Nuh and neighbouring districts on Sunday.The sustained downpour strained the city’s drainage network, with water accumulating across residential areas and major traffic corridors. It also brought a sharp dip in temperature: Gurgaon KVK recorded a high of 27.3°C, down from 32.5°C a day earlier.

Labour dept gets 10 days to verify crèche
compliance at Noida construction sites

Noida.(Agency)

The district administration has given the labour department 10 days to visit construction sites and submit a compliance report on crèche facilities.

On Aug 18, the administration directed all construction sites employing 50 or more workers to set up crèches, as mandated under Section 24(3) of the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, within 15 days. It said crèches must be located at places easily accessible to construction workers and employees and away from dust, smoke and other hazards associated with construction activity.The order also required the facilities to be clean and hygienic, with adequate toilets, proper ventilation, sufficient lighting and access to safe drinking water.On Saturday, district

magistrate Medha Roopam said the labour department has now been asked to draw up a compliance report after the deadline for construction sites to set up crèches lapsed. “I have asked officials to visit each site and draw up a detailed report on compliance within 10 days,” Roopam said. “Inspections will seek to establish how many construction sites have complied with the directive, how many crèches have actually been set up and whether they are operational.” Officials will also check whether the facilities meet the requirements prescribed under the order.The directive to set up crèches was issued after a seven-year-old girl, living in a jhuggi around a mall under construction in Ghaziabad, was raped and brutally murdered by two labourers on July 11. A TOI report, ‘At Gzb rape-murder site, kids are on their own’, on July 19, had



subsequently highlighted how children at the site were being left unattended and vulnerable as their parents went to work from 9 am to 5.30 pm. The report also found that migrant worker families living in makeshift settlements nearby had no access to supervised or safe spaces for their children and were often left under the supervision of an older

child.A labour department official told TOI that there are multiple construction sites in Noida and their main task will be to identify which of these employ 50 or more workers. “After the report, the administration will determine the action to be taken against developers who fail to meet the 15-day deadline,” the official said.While the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code does not specifically mention any penalties for failure to provide a crèche, Section 94 (general penalty for offences) prescribes Rs 2 to Rs 3 lakh in penalty for contravention of the Code. It states that if the contravention continues after conviction, an additional penalty of up to Rs 2,000 per day can be imposed for every day the contravention continues.Meanwhile, several builders that TOI spoke with claimed they were unaware of the DM’s notice.

Realty push: GDA’s development fee
mop-up sees 80% jump in 5 months

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) generated 80% more development fee revenue between April and Aug as compared to the same period last year.Development fee refers to charges which GDA levies on developers of construction projects.An official said the Authority generated Rs 71 crore this time. Last year, the revenue generated during the same time was only Rs 31 crore. “This year, the revenue generation was the highest in July and August. We believe this was caused by simplifying cess and charge collecting mechanism and letting other bodies grant NOCs apart from GDA’s enforcement wing. It ensured pending dues were collected on time,” he said.

Another reason, he added, was real estate growth, with UPRera registering 19

projects worth Rs 3,989 crore in Ghaziabad between January and July. “The real estate sector is on a steady road



to recovery,” he said.Experts, however, said the surge can be attributed to the state govt’s development fee hike in April this year.“On the direction of the state govt, GDA had increased charges on multiple heads, which include development, permit and inspection fees for FY 2026-27. This fiscal, they have

been increased based on plot sizes, which has led to GDA mopping up about Rs 71 cr just in four months. The revised fee and charge structure had come into effect on April 1 this year and GDA’s revenue surplus coincided with the same time period,” said Ashish Kumar, a real estate watcher.The development charge was hiked to Rs 10,358 for land parcels of up to 1 hectare. Between 1 hectare and 2.5 hectares, it was increased to Rs 20,716. For land parcels of size 2.5 to 5 hectares, it rose to Rs 31,074, and for those over 5 hectares, it was increased at a rate of an additional Rs 15,537 every 5 hectares.Earlier, the development fee used to be Rs 10,000 for land parcels of up to 1 hectare, Rs 20,000 for those spanning 1 to 2.5 hectares, and Rs 30,000 for those measuring over 2.5 hectares to 5 hectares, with an additional Rs 15,000 for every 5 hectares of plot size.

Ghaziabad to cover 1.7km Shahberi
drain to add two lanes to NH-9

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The civic body has decided to cover a 1.7km stretch of Shahberi drain using box culvert technology to widen the road along the congested Crossings Republik township by nearly 11 metres.

Box culvert technology uses reinforced concrete structures that carry water beneath, officials said. It can help Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation add two more lanes to the stretch between Shahberi culvert and National Highway-9 via Crossings Republik. The 11-metre-wide drain sees a discharge of 6,524 MLD across a catchment area of 21 square kilometres at present.“The construction and design services (C&DS), which is a commercial wing of

the UP Jal Nigam, has been engaged to construct a box culvert over Shahberi drain. The box culvert is a reinforced concrete structure used to carry water beneath it while maintaining the concrete structure at the level of the road, which will help increase the width of the road. The drain, as per norms, cannot be covered fully as it traps toxic gas within it, and additionally, it creates problems cleaning it,” a GMC official said.The revamped drain is also expected to benefit 21 wards and over four lakh people from annual flooding. The catchment area accounts for about 6% of the city’s total area, making the drain’s overhaul a civic priority. The project is estimated to cost Rs 132 crore. A seven-km double-decker flyover is

also proposed to ease traffic movement from NH-9 to Ek Murti Chowk in Greater Noida West, bypassing the narrow and encroached Shahberi stretch. One carriageway will carry traffic from Greater Noida West towards the expressway, while the other will serve vehicles approaching from Ghaziabad and Crossings Republik. The National Highways Authority of India, which is to develop the flyover, has been tasked with finalising the project details. Shahberi, Crossings Republik and Greater Noida West, residential townships along the expressway and NH-9, have grown into major affordable housing hubs over the past decade. Poor road connectivity between them, despite their proximity.

Gurgaon safai workers
shave heads, march to
minister’s house as strike
enters 31st day

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Shaved heads and raised slogans marked a fresh escalation in the sanitation workers’ protest on Saturday as 26 employees marched to cabinet minister and Badshapur MLA Rao Narbir Singh’s residence in Civil Lines. The workers defied a govt ultimatum to return to duty by Sept 5 or face departmental and legal action, continuing their strike for the 31st day.The workers, from municipal bodies in Gurgaon, Manesar, Sohna, Pataudi, Farrukhnagar and Heli Mandi, gathered at the old MCG office despite the rain. After shaving their heads as a mark of protest, they marched to the minister’s house, accusing the state govt of adopting an “anti-employee” approach and refusing to resolve their demands through talks.The workers said disciplinary action and police intervention would not end the agitation. They demanded withdrawal of suspension and termination orders and release of workers arrested during the protest.The union also rejected the govt’s claim that several demands had been accepted. Basant Kumar, state vice-president and Gurgaon unit president of Municipal Employees Union, Haryana, said the Sept 5 ultimatum had failed to deter them.“The govt has threatened us with suspension, termination and arrests, but we are not going to be intimidated. If it wants to suspend us, it can. If it wants to arrest us, it can. We will not back down,” he added.

Kumar said the union had now given the govt another day. “The strike will continue. We have given the govt time till Sept 6. If our demands are not addressed by tomorrow, the state executive will meet and decide on further intensification and extension of the strike,” he added.he workers have asked for the contract system in sanitation and sewerage work to be scrapped, regular posts created and permanent recruitment undertaken. They have also sought a solution for the regularisation of contractual municipal and fire department employees.Union leaders alleged that alternative arrangements made by civic agencies had failed to restore normal sanitation.

HSPCB runs with 41 officials on
deputation, 27 posts vacant

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) is functioning with 27 sanctioned posts lying vacant and 41 officials on deputation, while seven officers have been assigned additional charge alongside their regular responsibilities.The figures are part of an RTI response issued by HSPCB on Sept 2 and assume significance in light of a National Green Tribunal (NGT) direction issued in April 2023 on strengthening pollution control boards. The tribunal had said key regulatory positions, including regional officers, engineers and scientists, should be full-time and incumbents should not be given any additional charge.Despite the direction, HSPCB said it had not sent any requisition to Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC) or Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) to fill the vacant posts. It also said no requisition had been sent to the concerned departments or the govt to increase the number of sanctioned posts.

The tribunal also called for action plans to fill vacant posts with competent persons. An exception was made for



states with no significant environmental issues, which could seek exemption from Central Pollution Control Board by providing justification.For Gurgaon, the immediate concern is the availability of dedicated regulatory oversight. The executive engineer holding additional charge of Gurgaon South has responsibilities beyond the regional office, according to the RTI response. Such an arrangement could limit the time available for inspections, follow-up on

pollution complaints, compliance scrutiny and enforcement. Against a sanctioned strength of 483, the board has 27 vacancies, including seven senior scientists, five environmental engineers and five scientist-B posts. The vacancy list also includes two chief scientific officers, two assistant environmental engineers, two private secretaries, two assistant district attorneys, one district attorney and one accounts officer.The vacancies in

technical cadres are also significant because engineers and scientists .

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Delhi civic body briefs councillors on solid waste management rules

New Delhi: On World Environment Day, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday held a meeting to brief councillors and officials on new solid waste management rules framed in line with Supreme Court directions. The civic body also stressed waste segregation at source and scientific disposal of garbage. The meeting was chaired by Delhi Mayor Pravesh Wahi. Deputy Mayor Monika Pant, Standing Committee Chairperson Satya Sharma, Leader of the House Jai Bhagwan Yadav, MLAs Shyam Sharma, Ravinder Negi and Anil Sharma, MCD Commissioner

Sanjeev Khirwar, additional commissioners, deputy commissioners and other senior officials attended it. Addressing the gathering, Wahi said the meeting was organised to support the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission and the Delhi Government's vision of a clean and beautiful city. He said councillors must understand the new rules so that implementation can be effectively monitored at the ward level. NGO representatives and waste-management experts gave presentations on the revised framework and the responsibilities of urban local bodies under the new regulations. The mayor urged council-

lors to spread awareness about waste segregation at source. He said wet waste should be processed locally for composting, while recyclable dry waste such as paper and glass should be sent for recycling. He added that the new system would segregate waste at four levels. Wahi also reiterated the corporation's commitment to clearing Delhi's legacy waste. He said the three major landfill sites at Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur would be phased out at the earliest. To familiarise elected representatives with waste-processing infrastructure, the MCD will organise visits to landfill sites and waste-to-energy plants

across the city from June 7 to June 12, he said. During



the meeting, the mayor also informed councillors that Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had convened a meeting of various departments after

the recent hotel fire in Malviya Nagar that claimed



several lives. He directed the MCD Commissioner and all Deputy Commissioners to attend the meeting.

Digital stalker held for creating multiple accounts of woman

New Delhi: The accused, identified as Jeetu Kumar, a resident of New Ashok Nagar, allegedly used the fake profiles, carrying the victim's name and photographs, to send obscene and pornographic material to her husband and acquaintances, with the intention of defaming her and causing her mental harassment. The police said a case under Section 67A of the Information Technology Act was registered on the complaint of the woman residing in North-East Delhi. She had alleged that the unidentified person was repeatedly creating fake Instagram accounts using her identity and photographs and using these to circulate objectionable material among people known to her. During investigation, a team conducted technical investigation and obtained details of the suspected Instagram accounts. The analysis of the technical information allegedly revealed that the accounts were being created and operated using a mobile number registered in the name of Jeetu Kumar. Acting on the leads, the police conducted raids and apprehended him. A mobile phone allegedly used in the commission of the offence was also seized. During interrogation, the police said the accused revealed that he was known to the victim and had allegedly been following her since 2022. He reportedly created multiple fake Instagram accounts using her name and photograph as profile pictures to make these appear genuine. The police alleged that whenever the fake accounts were reported and removed, the accused created new accounts and repeated the activity, causing continued mental harassment and distress to the victim. The police said Jeetu Kumar had no previous involvement in any criminal case.

MCD committee polls: Nominations filed for key posts

New Delhi: Thursday was the last day for filing nominations, with the process taking place at the Municipal Secretary's office at the Civic Centre in the presence of Mayor Pravesh Wahi, Deputy Mayor Monika Pant, Leader of the House Jai Bhagwan Yadav and several councillors. The elections will be held during the first meetings of the committees, scheduled for September 2 and 3. The meetings on September 2 will begin at 10 am, while those on September 3 will commence at 11 am. Designing Custom Campaign Merchandise Mayor Wahi said efforts had been made to ensure representation of senior

councillors, experienced members, youth and women in the committee leadership. He said a combination of experience and younger leadership would help the civic body work towards making Delhi "clean, hygienic and beautiful". Among the prominent nominations was that of senior councillor Mukesh Kumar Goel for chairman of the Appointments, Promotions, Disciplinary & Allied Matters Committee. Goel, who has 28 years of experience as a municipal councillor, thanked the BJP leadership for reposing faith in him. Under the proposed committee leadership, Yogesh Verma has been nominated as chairman of

the Education Committee, with Amit Kharkhri as deputy chairman. Preeti and Dharamvir Sharma have been nominated to head the Works Committee as chairperson and deputy chairperson, respectively. Vikesh Sethi and Ramesh Kumar Garg have been nominated to head the Medical Relief & Public Health Committee, while Sandeep Kapoor and Anita have been proposed for the Environment Management Services Committee. Narender Kumar Singh and Veena Asija have been nominated for the Garden Committee, while Priyanka Gautam and Monika Goyal have been proposed for the Law & General Purposes Committee. Satya Sharma, chairperson of the Standing Committee, will serve as ex-officio chairperson of both the High Powered Property Taxes Committee and Municipal Accounts Committee. Renu Chaudhary and Anuradha Sharma have been proposed as their respective deputy chairpersons. Other committees include the Code of Conduct for

Councillors Committee, Hindi Committee, Sports Promotion & Allied Matters Committee and Assurance Committee, besides several Ad-hoc committees dealing with licensing, welfare, public health, flood management and grievances. Mayor Wahi and Deputy Mayor Pant will serve as ex-officio chairperson and

deputy chairperson, respectively, of the Anti-Flood Measures, Naming & Renaming, Grants-in-Aid and National Festivals, Pares & Allied Matters Committees.

Delhi construction workers to get cashless health cover up to Rs 10 lakh

New Delhi: The Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has invited proposals to select a government agency with experience in the health sector to implement and manage the Delhi Building Workers Health Scheme. Approved by the Delhi Cabinet in June, the scheme will provide each registered construction worker with individual treatment cover of up to Rs 2 lakh a year. The overall annual treatment cover for the worker's family will be capped at Rs 10 lakh. The scheme will also provide annual health check-ups for workers and their spouses. The cost will be Rs 2,000 for male workers and Rs 2,200 for female workers. Outpatient and hospitalisation treatment will be available to the entire family. Under the planned system, the selected agency will organise health check-up camps across Delhi and ensure cashless treatment at empanelled hospitals. In emergencies, including workplace accidents, workers will also be able to receive immediate treatment at the nearest non-empanelled hospital. Indianews updates A 24-hour toll-free helpline call centre will be set up to assist beneficiaries with healthcare-related needs. The plan also seeks to take healthcare closer to construction sites. Mobile health units will be deployed in every district and will help take 80 to 100 workers a day from workplaces to the nearest hospital. A cloud-based platform will also be developed to securely maintain electronic medical records of workers. The system is also intended to encourage unregistered workers to enrol with the board, widening access to the healthcare benefits.

Bhakra Dam 'wall tilt' claim sparks Delhi flood fear, govt fact-check exposes reality

New Delhi: A social media video claiming that the wall of the Bhakra Nangal Dam has developed a 1.77-inch tilt and could trigger flooding in Delhi and several other cities has been found to be misleading by the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit. The video, being circulated by various social media handles, claims that the dam wall is currently leaning by 1.77 inches. It further warns that a breach in the structure could leave Delhi and other cities under floodwater. The claim was examined by the PIB Fact Check Unit, which found that the figure being circulated does not match the latest recorded measurement. According to the fact-check, the actual deflection recorded in the dam wall on August 27 was 0.86 inches, considerably lower than the 1.77 inches claimed in the video. The official assessment also found no indication of the structural concerns suggested in the viral claim. Stress, strain, pore water pressure and seepage at the dam were all recorded within their prescribed permissible limits. The PIB, therefore, stated that the dam is completely safe, directly countering the suggestion that its condition poses an immediate flood threat to Delhi or other cities. The episode has also highlighted how a single figure circulated through social media can quickly be linked to fears of a major disaster. The PIB Fact Check Unit urged people not to fall for claims that create panic and anxiety and advised them to rely only on official sources for credible information.

Sanjeev Khirwar, additional commissioners, deputy commissioners and other senior officials attended it.

Addressing the gathering, Wahi said the meeting was organised to support the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission and the Delhi Government's vision of a clean and beautiful city. He said councillors must understand the new rules so that implementation can be effectively monitored at the ward level. NGO representatives and waste-management experts gave presentations on the revised framework and the responsibilities of urban local bodies under the new regulations. The mayor urged council-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Shri Jagdish, son of Shri Nathi Lal and Smt. Rani wife of Shri Jagdish both resident of House No. B-50, Gali Number 1, Murli Wala Sweats Gali, Molarband Village Badapur, New Delhi-110044, have disowned their son Arjun and his wife Smt Geeta both R/O House Number B-50, Gali Number 1, Murli Wala Sweats Gali Molarband Village Badapur New Delhi-110044, from all their movable and immovable properties, and have severed all relations with them in every respect. Any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk, cost, and consequences, and my clients shall not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

S. Mohit Advocate
CHAMBER NO. 283
LAWYER'S CHAMBER COMPLEX,
PATIALA HOUSE COURTS,
NEW DELHI-110001
MOBILE NO.-
9311412727, 9811412727

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GANESH PRASAD S/O SHAMBU SARAN GUPTA R/O D-75, Block-D, Ramleela Park, Near Mange Ka Dhaba, Pandav Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GANESH PRASAD GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SURESH MORIYA S/O RAM NIHOR MAURYA R/O Plot No -59, To 61, Jharoda Dairy, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJIT RAM MAURYA

Public Notice
My client, Sh. Satyawati Singh Rangra, S/o Sh. Surat Singh, R/o VPO Rewla Khanpur, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, states that his son Mohit Ranga married Priya, D/o Ram Babu, R/o Kamla Nagar Market, Near Aggarwal Chowk, on 31.08.2026 against his wishes. He hereby disowns both from his property and all relations. Anyone dealing with them does so at their own risk.

Rajat Kaushik (Advocate)
Ch. No. 726 Dwarka Court
New Delhi

NAME CHANGE

I, Sonia Devi W/O Ravinder Kumar, 355/14, Mehram Road Gohana Sonipat, Haryana Pin-131301 Have Changed My Name To Sonia For All The Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Reya Oberoi D/O Prashant Kumar Oberoi R/O U-34, Second Floor, West Patel Nagar, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 That in my school record i.e. 10th class mark sheet my father's name has been wrongly written as Prashant Oberoi instead of Prashant Kumar Oberoi which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, KAVITA W/O NISHANT R/O B-1103, GLS AVENUE 51, SECTOR 92, GURGAON -122005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAVITA TANWAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Shri Shahid S/O Chiddu, R/O H. No. B-221, Ph. No. 3, Near Maki Masjid, J. West Colony, Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi-110076, along with his wife Smt. Nafisa Begam, hereby declares that they have disowned their son Adil Saifi S/O Shahid and his wife Iram Saifi W/O Adil Saifi from all rights and claims in their movable and immovable properties. It is further declared that my client, his wife and family members have no legal, financial or other relationship with the said Adil Saifi and Iram Saifi, present, past or future, and shall not be responsible for any act, deed, transaction, liability or dealing undertaken by them. Any person dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility. For and on behalf of my client.

S. FIROZ Advocate
Chamber No. 352, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi - 110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Vineet Sachdeva is purchasing the Entire Basement (without roof/terrace rights) and Third Floor (with roof/terrace rights) (referred to as "said portion"), part of Plot No. 541, in Block-B, having land area measuring 471 sq. yds., situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi from M/s. Hemkunt Fasteners LLP (now Known as M/s. Hemkunt fasteners LLP) is the owner of the property vide Sale Deed dated 23.11.1994 which is registered as doc. no. 8568, book no.1, vol. no. 8494, Page no. 81 to 203, on 24.11.1994. SRO-III is lost/misplaced. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as NAINA ALIAS ANISH-KA D/O SHASHI BHAN R/O RZG-576, RAJNAGAR PART-2, PALAM COLONY, BAGDOLA, PO: RAJ NAGAR-II, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANISH-KA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SANDEEP BHATTARAI S/O GANESH BHATTARAI R/O 347/17 OLD KHAN-DRAWAL DURGA MANDIR KHAN-BER PASS CIVIL LINES CIVIL LINES PO: CIVIL LINES DIST: NORTH DELHI DELHI-110054 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJAN BHATTARAI.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SUNITA W/O RAJBIR SINGH R/O 218 J.J. Colony, Inderpuri I.A.R.I. SO, DIST: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KOMAL.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mangal legally mother of Army No - 2821635A, Rank - SEF, Name - WAGH PRASHANT SANJAY, Presently Residing At - JOPUL, POST- JOPUL, Teh - CHANDVAD, Dist - NASHIK, State - MAHARASHTRA, Pin - 423101 have changed my name from MANGAL to WAGH MANGAL SANJAY for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Khairun Nisa W/O Md Abbas, House No-76/77, Block H Colony, Bawana, North West Delhi Pin:110039 have Changed My Name To Khairun Nisha For All The Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Lalit Jadon, S/O Chandraband Singh, R/O 58, Kala janki god, M R 4 road, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh - 456010 have changed my name to Lalit Singh Jadon for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohd Suken Rehman S/O WAHIDUR RAHMAN R/O 721/PUNJABI BASTI, MILITARY ROAD/KS BUILDER ANAND PARBAT, POKAROL BAGH, DIST/CENTRAL DELHI 110005 changed my name to MID SUKEN REHMAN

NAME CHANGE
I, ANASUA W/O ANUP KUMAR ROY R/O RZ 190 FIRST FLOOR SHIV BLOCK RAGHU NAGAR PANKHA ROAD DELHI 110045 CHANGED MY NAME TO ANASUA ROY

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as chaitaney kumar Diwedi s/o Omprakash Diwedi residing at flat no 402 plot no 27 green hotel unione residency behrampur Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad uttar pradesh 201001, have changed my Name and shall hereafter be known as CHAITANEY Diwedi

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Mohan Kumar S/O Ramfal, R/O 133, Mohalla Ajamtra, BB Nagar, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh - 203402, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Praveen Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
I, SABA W/O SYED ABID ALI R/O 2189 KUCHA QUILKIAN NEAR ISLAMIC MODRAN SCHOOL SITARAM BAZAR DELHI - 110008. I have changed MY NAME SABA ALI permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as LAKSHMI ALIAS LAXMI D/O BASANTA W/O RAMESH KUMAR R/O 3100, GROUND FLOOR, 100, HARJIAN BASTI QTRS., DELHI GATE, DELHI GPO, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAXMI.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as NAINA ALIAS ANISH-KA D/O SHASHI BHAN R/O RZG-576, RAJNAGAR PART-2, PALAM COLONY, BAGDOLA, PO: RAJ NAGAR-II, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANISH-KA.

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NAME CHANGE
I, Kavita W/O Nishant R/O B-1103, GLS Avenue 51, Sector 92, Gurgaon - 122005, have changed my name to Kavita Tanwar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mangal legally mother of Army No - 2821635A, Rank - SEF, Name - Wagh Prashant Sanjay, Presently Residing At - Jopul, Post- Jopul, Teh - Chandvad, Dist - Nashik, State - Maharashtra, Pin - 423101 have changed my name from Mangal to Wagh Mangal Sanjay for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 10/08/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I, Anasua W/O Anup Kumar Roy R/O RZ 190 First Floor Shiv Block Raghu Nagar Pankha Road Delhi 110045 changed my name to Anasua Roy

NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I, Saba W/O Syed Abid Ali R/O 2189 Kucha Quilikian Near Islamic Modran School Sitaram Bazar Delhi - 110008. I have changed my name Saba Ali permanently

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Lakshmi Alias Laxmi D/o Basanta W/o Ramesh Kumar R/O 3100, Ground Floor, 100, Harjian Basti Qtrs., Delhi Gate, Delhi GPO, North Delhi, Delhi-110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Laxmi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Naina Alias Anish-Ka D/o Shashi Bhan R/o Rzg-576, Rajnagar Part-2, Palam Colony, Bagdola, Po: Raj Nagar-II, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anish-Ka.

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NEWS BOX

"Situation Not Simple":
Putin Meets US Envoys,
Talks To End Ukraine War
Begin

world.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin began talks with US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff on ending more than four years of war in Ukraine in the Kremlin Saturday, ahead of their first visit to Kyiv expected on Sunday. Both Russia and Ukraine vowed not to strike each other's capitals for three days during the negotiations, as Washington tries to revive US-led talks to end Europe's worst conflict since World War Two. US President Donald Trump earlier said his son-in-law Kushner and business ally Witkoff were bringing "a proposal to end the war". "Dear colleagues, I warmly welcome you to Moscow. The situation is, of course, not simple," Putin told the envoys in a grand Kremlin hall in footage aired by Russian TV. "But before we begin to adress it, I would like to ask everyone to convey their best wishes and words of gratitude to US President Mr Trump," Putin said.The talks come as the grinding war saw increasing civilian deaths and attacks this summer. Putin has repeatedly said Moscow intends to seize the rest of east Ukraine. The war, launched by Russia in 2022, has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions. Russian strikes on Ukraine Saturday killed at least seven people, including in the Kyiv suburbs, Ukrainian officials said.The Kremlin said it would not strike Kyiv from midnight Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he would halt strikes on Moscow "from now" until Monday. "The Russian pesident, the commander-in-chief, has given the order from midnight tonight not to strike Kyiv for three days," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"We had to let him go":
TikTok-famous golden
retriever Tucker Budzyn dies
at 8 after sudden
complications from
lymphoma

world.(Agency)

Tucker Budzyn, the golden retriever who became a beloved internet star through his funny videos and unmistakable personality, has died at eight. His death came just two weeks after his family revealed his lymphoma diagnosis. Despite responding well to treatment, Tucker developed a serious complication that worsened rapidly. His owner, Courtney Budzyn, shared the heartbreaking news with followers across social media, including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and TikTok. Tucker Budzyn dies at 8 after sudden health complicationTucker's death came as a shock because his family had initially seen encouraging signs after his cancer diagnosis. Courtney had announced on August 30 that Tucker was undergoing treatment after veterinarians discovered lymphoma. His treatment included the CHOP chemotherapy protocol, along with herbal therapies overseen by a veterinary oncologist. Courtney later said that Tucker had entered partial remission after only a week.Even while dealing with cancer, the eight-year-old dog continued to enjoy many of his favorite activities. He went swimming, took walks and visited parks. Courtney said he remained active despite appearing slightly “dumplier” than normal. The situation changed unexpectedly. According to Courtney, Tucker had lymphoma in his intestines. As chemotherapy worked on the cancer, it left a hole in the affected area, allowing an infection to develop. His condition deteriorated quickly, leaving the family with little time to respond.

Homes lost, hungry babies: In crowded shelters,
Nepal's mothers struggle to nurture life

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

The Nepal floods took away Sharmila Shrestha's home and separated her from her baby for days.Now, reunited at a crowded shelter, she can do little more than helplessly watch her toddler eating the same



food as the adults because there is nothing else.Her 14-month-old daughter sleeps with her on the floor of a classroom in northwest Kathmandu, alongside her sister-in-law's 18-month-old son.
There is no baby food for either child
"They aren't giving any special food for babies. We are forced to feed that same

heavy adult food to the small child," Shrestha was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post newspaper on Sunday. The 33-year-old mother had walked for six hours through the hills to find her daughter after the floods separated them for two or three days."I only want adecent, proper place to stay. That would bring some peace of mind," she said.For mothers like Shrestha, the August 26 flash floods in Nepal have created a crisis within a crisis, one unfolding not in the rising waters but in crowded shelters, around feeding times, on classroom floors and along treacherous roads leading to hospitals.Babies are hungry. Mothers are struggling to breastfeed.Pregnant women worry about reaching a hospital if something goes wrong.And in shelters filled with hundreds of displaced people, even the most basic requirement of motherhood, a quiet, private place to feed and comfort a child, can feel like a luxury.At Trishuli, Pariyar, a mother three months into breastfeeding her newborn, fled her home on August 26 as floodwaters surged.

Mudslide kills two and leaves 10 missing in
China after heavy rain from Typhoon Saudel

The mudslide hit part of a village in Suichuan County in Jiangxi province early Saturday, prompting rescuers to rush to the scene and relocate residents to safer ground to prevent further danger.

BEIJING.(Agency)

A mudslide killed two people and left 10 missing in eastern China, damaging a dozen houses following days of torrential rain brought by Typhoon Saudel, state media said Sunday.The mudslide hit part of a village in Suichuan County in Jiangxi



province early Saturday, prompting rescuers to rush to the scene and relocate residents to safer ground to prevent further danger, authorities said in a statement. One person pulled out was found dead, while two others were rescued alive and in

good condition, it said.Rescuers on Sunday morning found one of the missing people, who was dead among collapsed houses, state broadcaster CCTV reported. CCTV separately reported that two people were killed in Hunan province in south-

central China following downpour brought by the typhoon. The report did not specify what caused the death but said the rain triggered landslides and other disasters.Saudel made two landfalls in Zhejiang Province on Aug. 28 and made a third landfall as a tropical storm in Fujian Province Thursday, Chinese official news agency Xinhua reported. Both provinces neighbor Jiangxi. In Fujian, local authorities said Friday that multiple residents were left unaccounted for after days of heavy rain, Xinhua reported. The exact number is unclear, but more than 100 houses collapsed in Huating Town in Putian city, it said. A dike was breached Thursday afternoon, flooding villages and trapping residents, it added.About 600,000 residents have been evacuated from risky offshore and onshore areas in Fujian as of Friday night, Xinhua reported.

Indonesia cancels flights at Jakarta airport as
Anak Krakatau volcano erupts

JAKARTA.(Agency)

Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano erupted early Sunday, prompting the cancellation of all flights at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport as volcanic ash drifted across parts of western Indonesia.Indonesia's Geological Agency said the volcanic island located in Indonesia's Sunda Strait between the main Java and Sumatra islands had showed signs of activity since Friday before erupting for 30 seconds at 3:53 a.m. Sunday. The agency's closed-circuit camera showed lava flares at the mountain. There were no casualties reported and no evacuation order issued. The nearest settlement is more than 16 kilometers (10 miles). But the agency warned residents and visitors to stay at least 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from



the volcano's active crater. Volcanic ash spread across parts of the capital Jakarta and Lampung province on the southern tip of Sumatra island, Indonesia's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said."Due to increased activity from the Mount Anak Krakatau eruption, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport has temporarily suspended flight operations from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.," the airport said in a travel

advisory early Sunday.Passengers at the country's busiest airport sought refunds and reclaimed checked baggage as departure boards displayed a growing list of canceled flights.Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it was closely monitoring the eruption's impact on air travel and coordinating with airlines, airport operators, air navigation services and the meteorology agency. It said 170 aircraft parked overnight at Soekarno-Hatta remained on airport aprons.The closure had affected 209 flight movements and about 22,800 passengers on Sunday, including the busy domestic route to Makassar in South Sulawesi, while Singapore was the international destination with the highest number of disrupted flights.

Two Nepal rescues revive hopes 10 days
after flood that left over 5,500 missing

←Zenyazen Escobar, a lawmaker from Mexico's ruling Morena party, was found dead inside his car with a gunshot wound. The incident came ahead of key elections in Mexico amid warnings over political-criminal

KATHMANDU.(Agency)

Rescuers in Nepal pulled alive a Chinese national from a tunnel and a local woman from her partially submerged home on Saturday, as emergency teams searched with fresh urgency for thousands missing since catastrophic flooding 10 days ago. A team comprising personnel from the Nepal Army and foreign experts rescued the Chinese man from 225 metres (738 feet) inside the tunnel of



the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project in Rasuwa district, a military statement said.A picture on the army's Facebook page showed the man, identified only as Luhaitao, supported by two camouflage-clad rescuers.He appeared alert, but his hands were covered in thick, wet mud."His health is currently being assessed and further search and rescue operations are continuing," the army said.The man was among hundreds of hydropower workers who went missing after a tsunامي-

like wall of water and mud swept through the China-Nepal border following a vast glacial and rock collapse on August 26. Authorities later in the day said members of Nepal's Armed Police Force had pulled Chandrika Shrestha, 64, alive from her buried home in Nuwakot district. "A police team found her as they were clearing the area. She has been airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment," police deputy superintendent Iqbal Hawari told AFP.A video released by the police force showed only part of her house visible, with the lower floors submerged by thick sludge.Prime Minister Balendra Shah said Shrestha's rescue "has given hope to the entire nation".'Hope and responsibility'The energy ministry said rescuers were planning to use customised drones provided by Switzerland to assist in the tunnel search operatios.

Top US military officials face
lie-detectors in hunt over
leaked munitions data

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Pentagon has launched a lie-detector dragnet to comb through high-ranking military officials and identify who leaked information about US munitions stockpiles, according to US press reports. In July, reports emerged that the United States was rationing munitions -- its missile interceptors, in particular -- over supply concerns after several months of fighting Iran.Administration officials vehemently denied those reports, with US President Donald Trump saying "we have a lot of ammunition, different types," while acknowledging that "for some of the more sophisticated stuff, we'd certainly like to have more."Late Friday, The New York Times reported that some 50 members of the military's Joint Staff -- the Pentagon's planning and advisory staff -- were being required to take polygraph tests as part of



an investigation into how classified stockpile information made its way into journalists' hands. CBS News later also reported the wide-scale use of lie detectors, while adding that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, had not been tested.Asked by AFP about the reports, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, Sean Parnell, refused to comment on "internal personnel or investigative matters," but said that it "takes all leaks of classified national security information extremely seriously and investigates accordingly.""Securing classified information is critical to ensuring the security of the United States and of our troops deployed around the world," Parnell added.Both the Times and CBS noted the scale of the polygraph testing. Lie-detection testing is routine during background screenings and security clearance renewals for government staff with access to the most sensitive state secrets.But the wide-scale deployment of the detectors as part of a leak investigation was rare, if unprecedented, the outlets reported, citing analysts and unnamed officials.

Trump Planning "Something Much Bigger" For
Middle East After Iran War: Report

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

The Trump administration is looking beyond the Iran war and working on a broad plan that could reshape the US approach to the Middle East after the war ends, according to a report by Axios.The strategy, still being drafted, is expected to focus on building a regional front to contain Iran while pushing Israel towards deeper ties with its neighbours, two US officials and two other people familiar with the discussions told the publication. Trump has privately told people that he is working on "something much bigger" for the Middle East once the war with Iran is over. According to the US officials, the strategy is being developed both by senior advisers and by officials across several US government agencies.Three Pieces OfThe Plan The first strategy is the idea of bringing US allies in the region into a closer alignment against Iran, with Washington potentially acting as the security guarantor.The administration is also looking at ways to wind down some of the conflicts and tensions

that followed the October 7, 2023 attacks. That could include moving ahead with the next phase of Trump's Gaza plan, negotiating a security arrangement between Israel and



Syria and putting the existing Israel-Lebanon agreement into effect.The third major goal is expanding the Abraham Accords and securing a normalisation deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia.A Saudi-Israeli agreement would be a major prize for Trump and could give his administration a centrepiece achievement in the region after the Iran war.

Israel Election Could Complicate The Plan Israel is due to hold elections on October 27, while the US midterm elections are scheduled for November.Trump's team is hoping the Israeli government that emerges from the election will be prepared to work with Washington on the new strategy.But the administration does not appear ready to wait for Israeli politics to settle.Some US officials believe Trump will press ahead even if the election results produce another political deadlock, according to the sources
Plan Still Taking Shape
Trump has already discussed the emerging strategy in two meetings with senior advisers in recent weeks, where different ideas were put on the table.However, one source briefed on the process said officials could need several more weeks before the strategy is ready.They are cooking it, but it is not yet cooked," the source said.

“Every move has consequences”: Team of women prisoners set for global chess championship

Pune.(Agency)

“Chess teaches us to think several moves ahead. If I had done that before making the mistakes in my life, I would not have been here,” an inmate who is in her 40s and lodged at Yerawada Women’s Prison told her chess coach, Pradnya Khaire — this during an endgame lesson a few weeks ago. As Khaire explained how a single move in the final stages can decide a game, the lesson seemed to extend beyond the board. “We learnt that every move has consequences and invites a response from the opponent. In life, too, every decision sets something in motion,” said another team member to Khaire during a recent practice session. For the six women on Yerawada’s team, chess has become an exercise in patience, strategy and consequences. The team has now, for the first time, qualified for the FIDE Intercontinental Chess Championship for Prisoners. The championship will bring together correctional institutions from around the world. “For these female inmates, it is not just an international competition, but an opportunity to put into practice a lesson they have learned one move at a time: think ahead,” said Sunil Dhamal, Superintendent of Yerawada Central Prison. One of the oldest prisons in India, established in 1871, Yerawada Central Prisons Women’s wing was established in 1927.

Bengaluru's first ‘Circular Textile Lab’ aims to prevent textile waste reaching landfills

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A first-of-its kind Circular Textile Lab aims to prevent ‘virgin textile waste’ from reaching the landfills. The lab will convert textile discards into useful and creative products through a circular, skills-based approach, train women from underprivileged communities and provide opportunities to develop sustainable livelihoods by reusing and transforming textile waste. An initiative of Bengaluru South City Corporation, the city’s first Circular Textile Lab and Solid Waste Management (SWM) Learning Centre, will be inaugurated at the ward-level integrated SWM Centre, in Koramangala on Monday, aimed at promoting sustainable waste management and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills. The SWM Learning Centre is being established as a practical learning and capacity-building facility for school and college students, citizens, corporate employees, government personnel, NGOs and SWM workers. Located within an operational waste management facility that processes 18 tonnes of different waste streams daily, the centre will combine classroom learning with first-hand exposure to waste processing. Through interactive programmes, demonstrations, games and facility tours, participants will learn about waste segregation, the seven R’s of sustainability, composting, dry and reject waste management, zero-waste campuses and events, and ways to reduce waste at source.

Four booked for fraudulent compensation claim in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Bidadi police in Bengaluru South district have registered two FIRs against four persons for allegedly attempting to fraudulently claim Rs 5 crore in land acquisition compensation by submitting forged ownership and property documents in connection with the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) Project. The accused allegedly fabricated documents to establish ownership of land covered by the acquisition process and sought compensation from funds earmarked for the project. The alleged fraud came to light when officials overseeing the land acquisition process scrutinised the documents submitted for claiming compensation. During verification, discrepancies in the ownership records reportedly raised suspicion and the complaint was filed. Kishan Kalal, Special Land Acquisition Officer, has filed separate complaints against the four accused on Thursday. The cases have been registered at Bidadi Police Station against Shankar Reddy and Krishna Reddy in crime number 289/ 2026 and H Venkatesh and H Rajasekhar in crime number 290/2026. The accused allegedly posed as landowners and submitted forged family trees, land records and identity documents to claim compensation from the government.

Nepal floods: DNA identification crucial for families of missing travellers

Arrangements for forensic DNA sample collection have been established at state-run forensic laboratories in Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik.

Pune.(Agency)

Following the devastating floods in Nepal, one of the biggest challenges after the recovery of bodies and human remains has been their identification. “Given the condition of many of the recovered remains, visual identification is often difficult or impossible. DNA profiling has therefore become a crucial tool in the identification process,” Umesh Zirpe, veteran mountaineer and president of the Akhil Maharashtra Giryarohan Mahasangh (AMGM), . The AMGM and its Maharashtra Mountaineers Rescue Coordination Centre (MMRCC) have been in continuous coordination with the Maharashtra State Disaster Management authorities. Arrangements for forensic DNA sample collection have been established at three locations in Maharashtra—state-run forensic laboratories in Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik. “So far 51 people from across Maharashtra have agreed to send their samples,” Zirpe said. The floods and landslides that struck Nepal 11 days ago have left a heartbreaking trail of

destruction. A large number of travellers from India, particularly from Maharashtra, were in Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra when the disaster occurred. As rescue operations continue, bodies and human remains are being recovered from vast quantities of mud and debris. Because of the large number of



casualties, hospitals and mortuaries in cities such as Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan are facing severe shortages of space and refrigeration facilities. The condition of many recovered bodies makes visual identification difficult. Authorities are therefore

photographing the bodies and collecting DNA samples before carrying out identification and, where necessary, the final rites. The Nepal government has issued advisories urging the close relatives of missing persons to come forward and provide DNA samples. A dedicated online portal has also been established to facilitate information collection and coordinate the identification process. The DNA profiles collected from relatives in Maharashtra will be used for comparison with DNA profiles obtained from unidentified bodies and human remains recovered in Nepal. A positive match can help establish the identity of a missing person through the appropriate official process. “This is an important and sensitive stage for the affected families. Until the forensic identification process is completed and the authorities formally confirm the identity, information about recovered remains must be treated with caution. For families searching for their missing loved ones, DNA identification offers a scientific and reliable pathway towards certainty, dignity, and closure.

Minister Krishna Byre warns officials against negligence in civic upkeep in Bengaluru

Bengaluru.(Agency)

BENGALURU: Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday directed civic officials to give top priority to cleanliness, waste management and maintenance of basic infrastructure, warning that negligence in these areas would invite action against the officials concerned. The minister’s direction came in the backdrop of an early-morning surprise inspection of several areas under the Bengaluru East City Corporation, including Horamavu, Banjara Layout, Agara Lake, Jayanthinagar, Ramamurthynagar and Kasturinagar. He directed officials to ensure that pourakarmikas collect waste from every household every day

and that the collected waste is properly disposed of.He also reviewed the functioning of marshals and instructed them to maintain



continuous vigil against the dumping of garbage in public places. As part of his inspection at Agara Lake and its surroundings,

he directed officials to take immediate action as per the law wherever encroachments are found. With the North-East Monsoon next month, the minister inspected a rajakaluve along Ramamurthynagar Main Road, reviewed its cleanliness and maintenance, and directed officials to undertake regular desilting and cleaning of storm-water drains and ensure that they remain free of accumulated silt and waste. Officials were directed to ensure effective implementation of daily door-to-door waste collection, proper and scientific disposal of collected waste, and priority resolution of issues such as public dumping, footpath encroachments, construction debris and potholes. He directed the concerned departments to work in coordination and respond quickly to civic problems.

A bus, a letterbox and a forgotten Mumbai

Mumbai.(Agency)

There was a time when passengers could post a letter without getting off a BEST bus. For about two years between 1928 and 1930, some buses had scarlet-red letterboxes fitted into their middle sections. Passengers could drop in their mail as they travelled through the city. The letterboxes are no longer in Mumbai’s buses. But one of the stories about them survives at the BEST Museum, tucked away on the third floor of the undertaking’s administrative building at Anik Depot in Sion. The museum has no grand setting. What it does have is a collection of objects that offer glimpses of how Mumbai travelled, used electricity and paid for public services several decades ago. There are old tickets, miniature bus models, wooden tram benches, street lamps, lighting models and traffic stops. Among them are objects that now seem unusual, a bell punch machine, a

brass table fan used for advertising and photographs of a tram that once went around neighbourhoods as a mobile repair unit. The museum came about almost by accident. In 1972, the undertaking decided to publish a book tracing its history. Departments were



asked to send in old documents, photographs and objects that could help with the project. The response was much larger than expected. Staff Liaison Officer P D Paranjpe, who was coordinating the collection, began gathering the material. Eventually, BEST decided

that the objects should be preserved separately. The first collection was kept in a 150-sq-ft warehouse at Dharavi Depot in 1981. The museum opened at Kurla Depot in 1984 and moved to Anik Depot in 1993 as the collection grew.

A postbox on a bus BEST’s first motor bus service began on July 15, 1926, between Afghan Church and Crawford Market. There were 24 buses, each with seating for about 24 passengers and space for two standing passengers. The service grew quickly. Nearly six lakh passengers used it in its first six months and the number rose to 38 lakh in 1927. But the following years brought a series of disruptions, including the textile strike of 1928, communal riots in 1929 and the Civil Disobedience Movement. Passenger numbers dropped and BEST tried several measures to encourage people to use its services. One of them was the letterbox.

Driver’s alertness saves 37 passengers lives after moving KSRTC bus catches fire in Dakshina Kannada

MANGALURU.(Agency)

A KSRTC bus driver saved the lives of 37 passengers after a moving bus caught fire in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday night.



and police departments, which rushed to the spot. A short circuit is suspected to have caused the fire.

Maharashtra sets up high-level panel to review recruitment exam systems

Mumbai.(Agency)

To make state government recruitment exams more transparent, secure, reliable, and candidate-centric, as well as to prevent malpractices, the General Administration Department of the Maharashtra Government has constituted a high-level committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing examination system. According to the committee’s scope of work, feedback and suggestions for systemic improvements will be collected through interactions with students, examinees, parents, teachers, educational institutions, coaching classes, study hall operators, public representatives, and other relevant stakeholders across every revenue division in the state.

In line with this, the Chairman and members of the committee will visit Savitribai Phule Pune University on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 10:30 am to interact directly with students and examinees and gather their inputs. To enable citizens and stakeholders from Pune district to submit their suggestions, recommendations, objections, and representations, a dedicated special cell has been established at the Pune Collectorate Office. This cell will operate from Monday, September 7, to Thursday, September 10, 2026, between 10 am and 6 pm. Citizens who are unable to attend the special cell in person are requested to send their written feedback to the designated email address within the specified timeframe, officials said. Key topics for suggestions Feedback is invited on the current examination system and the operational methods of various state government departments, authorities, and conducting agencies. Suggestions are sought on necessary measures to make exams safer, more reliable, fair, and candidate-centric, district officials said.

In the shadow of the cloud: Thane protests proposed hyperscale data centre

As Mumbai Metropolitan Region races to become a data centre hub, Thane residents are asking what the digital boom will cost a city already struggling with water, power and space

Mumbai.(Agency)

When the areas of Balkum, Majiwada and Dhokali in Thane first heard that Amazon was coming to their neighbourhood, they thought of jobs.For some, the land beside their homes, once occupied by a chemical company, had been lying vacant. An Amazon facility sounded like an opportunity for a community that had already lost livelihoods when the factory shut. It was only later that residents learnt what was actually being built: a 53-acre hyperscale data centre expected to consume 422 MW of power, 125 kilolitres of treated water daily and have 193 diesel generators on standby. That discovery has turned excitement into resistance. For villagers and residents of sprawling apartment complexes living next to the site, the question is no longer what Amazon might bring to Thane, but what the city may have to give up for it: water, power, quiet

and, they fear, a little more room to breathe. Data centres have entered public consciousness alongside the rise of AI and have faced protests in countries such as the US. Now, that backlash has reached the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, even as it races to establish itself as one of India’s biggest data centre hubs.

The Thane protests

Sprawled across 53 acres, the Amazon Web Services facility is set to come up in Thane’s Balkum area, surrounded by highrises, small padas and at least eight schools and hospitals. AWS purchased the land from developer Kalpataru Buildings during the Covid period to establish the hyperscale facility. “Earlier, this land housed a chemical company which employed the local villagers. After it was closed over health concerns, thousands had lost their source of income. So, when we first heard that there was an Amazon centre coming up, we were

hoping it would create jobs,” said Rohidas Patil, a native farmer of Balkum whose home is next to the facility’s boundary wall. “But last year, we found out that this was no ordinary facility, it was a hyperscale



data centre,” he said. Residents subsequently began looking into data centres and the protests they have triggered elsewhere. The #WakeUpThanekar movement took shape around a central

question: how could a hyperscale facility be permitted in the middle of a city?

On July 18, hundreds of residents formed a human chain in a silent protest against the proposed centre. Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske has also backed the residents. A bureaucrat from the MMR region said the Thane project differed from several other data centres in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, which have largely come up in existing industrial complexes such as the Airoli Mahape belt and Chandivali Powai. “The one difference when it comes to Thane as against most data centres in MMR like Navi Mumbai and Mumbai is that data centres in these cities are slated to come up in already existing industrial complexes ... and are hardly surrounded by any residential accommodation,” the bureaucrat said. “The proposed data centre in Thane is near a residential area, which means extra precautions will have to be put in place,” the bureaucrat added.

PYJAMA needed, not scrapping over top GDP numbers

Consider two snapshots. Lakhs of young people protesting at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, hopeless and anxious about their future. India announcing it’s the fastest-growing economy in the world, with record double-digit nominal GDP growth. These events are not decades or years apart, as they may seem—they are separated by just four weeks. How can lakhs of Gen Z youth be out on the streets in protest against the government when the nation is supposedly experiencing its best economic conditions in recent history? This, in essence, sums up the brouhaha over the GDP figures for the latest quarter released a few days ago. First off, there is a lot that is wrong with India’s economy and its GDP measurement. But the sheer math behind the 7.8 percent real GDP growth is not one of them, contrary to what a former government bureaucrat has claimed. The economy is perhaps the only thing reduced to a statistic that every individual—rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim, rural or urban—experiences every single day. Then, how can millions of Indians be so disenchanted with the economy when the measure says it is robust? If the math behind the measure is not the problem, then it follows that either what we measure as GDP is wrong, or there is a disconnect between GDP and living conditions for the average Indian, or both. Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian argues that it is the former. He has demonstrated with reasonable evidence that ever since the GDP estimation methodology was changed in 2015, the correlation between economic indicators such as electricity consumption, taxes collected, exports, bank credit and the GDP measure has broken down. Put simply, accompanying indicators of a strong or weak economy do not match up to the GDP estimate as they did earlier. Measuring GDP ain’t enough While this may be true, what is more worrying is that GDP, even if measured accurately, is no longer sacrosanct as an indicator of a society’s wellbeing. Incomes and the prices of goods and services are how people experience the economy every day. Incomes are generated through jobs, and prices are determined by demand-supply forces. India’s economic structure is largely driven by private enterprise, unlike China’s State-controlled economy. So, only the private sector can generate jobs at scale for India’s huge labour force. Then, the surest measure of job creation in the economy is private corporate investment. In the maze of economic measures and statistics, this is the single most important indicator of a sustainable and robust Indian economy. Only when the private sector invests does it create jobs, which then translate into incomes for the vast majority of people in the labour force. Private sector investment has languished at about 10-12 percent of GDP over a decade, down from 14 percent in the decade before. Had India’s corporates invested with the same enthusiasm as in the previous decade, they would have put in a whopping \$700 billion more than they actually did. When corporates are reluctant to invest, the government can step in to do the heavy lifting for a year or two but not for long, since government finances are already stretched. But the private sector has stubbornly refused to invest and expand for a decade now. This is despite the Modi government’s misguided attempts to woo the private sector to invest by giving it huge tax cuts. In September 2019, even before Covid struck, the government slashed corporate tax rates ostensibly to boost private sector investment. Corporate taxes collected fell from 3.7 percent of GDP before the cuts to 2.9 percent in the five years after. The government lost roughly \$100 billion in revenues over five years due to the corporate tax cuts. Put in other words, the \$100 billion was an ‘unconditional cash transfer scheme’ to the private sector.

The case for jurists as judges

Constitutional mandate for appointments should not remain unused

IN the autumn of 1947, a quiet Indian civil servant went choosing ideas for a Constitution. BN Rau, constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly, sailed to America. In Washington, he called on Justice Felix Frankfurter, who told him to keep “due process of law” out of the Indian Constitution. Rau carried the warning home. Article 21 speaks instead of procedure established by law. We remember the advice. We have forgotten what the man himself was. Frankfurter taught at Harvard from 1914 to 1939, and had never been a judge of anything when US President Franklin D Roosevelt sent him to the highest court in America. The man India’s constitutional adviser consulted about a Supreme Court was a law professor. Two years later, the Constituent Assembly wrote him into our text without knowing it. On May 24, 1949, HV Kamath moved an amendment to draft Article 103, to give the President a third door. Ambedkar accepted it, but he was unsure whether “distinguished” or “eminent” was the better word, and he left the choice to the Drafting Committee. The Committee kept “distinguished”. That clause is now Article 124(3)(c). A citizen who is, in the President’s opinion, a distinguished jurist may be appointed to the Supreme Court. However, nobody has ever been so appointed. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court said so recently at the convocation of National Law University, Delhi. He called it one of our Constitution’s unused mandates. Either the Collegium finds our academia too shallow, he said, or nobody has tried. He dismissed as shallow the objection that scholars lack practical experience. We filled the Court from two pools instead: High Court judges by seniority, and advocates from the Bar. That second route opened later. SM Sikri, Advocate General of Punjab, came directly from the Bar in February 1964. Subimal Chandra Roy followed in 1971, then Kuldip Singh, Santosh Hegde, Rohinton Nariman, UU Lalit, L Nageswara Rao, Indu Malhotra, PS Narasimha and KV Viswanathan. Justice V Mohana, sworn in this June, is the eleventh. Eleven in seventy-six years. Everyone else climbed the High Court ladder. The ladder has always had loose rungs for the right person. TL Venkatarama Aiyar sat on the Madras High Court for



professor. It came close once. In the Justice PN Bhagwati years (Chief Justice of India in 1985-86), an American university addressed Prof Upendra Baxi as “Judge Baxi” in a seminar invitation. Justice Bhagwati had told them that Baxi would be on the Court within four months. Baxi’s verdict, decades later, was drier — Presidents had looked for a jurist through a telescope and found none, so jurists must not exist. Four things keep the clause asleep. There is no nursery: Article 217 has no jurist clause, so nobody can be tried out on a High Court first. There is no mechanism: the Memorandum of Procedure knows only how to find judges and advocates. There is the arithmetic: a jurist appointed young sits long and disturbs the succession to the office of Chief Justice. And there is our own rulebook. We forbid our academics the courtroom, then disqualify them for never having been in one.

Age narrows the field cruelly. Judges retire at sixty-five, and the Court in practice takes nobody under fifty-five. Let’s discuss a few names only for illustration, and I apologise to the many I have left out. The argument is for the search and not for these names alone. Upendra Baxi is eighty-seven. G Mohan Gopal and Amita Dhanda are also past the line. We simply lost them. At the other end stand scholars still too young. Sudhir Krishnaswamy, who wrote the standard study of the Basic Structure Doctrine, is fifty-one. Aparna Chandra, Anup Surendranath and Tarunabh Khaitan, who work on the Court, the death penalty and discrimination law, are still younger. Their turn may come later, if at all, in the next decade. One name sits inside the window between. Faizan Mustafa is nearly sixty. He has taught constitutional law for three decades and has built three national law universities. He would sit on the Court for around five years. That is the answer to the objection nobody states aloud. A jurist appointed at sixty-two can never enter the line for Chief Justice. A Collegium wishing to test the clause cheaply could begin here. In the late 1980s, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Fathima Beevi, was similarly appointed for a term of less than three years. The case for activating the distinguished jurist clause is not that scholars judge better. They may or may not. They judge differently. Frankfurter the professor became the great preacher of restraint. William O Douglas came from Yale and became the least restrained judge of his century. Lord Burrows moved from the Oxford chair of English law to the UK’s Supreme Court in 2020, after twenty years of part-time judging. England built a bridge but India built a wall. Some academics were fine judges while some were not. A directly appointed lawyer gave us Kesavananda Bharati (1973), and judges with seniority gave us ADM Jabalpur (1976). A court recruited from one pool thinks in one groove. It is slower to ask where a rule came from and whether it still deserves to stand. Ambedkar’s only worry was the adjective. Seventy-six years on, it has done no work at all. One appointment would not transform the Court. It would tell our law schools that scholarship leads somewhere. And it would remind the Court that when Rau wanted to know how to build a Supreme Court, he went to see a professor.

Court verdicts raise serious question on coercive use of law

The court did not say that students are immune from criminal law. It held that bona fide participation in a protest cannot by itself justify treating a young person as accused and putting their future at risk

Two recent judicial interventions should concern anyone who believes that the State must be firm in dealing with disorder but equally careful in dealing with dissent. The Allahabad High Court’s decision to cancel the detention of student and activist Aakriti Chaudhary under the National Security Act raises questions about how the police built their case. Chaudhary was accused of instigating stone-pelting and arson during the Noida workers’ protest this April, but the State could not immediately produce the video it claimed established her role. The court also pointed out several procedural lapses in the sequence of her arrest and the manner of issuing notices. It described the State’s version as a “concocted story” and even ordered compensation. Similar concerns are reflected on a wider scale in the Supreme Court’s intervention in the cases arising from student protests during July 20-25. It ordered the closure of FIRs connected to the protests lodged around the country and barred fresh cases from being opened. At the same time, it allowed proceedings



against those identified as having serious criminal antecedents. That distinction is important. The court did not say that students are immune from criminal law. It held that bona fide participation in a protest cannot by itself justify treating a young person as accused and putting their future at risk. The police response, however, needs closer

examination. A protest can turn violent, and those responsible must be investigated and prosecuted. But being at a protest does not make a person responsible for the violence. The police have to show what the individual accused actually did; a mere allegation cannot stand for proof. The Allahabad judgement also draws attention to the way the detention was carried out. The safeguards laid down by law cannot be treated as formalities, especially when the State applies a law as stringent as the NSA. The case raises a fundamental question: did the circumstances warrant the use of a law that permits preventive detention? The manner in which it was invoked makes the question difficult to avoid. The larger issue is whether the State is exercising its coercive powers with the restraint and legal discipline that democracy requires. In these two cases, the courts have had to insist on proportionality, evidence and due process that should have guided the executive response to the protests in the first place.

Who’ll pay for the next disaster?

➡A business loses revenue. A borrower struggles to repay a loan. A state government finds additional money for relief and reconstruction.

Disaster finance cannot begin only after a disaster. States need to know in advance which losses they can absorb, which to insure and those that must be shared more widely. Disasters like the one that struck Nepal expose an important weakness in how countries like India financially prepare for extreme events. While investments in disaster response, mitigation and reconstruction are essential, the financing of residual losses often remains largely reactive. In many cases, the question of who ultimately bears the economic cost—governments, households, businesses or insurers—is resolved only after the disaster has occurred. India needs to change that. When a flood destroys a small enterprise, a heatwave reduces a worker’s earnings or a cyclone damages public infrastructure, the economic loss ultimately lands somewhere. A household runs down its savings. A business loses revenue. A borrower struggles to repay a loan. A state government finds additional money for relief and reconstruction. Uninsured risk is, therefore, not risk that has disappeared. It is risk that governments, households and businesses have retained often without consciously deciding to do so. This matters because India’s economic exposure is rising. Estimates suggest that \$26-29 trillion (around Rs 2,500 lakh crore) of assets across the country are exposed to different natural hazards. Across Asia, only about 8 percent of economic losses from natural catastrophes in 2025 were insured. The answer is not to insure everything. Rather, India needs to decide systematically which risks should be borne by whom. A useful starting point would be for every state to prepare a disaster-risk financing strategy alongside its disaster-management plan. States already assess hazards and vulnerability. They should now estimate their potential financial exposure: what could a severe flood cost? How much loss could existing disaster

funds absorb? At what point would reconstruction begin crowding out other development expenditure? Which risks are predictable enough to insure? This would create a simple hierarchy. Frequent, smaller losses could continue to be met through public funds and existing safety nets. Larger but measurable shocks could be partly insured. Truly catastrophic events could be shared through reinsurance or other mechanisms so that neither a single insurer nor a state budget bears the entire loss. The timing is particularly relevant. The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended Rs 2,04,401 crore for state disaster response funds between 2026-27 and 2030-31, including Rs 40,880 crore for mitigation. It has also asked the government to examine and finalise single-peril parametric insurance products. Some states have already begun experimenting. Nagaland has purchased multi-year parametric cover against excess rainfall. Unlike conventional insurance, where losses are assessed after an event, parametric insurance releases a predetermined payment when an agreed threshold such as rainfall, temperature or wind speed is breached. Existing disaster-mitigation guidelines have also been interpreted as permitting states to use part of these funds towards insurance premiums. Public money should not simply become a new source of insurance premiums. States should first demonstrate that transferring a particular risk is cheaper or more effective than retaining

it. Premiums should be competitively procured, and governments should periodically evaluate whether the cover is actually reaching the losses it was intended to address. The second challenge is trust. Parametric insurance is fast precisely because it does not



measure each person’s actual loss. But this also creates the possibility that people suffer damage while the official trigger is not crossed. In heat-insurance experiments, comparisons of weather datasets have shown differences of around 3-3.5°C, enough in some places to determine whether a payout occurs. India therefore needs a public framework establishing which weather data can

determine payouts, how thresholds are validated and what happens when data sources disagree. The India Meteorological Department, disaster-management authorities, insurers and state governments will need a common protocol. Without that, scaling parametric insurance could create distrust precisely among households that have the least capacity to absorb a failed payout. There is also a case for states to cooperate rather than buy disaster cover entirely on their own. India’s climate risks vary enormously across its geography. A cyclone affecting the eastern coast may have little relationship with drought conditions in western India or excess rainfall in the Northeast. Pooling carefully selected, imperfectly correlated risks could potentially allow states to share administrative costs and negotiate more efficiently with insurers and global reinsurers. But financial protection cannot replace physical protection. Better drainage, early-warning systems, heat-action plans, resilient roads and safer construction must remain the first line of defence. Insurance should finance residual risk, not become an excuse to tolerate avoidable vulnerability. That distinction is particularly important for vulnerable households and informal workers. The State cannot withdraw from its responsibility for disaster relief merely because a financial product exists. The important question before the next flood, cyclone or heatwave is not simply how much money will be available afterwards. It is whether governments have decided beforehand which losses they can absorb, which they should insure and which risks must be shared beyond the budget.

Gujarat murder accused tied with ropes, flogged in public by police; SHO says 'rare case'

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A 20-year-old homeless man accused of murdering his woman partner in Gujarat's Bhavnagar was on Saturday allegedly flogged in public by police, hours after his arrest in the case. Videos of the purported incident, which went viral on social media platforms, show police taking the accused Faizal alias Khatki Rafiq Lakhani, who was tied with ropes, around the GSRTC bus stand in Bhavnagar and holding him against their patrol vehicle, pillars and walls on the premises and hitting him with their batons during the reconstruction of the crime scene.

Lakhani was arrested on September 4 by the Bhavnagar police for the alleged murder of 40-year-old Kajal, with whom he lived on the street outside the bus stand. On September 3, Lakhani had allegedly accosted Kajal and a mutual friend, Ravi alias Boda Rajendra Gohel, at the main gate of the bus stand and started beating them, accusing them of having an affair while he was in prison in another case. The assault was recorded in the CCTV cameras in the area. Kajal was declared dead the same night at Sir Takhtasinhji General Hospital, Bhavnagar.

When asked about the videos of him and his team allegedly thrashing Faizal Lakhani in public, Police Inspector D P Unadkat, the SHO of Nilambaug police station, said that the incident had taken place during reconstruction of the crime scene on Saturday (September 5). "We did it because this is a rare case," he said. "He is not a gang member as such, but he is in the habit of being a nuisance. There are many others who engage in similar activities."

German Shepherd bites Ahmedabad woman for 2nd time in 4 months, owner booked

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The owner of a German Shepherd was booked for negligence by the Ahmedabad City Police on Saturday after her pet dog allegedly bit a 54-year-old neighbour in the Ramol area of the city. An FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint by 54-year-old Kapila Mahendra Prajapati, a resident of Vastral.

In the FIR, she said that the incident occurred around 5:30 pm on September 4 when she was sweeping her front yard. When she stepped out of her house, the front door of her neighbour Dharmishtha Dinesh Prajapati was open and her dog, a German Shepherd, bit her on her right hand. Prajapati's daughter immediately called an ambulance and took her to the nearby Community Health Centre (CHC). Kapila alleged in the FIR that the same dog had bitten her on her right leg and left hand about 4 months ago. Dharmishtha Dinesh Prajapati was booked under BNS sections 291 (negligent conduct with animals) and 125(a) (negligent act that endangers the life or personal safety of others). Following the incident, officials of the Cattle Nuisance Control Department (CNCD) of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), along with a veterinary officer and the Ramol Police, conducted an inspection.

'One more bite at the cherry': Justice Nariman criticises reopening of Delhi Metro arbitration award

Vadodara. (Agency)

By the time the 2008 Delhi Metro arbitration dispute reached the Supreme Court through a curative petition, the arbitral award had already travelled through the tribunal, the Delhi High Court, the Supreme Court and review proceedings. Yet the award was ultimately reopened and set aside in 2024 — an illustration, in former Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton F Nariman's words, of how Indian litigation can offer "one more bite at the cherry after the cherry is eaten".

For Justice Nariman, the extraordinary final intervention raises a larger question for Indian arbitration: when does an arbitral award actually become final? Speaking at GHAC Arbitration Week 2026, being organised by the Gujarat High Court Arbitration Centre (GHAC) in collaboration with the High Court of Gujarat, Justice Nariman said on Friday that the Supreme Court's curative intervention in the Delhi Metro dispute "led to very far-reaching consequences".

"The bench, as a matter of law, has laid down something," he said, adding that the court could instead have confined its ruling to the "peculiar circumstances" of the case and stated that it was not to be treated as a precedent. Instead, he said, the judgment had laid down that "a miscarriage of justice, which is equal to an interference on facts in an arbitral award, can take place to set aside the award at the fag end after it has become completely final and everything is over".

IISER Mohali withdraws admission by-laws amid student concerns

Undertaking called for non-participation in protests, students declaring they do not have any mental illness

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A day after The Indian Express reported the IISER Mohali seeking an undertaking from students that they will not participate in protests or agitations on campus, the institute on Saturday withdrew its admission by-laws, saying all documents signed under the provisions stand cancelled. The move follows days of unrest on campus, including questions over a fatal lift accident, the death of a first-year student and an undertaking

students allege was introduced without Senate approval. In an email to the Student Representative Committee (SRC), Dean (Students) Dr Adrene Freeda Cruz said the by-laws, based on those of IISER Bhopal last year, had been withdrawn.

"Any document signed by students pursuant to these by-laws shall stand cancelled and have no further force or effect," Cruz said. The administration has now constituted a committee, including student representatives, to draft a document specifying the "Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities of Students". The draft will be placed before the Senate for consideration and approval, with the provisions coming into effect only after such approval. The withdrawal, however, has not ended the controversy. Students are seeking clarity on who authorised the disputed undertaking and how it became part of the admission documents without approval from the Senate. A student leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the administration had repeatedly given assurances but failed to act on them. "The Director has been bypassing the requisite

bodies, including the Senate as mandated under the IISER statutes, while pursuing his own ideas and approaches," the student alleged. The controversy comes days after a September 2 incident in which an employee of a private logistics company died in a lift-related accident on campus. Students alleged that the incident was not initially



communicated to the wider student or faculty community and that the Registrar issued a statement only after repeated questions through emails. The student community has demanded an internal inquiry into the lift's maintenance and repairs, besides an independent safety audit of similar campus infrastructure. Hostel

accommodation for the newly admitted first-year students has also become a major concern. Students alleged that two students were accommodated in rooms meant for single occupancy, resulting in severely cramped conditions. The SRC had sought an open house with the Dean (Students) on issues including disciplinary guidelines, warnings to parents, annual room and hostel changes, minutes of an earlier post-protest meeting, pharmacy and medical facilities, and room arrangements for the MS26 batch. The situation was further aggravated, students said, by the death of a first-year student in the hostel. They alleged that the incident was not immediately communicated to the wider institute community. At a condolence meeting the following day, students said neither the Director nor the Dean (Students) addressed the student body as a whole. Students have since demanded a transparent inquiry into hostel occupancy, a time-bound plan for hostel expansion and renovation, accountability for the lift accident and long-term support for the deceased worker's family.

Once mocked for working in fields, this Moga woman generates Rs 80L annually from leased land

Mandeep Kaur Khaira, 40, has just half an acre at Talwandi Mallian village of Moga district, but she farms 40 acres, owns three tractors and seven trolleys and farm equipment worth around Rs 80 lakh, and has built an agricultural enterprise, generating around Rs 80 lakh annually, from the land that almost belongs to others. [...]

Jalandar. (Agency)

Mandeep Kaur Khaira, 40, has just half an acre at Talwandi Mallian village of Moga district, but she farms 40 acres, owns three tractors and seven trolleys and farm equipment worth around Rs 80 lakh, and has built an agricultural enterprise, generating around Rs 80 lakh annually, from the land that almost belongs to others. When Mandeep and her husband began farming on the leased land nearly two decades ago, people in her village did not see a woman in the field as something to admire, and questioned her husband Jagdeep Singh Khaira (41). "Villagers used to say that, despite being a woman, she is made to work in the fields. Fields are not a woman's work. They used to make fun of us, saying what we

would make from leased land, but we never cared," Mandeep, a Class XII pass, recalls. After her marriage, Mandeep, who comes



from an agricultural family, started farming on about 9-10 acres of leased land. Her husband owned only half an acre and was also in sand transportation using his tractor-

trolley. Mandeep wanted to farm on a larger scale and discussed the idea with Jagdeep. They decided to lease land — though it was not an easy start, as landowners generally prefer farmers with financial backing.

"For someone with a little holding, it was difficult to gain their trust. Landowners wanted to be sure that even if there was a loss due to crop failures, their lease money would be safe," she says. The family gradually increased the leased land to around 16 acres. As they established themselves as dependable tenants, they were offered another 24 acres a few years ago, taking their total leased land to about 40 acres. The growth came gradually through farming income, reinvestment and the family's ability to continue making the leased land work.

Distressed after watching Nepal videos, UP boy gives his piggy bank for flood relief

Lucknow. (Agency)

On Thursday, an eight-year-old boy walked up to the district magistrate of Bahraich carrying a gulak — a small earthen piggy bank — he had lovingly filled with coins and cash over the past year. Alfaz Sheikh, a Class III student, asked that it be sent, just as it was, all the way to Nepal, to help people whose lives had been upended by the recent flash floods.

Officials are now working out a way to honour the boy's wish and ensure his gift reaches its destination intact, coins and all. Bahraich, a district in Uttar Pradesh sharing its border with Nepal, saw 14 unidentified bodies — believed to be flood victims — being swept down the Gandak River from Nepal into India. After conducting postmortems and preserving DNA samples, the district administration handed the bodies over to Nepali authorities. But amid this solemn exchange, a small act of a child's kindness found itself caught in bureaucratic limbo.

Sources said that when officials tried to hand over Alfaz's gulak along with the bodies,

Nepali authorities reportedly declined to accept it, asking instead that the money be deposited directly into a bank account. Now, officials are exploring another route — reaching out to the Nepal Embassy with a request to ensure that Alfaz's gulak, exactly as he had given it, finally makes its way to



the flood-affected people of Nepal.

"District Magistrate Mahender Singh Tawar has directed that the gulak be sent to the Nepal Embassy, so it can reach Nepal along with other relief items. It represents a child's own savings — a small gesture of solidarity from him — and every effort is being made to

ensure it reaches the Embassy intact," an official said. Speaking to The Indian Express over the phone, the child said: "Mujhe accha nahi laga mobile par video dekh kar, log pareshan hain Nepal mein baad aane par. Humney apney baba se kaha hum apna paisa dena chahte hain pareshan logo ko, toh unhone kaha theek hai aur humne de diya (I felt bad watching videos on the mobile — people are suffering in Nepal because of the floods. I told my grandfather I wanted to give my money to the people in trouble, and he said okay, so we gave it)."

Alfaz, a resident of Betiya village in Kushinagar, is the third of four children born to Imran Siddiqui, who works in Riyadh, and Nusrat Parveen. "Alfaz wanted to give away the savings he had collected in his gulak over the past year to the flood victims. These were coins and small notes he had received from elders over time — we believe there must be around Rs 2,000 in there. When I told his father about it, he said that if Alfaz wished to do this, we should find a way to send it to Nepal," said his grandfather Qasim Ali.

Census date reset puts early Punjab poll buzz to rest

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Centre on Saturday advanced the population enumeration for Census 2027 in Punjab and three other poll-bound states, effectively putting to rest speculation that the Assembly elections in the border state could be held in November this year.

According to a gazette notification issued by Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, population enumeration in Punjab, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and the non-snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand will be conducted from December 1, 2026, to January 4, 2027. A revisional round will follow from January 5 to 9, while citizens in these areas can opt for self-enumeration between November 16 and 30. The reference date for Census 2027 for these states will be 00:00 hours of January 5, 2027. All of these are poll-bound states and the terms of their Assemblies will end by May 2027. The revised schedule is significant for Punjab, where the five-year term of the Assembly is due to end on March 15, 2027. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had taken oath on March 16, 2022, after the Aam Aadmi Party stormed to power winning 92 of the 117 Assembly seats. The Census

schedule also makes it difficult for the Election Commission to hold the Assembly polls in November, as had been speculated in political circles since June.



A large number of government employees, particularly teachers, are deployed for Census work as well as election duties. Conducting the two exercises simultaneously would create considerable logistical and manpower challenges, an official said. The development comes nearly three months after AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal triggered speculation by

suggesting that Punjab could go to the polls in November 2026 instead of February 2027. Addressing an AAP gathering in Bathinda in June, Kejriwal had claimed he had been told

parties' preparations, leaving little time for candidate selection, organisational mobilisation, booth-level planning and campaigning. Among others, a tight deadline would have affected the BJP, which is seeking to expand its footprint in Punjab and emerge as a serious contender in the 2027 elections. Having ended its long-standing alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal, the party is looking to build an independent organisational base across the state, even as speculation persists over a possible rapprochement between the two parties.

The BJP won only two Assembly seats in the 2022 polls and drew a blank in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. However, the party has been seeking to position itself as a serious contender by expanding its organisation and inducting leaders from rival parties.

The 2022 Punjab Assembly elections were held on February 20 after polling was postponed from February 14 following a request from then Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who had cited the large number of devotees expected to travel for Guru Ravidas Jayanti. Votes were counted on March 10, with the AAP winning 92 seats. Mann took oath as Chief Minister on March 16.

Men didn't want to obey her, so they killed Razia Sultan: Punjab textbooks smash gender bias

Ludhiana. (Agency)

What Sidhak wants is a kitchen set. All her friends have one, and when her "Daarji", who's cooking in the kitchen, ignores her, she gets petulant. "Daarji just doesn't care," she says. Instead, her grandfather asks her to watch the Republic Day parade.

Reluctantly, Sidhak watches it and sees a woman fighter pilot salute her national flag. Then she forgets all her annoyance. "How big are these? Can I also fly them?" she asks, just as her grandfather intended. Sidhak forgets all about the kitchen set and instead gets a miniature fighter jet as a "gift".

The story, titled 'A Gift for Sidhak', is part of the Class 7 curriculum in Punjab government schools and the state government's campaign to buck gender stereotypes and redefine gender roles. Five years after the Punjab Education Department collaborated with the NGO Breakthrough and The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab South Asia (J-PAL) in 2021 to integrate 'Gender Sensitisation' into the regular curriculum, the change is visible on the pages.

From explaining how gifting kitchen sets to girls and cars or aeroplanes to boys can influence gender roles to highlighting women previously relegated to the margins of history, the new curriculum is aimed at one thing: understanding, questioning and countering gender biases from a very young age.

These efforts are particularly visible in the English and social studies curriculum — from stories such as 'A Gift for Sidhak' to viewing important historical figures such as Razia Sultana and Nur Jahan through a different lens. The efforts are not just for students but also for teachers, Sunita Prabhakar, component head for the Gender Sensitisation curriculum of the Punjab Education Department, tells.

"The teaching material or books alone can't bring the change. We have trained teachers on how to convey such lessons in the classrooms. The curriculum now also includes stories on how families should support women's career ambitions and men should also participate in household chores," she says.

Delhi HC cancels FIR in fight between friends, orders community service in Manipur

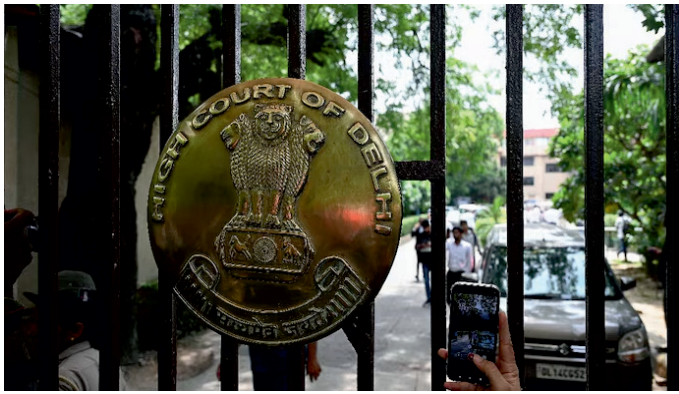
Observing that the chances of the case ending in a conviction were remote, the court said continuing the criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose.

Delhi. (Agency)
The Delhi High Court has cancelled an FIR lodged after a fight between friends, saying the dispute had been amicably settled and ordering the two accused to perform community service at a hospital in Manipur. The court said the complainant and the accused remained friends and had no subsisting grievance against each other. Observing that the chances of the case ending in a conviction were remote, the court said continuing the criminal proceedings would serve no useful purpose. It made the relief of cancelling the FIR conditional on community service and payment of costs. In an order passed on August 21, Justice Prateek Jalan said, "... I am of the view that it would be appropriate to make the relief sought (quashing of FIR) subject to undertaking community service and paying appropriate costs. The petitioner and respondent no. 4 (both accused) shall

undertake community service for a total of six sessions of two hours each at Regional Institute of Medical Science, Manipur." The court said both men must report to the hospital's medical superintendent, who will assign suitable duties to them. The court directed that the community service be completed within two months from the date of commencement. After that, the medical superintendent will issue a compliance certificate, which is to be placed on the court record. The two men were also directed to collectively pay Rs 10,000 to the Delhi High Court Bar Association within two weeks. The order came while allowing a plea seeking cancelling of an FIR registered at Dabri Police Station in Delhi. The FIR, registered in March last year, was based on a complaint by a man who alleged that he was living in a rented flat with his friend when both accused forcibly entered

the premises and assaulted him and his friend. According to the FIR, one of the residents was allegedly kicked and punched, causing him to fall headfirst onto the kitchen slab and suffer a head injury. In its order, the court noted that the FIR did not allege the use of any firearm or sharp weapon, or any separate act directed towards

causing the head injury. The court was told that the parties had settled the matter without any coercion or undue pressure and had signed a settlement deed. The injured person also told the court that he had recovered from the injury and was not suffering from any lasting consequences. The parties said they remained friends and had no subsisting grievances against each other. While cancelling the FIR, the court noted that the dispute arose from a quarrel between friends and was resolved shortly after the FIR was registered. "In these circumstances, continuation of the criminal proceedings would serve no meaningful purpose and would only perpetuate discord and animosity between parties. The ends of justice would, therefore, be better served by bringing the proceedings to a quietus," the court observed.



MCD to set up 24 ‘Nigam Shree Vidyalayas’ across Delhi to mentor neighbouring civic schools

Delhi. (Agency)
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will establish 24 ‘Nigam Shree Vidyalayas’ across its 12 zones, with two schools in each zone, as part of an initiative aimed at improving the quality of education in municipal schools. Mayor Pravesh Wahi made the announcement during a Teachers’ Day function organised by the civic body at the Civic Centre on Saturday. The proposed schools will serve as mentor institutions for neighbouring MCD schools and help improve teaching practices and educational standards. Wahi said MCD schools had witnessed considerable improvement, highlighting the availability of smart classrooms and teachers. He said the civic body had a responsibility to provide quality education and facilities to children studying in its schools. The Mayor also announced the ‘Sahbhagita Initiative’, which will seek to improve education quality while involving parents through technology. Another initiative, the ‘Nigam Mini League’, will identify sporting talent among municipal school students in cricket and football. The league will focus on children in the Under-9 and Under-11 age groups. Education Committee chairman Yogesh Verma said the 24 Nigam Shree schools would provide a “new direction” to MCD’s education system and contribute towards the goal of a developed India by 2047. The announcements were made during a ceremony where 87 MCD educators—4 principals and 83 teachers—were felicitated for their contributions. Union Minister of State and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra, who attended the event, urged teachers to ensure students continue their education as they progress from primary to higher classes.

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Shahpur Jat residents protest MCD move to use their only open space for waste-management vehicles

Residents say the 6,500-sq-m parcel is their only space for festivals and allege that work has damaged the Siri Fort Wall and uprooted trees.

Delhi. (Agency)
“We have given everything for the development of Delhi. Siri Fort, Hauz Khas and Panchsheel have all been developed on the land of Shahpur Jat village and this is the only piece of open land that we have to celebrate festivals like Holi, Diwali, Dussehra. But the MCD is being very insensitive,” says Saroj Panwar, a senior citizen from Delhi’s Shahpur Jat. Residents have been sitting on a dharna against the Municipal Corporation of Delhi’s (MCD) decision to allot a 6,500- sqm

land parcel, which they call the area’s only open space, to waste management contractor South Delhi MSW Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (SDMSWSPL) for parking vehicles and other activities. The protest has been joined by senior citizens and young residents, who are demanding withdrawal of the civic



body’s August 31 authorisation letter. Residents have also formally approached the Archaeological Survey of India and Forest Department, alleging damage to the Siri Fort Wall and uprooting of trees after work

Delhi govt honours teachers,vows to address gaps in school infra, curriculum

Delhi. (Agency)
The Delhi government on Saturday felicitated 118 teachers and principals with State Teachers Awards 2026, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta saying the government was working to improve education by addressing gaps in school infrastructure and curriculum. Addressing the Shikshak Mahakumbh–State Teachers Awards 2026 at Thyagaraj Stadium, Gupta said the government aimed to take education to “great heights”, but the process had to begin by ensuring basic facilities in schools. “We want to take education to great heights and make a lot of progress, but the previous governments did not do anything in 12 years. So, after coming to power, we have had to start working

from a very low level,” she said. Gupta said the government was repairing toilets, ensuring water facilities, carrying out maintenance, whitewashing and undertaking other



repair works in schools. “Many schools had very poor toilet facilities. Once, I went for an inspection to a very good and reputed school, which the previous government used to boast about. When I saw it, there was no gate in the toilet. How would our girl

students have been using it?” she said. The Chief Minister said the government was also working on courses and curriculum, with the Education Department and Education Minister Ashish Sood continuously reviewing the issues. Calling teachers the “strong foundation” of society, Gupta said they not only impart textbook knowledge but also instil values, skills, confidence and a sense of duty among students. She said Rs 19,148 crore had been allocated for education in the 2026-27 financial year. Education Minister Ashish Sood said the recruitment process for 10,417 teachers had been initiated to address shortages, while 613 special teachers would also be recruited to support students with special needs. He said the government was working to resolve teachers’ administrative.

Delhi Metro Issues Warning To Influencers Over Dangerous 'Phone Sticking' Reel Trend

Delhi. (Agency)
Delhi Metro train windows recently became a new target of social media reels, with the trend going viral across all platforms. A growing online trend, where influencers paste or stick their mobile phones onto the glass of moving trains to record videos, has drawn strict action from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The authorities posted an official advisory on Instagram after several clips flooded platforms like Instagram Reels. DMRC warned creators that filming such content is prohibited on Metro premises and stated that offenders will face necessary action. "The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has noticed that some social media content creators are pasting their mobile phones on the Metro train windows and shooting videos with the moving train," the



statement read. "This act can cause inconvenience or even Injury to other passengers and can damage the mobile phone devices of the users."



"DMRC authorities are viewing this with all seriousness and if any content creator is caught indulging in such a shoot, necessary action shall be taken."

"Therefore, the content creators are hereby directed to not shoot such videos within the Delhi Metro premises." **What Is the Trend?** The trend originally started abroad before spreading to social media creators in India. Creators attach a mobile phone, often using suction mounts, to the window of a Metro coach. Many videos feature the creator dancing or posing on the platform, then dramatically sprinting after the train as it pulls away, making it look like they left their phone behind. However, they stick their phone out of the window while remaining inside the train, with another person in the coach holding onto it, and safely retrieve it afterwards. One viral video from a local creator amassed over 135 million views, sparking a wave of duplicate videos across Delhi Metro stations.

Delhi HC fines DTC Rs 1 lakh for dragging 32-year-old bus conductor back-wage dispute through courts

Delhi. (Agency)
The Delhi High Court has imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for pursuing a 32-yearold litigation against a bus conductor over payment of back wages for 17 months, terming it an abuse of the process of law. Justice Amit Mahajan, while dismissing the DTC’s appeal against a 2004 Industrial Tribunal order in the conductor’s favour, said the department’s continued litigation over such an “inordinately long period” had resulted in avoidable expenditure of public money. The court said DTC could recover the costs from the officer responsible for pursuing the “insignificant dispute”. Of the Rs 1 lakh cost, Rs 25,000 will be paid to the Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee, Rs 50,000 to the



PM Relief Fund and Rs 25,000 to the conductor. The case arose after the conductor was accused of failing to issue tickets to three passengers despite receiving Rs 67 as fare in November 1994. He was suspended and later removed from service in August 1996, though the order was subsequently set aside. In 1998, the DTC chairman directed his reinstatement without back wages and with reduced pay. The Industrial Tribunal in 2004 held the punishment illegal and said he was entitled to wages on his regular pay scale and arrears. The High Court had stayed the tribunal’s order in 2005. Justice Mahajan said the tribunal’s findings were reasonable and based on available material, warranting no interference.

NEWS BOX

US Open Day 8 schedule: Sabalenka, Alcaraz headline fourth-round action

Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz lead the US Open Day 8 fourth-round schedule in New York. Quarter-final spots are on the line alongside several key American match-ups.



New Delhi. (Agency)

The 2026 US Open enters its second week on Sunday, September 6, with the fourth round taking centre stage at Flushing Meadows. The round of 16 features several of the tournament’s biggest names, with defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz among those beginning their push towards the quarter-finals. Sabalenka, the women’s top seed, will resume her title defence against American Taylor Townsend. The Belarusian is chasing a third consecutive US Open crown and has been one of the most consistent players in the draw so far, while Townsend will have the home crowd behind her as she looks to reach the quarter-finals. Alcaraz will also face American opposition as the second seed takes on 20th-seeded Tommy Paul on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The defending champion is targeting an eighth Grand Slam title and will be tested by Paul, who has already battled through a demanding path to reach the last 16. The schedule also features several intriguing clashes involving other major contenders. American eighth seed Ben Shelton takes on Stefanos Tsitsipas, while 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev faces 11th seed Frances Tiafoe. On the women’s side, third seed Jessica Pegula meets 16th seed Sorana Cirstea, while Emma Navarro and Anna Kalinskaya also battle for a quarter-final place. With the tournament now entering its second week, every match carries greater significance as the remaining players look to secure their place in the final eight. The fourth-round action will be spread across Arthur Ashe Stadium, Louis Armstrong Stadium and Grandstand.

Coco Gauff, Naomi Osaka advance as Iva Jovic ends Alexandra Eala's US Open run

New York. (Agency)

Coco Gauff advanced to the fourth round of the US Open for a fifth consecutive year, while Naomi Osaka also survived a tense three-set battle to keep her campaign alive. Iva Jovic then completed a memorable night for the American women by edging Alexandra Eala in a marathon clash to set up an all-American meeting with Gauff. Gauff, the fourth seed and 2023 champion, overcame Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-4 on Arthur Ashe Stadium. She did not produce her cleanest tennis, particularly on serve, but recovered from early setbacks and found another level when the pressure increased. “I'm just happy with how I



fought through, even when I wasn't playing my best,” Gauff said. The 22-year-old fell behind 1-3 in the opening set but responded by taking control from the baseline. She broke Bucsa again in the eighth game after a lengthy 21-shot exchange and closed out the set. Gauff then produced another crucial break late in the second before sealing victory at the net. “I feel like I'm used to getting to the second week now,” Gauff said. “Last year, I put so much pressure on myself. I'm enjoying the experience out here.” **OSAKA BATTLES IT OUT** Two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka continued her comeback at Flushing Meadows with a hard-fought 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 win over 23rd seed Elise Mertens. The Japanese 13th seed moved into the fourth round after recovering from a breakdown in the deciding set. Osaka made the brighter start, building a 4-1 advantage in the opening set, but Mertens fought back and levelled the contest. The Belgian then looked capable of completing the turnaround before Osaka regained her composure late in the decider.

Alexander Zverev overcomes Tabilo wobble to reach US Open fourth round

Alexander Zverev beat Alejandro Tabilo in straight sets to reach the US Open fourth round. He recovered from a second-set wobble and set up a last-16 meeting with Luciano Darderi.

New York. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev survived a mid-match wobble to maintain his push for a deep US Open run, defeating 25th seed Alejandro Tabilo 6-2, 7-6(2), 6-2 on Saturday. The top seed recovered his composure after surrendering a lead in the second set to book his place in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows. Zverev came into the contest having already spent nine hours and 26 minutes on court across back-to-back five-set battles against Lorenzo Sonego and

Quentin Halys. The German made sure he would not be dragged into another marathon, making a blistering start against Tabilo and taking the opening set in 43 minutes. The 29-year-old broke Tabilo twice early and dictated proceedings with his powerful groundstrokes. He continued in the same vein at the start of the second set, moving 4-2 ahead and appearing firmly in control before his level unexpectedly dipped. Tabilo capitalised, winning three games in succession and moving within a game of taking the set. Zverev eventually stopped the slide and forced a tiebreak, where he rediscovered his rhythm. After Tabilo took two of the opening three points, Zverev reeled off six straight to claim the set and put himself firmly in command.

ZVEREV MARCHES ON

The German carried that momentum into the decider, although Tabilo threatened immediately by creating break-point opportunities in the opening game. Zverev held firm, using two winners to escape danger before Tabilo's backhand error handed him the game.



From there, Zverev took control. He broke for a 4-2 advantage in a 12-point game, eventually converting after Tabilo produced a double fault, and held serve to move within a game of victory. The top seed then closed out the contest without further trouble. He finished with 42 winners compared with Tabilo's 22 and converted

six of his 13 break-point opportunities, while the Chilean struggled to maintain the level that had briefly unsettled his opponent. Zverev's victory sends him into the fourth round, where he will face 21st seed Luciano Darderi. A place in the quarter-finals will be at stake when the pair meet in the last 16.

Who will retire Rohit Sharma?

Rohit Sharma's retirement has been announced, discussed and speculated about several times, but the 39-year-old keeps scoring runs. So, who gets to decide when India's former captain's career is finally over?

New Delhi . (Agency)

Every simple movement is a tell-tale sign in Indian cricket. A player sits on a balcony with his teammates, and suddenly it is a farewell. A cricketer's family turns up at an IPL game, and retirement rumours begin. A senior player signs up for reality television, and that too, is apparently a clue. In Indian cricket, retirement is no longer something a player announces. It is something everyone else tries to predict. Outside noise is one of the most frowned-upon phrases in Indian cricket, even

before the day and age of social media. Sachin Tendulkar had his own 'Endulkar' pieces following him. MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and now Rohit Sharma have all had to deal with it. At 39, the former India captain is dealing with so much more than just form and fitness. Let's do a quick recap, because keeping track of Rohit Sharma's retirement has become a full-time beat in itself. Ever since Shubman Gill was appointed as the ODI captain, there were murmurs that Rohit was not going to get the ticket to South Africa in 2027. He then hit a 70 and a hundred in Australia. Since then, he has hit two fifties and a hundred in nine matches. But the rumours hit a fever pitch earlier this year. Before the tour of England, the whispers began that this would be his last assignment in India colours. By the time the Lord's ODI came around, those whispers had hardened into certainty. This, everyone agreed, was the end. The Home of Cricket, a fitting final bow, roll credits. Except

Rohit did not appear to have read the script. He walked out at Lord's, ground down England's bowling attack and brought up his hundred with a sweep off Adil Rashid to become the first Indian to score an ODI century there. India lost the match and the series 2-1, but the story of



the day was written in one paragraph and one man's bat. Asked about the noise afterwards, Rohit did not so much address it as shrug it off with the weariness of a man who has been having this conversation for the last couple of years.

Pakistan still the best: Coach's bizarre take after India bundles them out for 55

Dubai. (Agency)

“Pakistan is the best side in this Asia Cup” — Wahab Riaz’s claim would have been surprising in any context, but it came moments after his team had been bowled out for 55 by India. The Pakistan coach’s assessment left everyone puzzled as India chased down the target in just 8.4 overs to seal a seven-wicket win in Dubai on Saturday. Riaz made the bizarre statement during his post-match press conference, backing Pakistan to lift the Women’s Asia Cup despite their emphatic defeat. He argued that the conditions suited his team and insisted the players could quickly put their poor showing against India behind them. “I still believe Pakistan is the best side in this Asia Cup to lift the trophy because the conditions really suit us,” Riaz told reporters. The confidence came after

Pakistan endured a disastrous batting display. They were dismissed for 55 in 18.1 overs, their lowest total in recorded T20I cricket, before India reached the target with 68 balls remaining. “We will go



back and discuss what we did wrong against India. We will try not to commit the same mistakes,” Riaz said. Pakistan struggled to build any sort of partnership, with only Muneeba Ali and Shawal Zulfiqar managing double-digit scores.

India’s bowlers kept the pressure on throughout, with Shree Charani taking three wickets while Deepti Sharma and Prema Rawat picked up two each. **RIAZ DEFENDS SQUAD OVERHAUL** Riaz was also asked about criticism from former Pakistan captain Sana Mir over the decision to make seven changes to the squad after the T20 World Cup earlier this year. The Pakistan coach defended the overhaul, arguing that the experienced players who were left out had not produced the results expected of them. “We have made changes with the future in mind. The players who were playing before, they have played a lot of World Cups and Asia Cups but we weren’t getting the results,” Riaz said. “It was time to go with new faces and bring new girls into the mix to build the team for the upcoming tournaments,” he added.

Lionel Messi starts life after Argentina with two assists in Inter Miami draw

Miami. (Agency)

Lionel Messi returned to club football after announcing his Argentina retirement and immediately made his presence felt for Inter Miami, setting up both goals in a 2-2 draw against Atlanta United. The result denied Miami a victory on a rain-hit night, but Messi once again showed that stepping away from international duty has not diminished his influence on the pitch. The match marked Messi's first appearance since he confirmed that his time with Argentina was coming to an end. Despite a delay of more than 90 minutes because of heavy rain and lightning, the 39-year-old received a huge reception when he emerged for the warm-ups, with the crowd particularly vocal when he came out of the tunnel. “It was very emotional,” Inter Miami midfielder Rodrigo De Paul said before the



match. “We lived with so much excitement having him out there on the field. It brought us so much joy to see the Argentina jersey all over the world, and it always had a No. 10 on the back,” he added. Messi then turned that anticipation into an influential performance. He delivered an outswinging corner in the 32nd minute that Casemiro powered into the far corner with a header, putting Miami ahead. Atlanta responded almost immediately through Miguel Almir n, but Messi was involved again before half-time. His involvement in the move helped create the opening for Telasco Segovia, whose perfectly weighted pass found Luis Suarez.

Gianii Infantino dodges FIFA future questions amid fallout over failed World Cup plan

Gianni Infantino declined to discuss his future at FIFA when asked at the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland. His silence comes as scrutiny persists over FIFA's failed plan to sell a share of future World Cup profits.

Katowice. (Agency)

FIFA president Gianni Infantino refused to shed light on his plans for the future as he attended the opening match of the Under-20 Women's World Cup in Poland on Saturday. Infantino was asked about his position amid continued scrutiny following the collapse of his controversial proposal to sell off a share of FIFA's future World Cup profits. Infantino was in the stands as hosts Poland faced Argentina on the opening day of the tournament. Asked by Sky News about his future, the FIFA president said there would be a time to address the issue, but insisted the focus should remain on football. “There will be a lot to say, but there will be a right

place and a right time to say this. It's not today, it's not here, but here and today, we are enjoying football,” Infantino told Sky News. He did not directly respond when asked whether he had considered resigning or whether he still planned to seek a fourth term in next year's FIFA presidential election. Instead, Infantino pointed towards FIFA's wider work and its aim of expanding football's reach globally. “We are continuing at FIFA, of course, to work to give every corner of the world a chance, an opportunity, a dignity, to find ways and means for them to become better and to participate and to celebrate football,



which we all love,” he said. **INFANTINO UNDER PRESSURE** Infantino has faced mounting opposition since details emerged in July of a proposed

20 billion USD FIFA subsidiary that would have controlled commercial rights, including those linked to the World Cup. The plan involved investors led by a New York fund created by Joshua Kushner, with FIFA's 211 member associations offered \$20 million each. The proposal was withdrawn within four days after opposition from several confederations, including UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation and CONCACAF, as well as criticism from senior FIFA officials. European nations also threatened to boycott the U-20 Women's World Cup before FIFA provided assurances that the plan would not be revived.

FPIs turn sellers again, pull out Rs 7,443 crore from Indian equities in first week of September

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net sellers of Indian equities in the first week of September, withdrawing Rs 7,443 crore after investing in the market for two consecutive months. The latest selling came as a rebound in crude oil prices, rising US bond yields and a firm dollar weighed on risk appetite.FPIs had infused Rs 30,919 crore into Indian equities in August and Rs 20,200 crore in July. Before the two-month buying streak, foreign investors had remained net sellers for four consecutive months from March to June.

With the latest withdrawal, the total amount pulled out by FPIs from Indian equities in 2026 has risen to Rs 2.32 lakh crore. This is higher than the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn during the whole of 2025.

Crude rebound, yields and dollar weigh on sentimentRajkumar Rath, chief investment officer at YES Securities, said the recent selling was driven by a rebound in crude oil prices, which raised concerns over India's inflation and current account outlook."Further strengthening US bond yields and a firm dollar index have reduced foreign risk appetite for emerging markets," he said.Rathi also pointed to India's premium equity valuations, particularly in growth sectors and the mid- and small-cap segments, as factors prompting foreign funds to book profits and rebalance portfolios.

Despite the selling in the secondary market, he said foreign investor appetite for India's primary market has remained "structurally resilient".

Global cues to guide FPI flows

Looking ahead, global bond yields are likely to remain a key driver of FPI flows, VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments, said.Brent crude prices, evolving US-Iran geopolitical tensions and upcoming US inflation data ahead of the Federal Reserve's mid-September policy meeting will also influence foreign fund flows, said Pabitra Mukherjee, Deputy Vice President-Research at Bajaj Broking.

Europe is moving its gold out of America; where is it headed

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold is supposed to be the ultimate safe haven. But as geopolitical uncertainty rises, European central banks are rethinking where they keep their most trusted reserve asset. After France and Germany, Netherlands became the latest to make an exit, shifting part of its gold holdings from North America to London.

The relocation has raised concerns about whether central banks are bracing for a major economic shock.Experts, however, say that the move is less about predicting a crisis and more about preparing for an increasingly uncertain world, where geopolitical tensions, trade wars, inflation and interest rates are reshaping how countries manage their reserves.

Why the Netherlands shifted its goldBetween March and August, De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) relocated 86 tonnes of the roughly 313 tonnes it held in the US and Canada to the Bank of England vaults in London. According to DNB, the move was made "in view of increasing geopolitical unrest" so that the gold could be "readily available for use in a crisis situation". Governor Olaf Sleijpen, as cited by BBC, said that it was "necessary to strengthen our resilience and preparedness." The move comes amid trade disputes and military conflicts, including an ongoing trade dispute between the US and Canada, with both countries announcing fresh tariffs after failed trade talks.

India’s headline inflation expected to hit 4.88% in August on food, fuel pressures: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

India’s headline retail inflation is expected to accelerate to 4.88 per cent in August from 4.44 per cent in July, driven by persistent food price pressures and a further rise in fuel inflation, according to a report by Union Bank of India.

“We expect India's Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) to rise to 4.88% in August' 26 from 4.44% in July, marking the second consecutive monthly acceleration and highest reading in the 23-24 series,” the report said.Food inflation is projected to rise to 6.03 per cent in August from 5.24 per cent in July, driven by continued price pressures across key food items. However, the composition of food inflation is expected to shift, with vegetable inflation projected to moderate sharply to 0.39 per cent year-on-year. This decline is likely to be offset by continued price increases in other essential food categories.Sugar inflation is expected to rise sharply to 11.53 per cent month-on-month in August 2026, its highest level on record, following an estimated 15 per cent increase in sugar prices during the month.As per Union Bank, price trends from the Department of Consumer Affairs indicate broad-based increases across several categories, with sugar, vegetables, cereals and edible oils witnessing continued upward price movements, while pulses and milk prices remained largely firm.At the same time, “milk inflation is expected to strengthen in the next couple of months following the recent upward revisions in retail milk prices across several states,” while cereal inflation likely rose further to “2.2%, while pulses inflation increased to 2.

CIBIL score: Maintain these habits for quicker loan approval

Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL) is a credit information company that gathers the financial and credit payment history of individuals or businesses from banks, NBFCs, and other institutions on a monthly basis.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Keeping a strong credit score may significantly improve your chances of loan acquisition. How well you maintain your credit score signals lenders about your ability to pay them back on time. The three-digit number is gauged by your

financial stability and creditworthiness over time, depending on your ability to pay back borrowed money on time. A CIBIL score ranges from 300 to 900, and a score of 700 and above is considered good.Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL) is a credit information company that gathers the financial and credit payment history of individuals or businesses from banks, NBFCs, and other institutions on a monthly basis. For a lender to approve your loan, you must build habits that give you a higher CIBIL

score:

Pay your bills on time: Set reminders and keep a note of payments to be made. Late payments can reflect poorly on your credit history; late or missed payments can ruin an otherwise good credit score.

Maintain a long credit history: Having a strong and long credit history makes it

easier to get a loan. To maintain a lengthier history, try to keep your old credit card for as long as it helps in making timely payments. A longer



history helps ease loan approval, since lenders deem you a more responsible borrower. Conversely, regularly applying for new cards can shorten your history, thus reducing your score.

Manage your credit utilisation ratio:

Keep a check on your credit utilisation ratio and enhance your credit limit when needed, as per your expenses. It is better when your card usage is well below the limit, since keeping your expenditure at the edge of it can negatively impact your reliability as a borrower. Restrict your credit usage according to the limit to maintain a good score for a longer duration.Choose longer loan tenors smartly: Choosing loans with a longer tenor can be a smart move to maintain a good score, since the EMI is usually lower. A low EMI is easier to pay, thus helping you make repayments on time. This builds up your credit score and indicates your financial stability.Avoid taking multiple loans simultaneously: Taking multiple loans at once indicates a lack of funds. It is better to apply for a new loan only once you have made the complete repayment of your previous one.

India emerges as key diesel supplier to Europe amid Russian export disruptions

New Delhi. (Agency)

India accounted for 60 percent of the diesel transiting through Bab-el-Mandeb to Europe in August, as per the report from energy intelligence firm Vortexa. India has established itself as a significant supplier amid restricted Russian exports and weakening US shipments.The strategically important shipping route halted the passage of vessel amid the Middle East crisis in March and April. However, the volume bounced back nearly to the previous year's level with 2,00,000 barrel per day of diesel being transitted through Bab-el-Mandeb in August. A significant portion out of this was exported from India owing to its extensive refining capacity.The recent figure highlights India's importance to Europe's eastern diesel supply. Being the fourth largest oil refiner in the world the country's refining capacity is

higher than the domestic fuel demand. India refines 258.1 million tonnes crude oil per year.

India has emerged as a major



exporter as geopolitical tensions, sanctions, refinery disruptions, and changing global trade routes are reshaping the flow of refined products. During 2025-2026 the country has been one of the largest exporter of refined fuel with a total export of 61.5 million tonnes petroleum products. These products are now landing significantly in European and Russian market.

IPOs raining this week: 11 issues to mobilise Rs 7,055 crore, know details of each

Kolkata. (Agency)

It will be raining IPOs this week on Dalal Street. A total of 11 companies are launching their IPOs between September 7 and 15 with the design to raise approximately Rs 7,055 crore. Significantly, six IPOs will open simultaneously on Wednesday, September 9, while three companies will launch their issues on Tuesday, September 8. One IPO will open each on Monday, September 7 and Thursday, September 10. However, IPOs from several other companies may also be announced next week.Three companies will also be listed on the stock market. Purple Style Labs will be listed on Monday, while Rage of Belief and Deep Jewellers will begin trading on Dalal Street on Tuesday.

Pranav Constructions IPO
Pranav Constructions’ initial public offering (IPO) will be open from September 7 to 9. The company has set a price band of Rs 118-124 per share, with a lot size of 120 shares. The total IPO size is Rs 351.03 crore, consisting of a fresh issue of Rs 315.60 crore and an OFS of Rs 35.43 crore. Allotment of shares is expected on



September 10th, while listing on the BSE and NSE is expected on September 15.

3 IPOs to open on Tuesday

Glass Wall Systems IPO, Prasol Chemicals IPO and Kanahar Electricals IPO will open on September 8. Glass Wall Systems IPO of Rs 427.89 crore will be open from September 8 to 10. Its price band is Rs 172 to Rs 182 per share and the lot size is 82 shares. The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 60 crore and an OFS of Rs 367.89 crore. Allotment is expected on September 11, and listing on September 16 on the BSE and NSE.

Oil price, US jobs data, rising bond yields may impact Indian stock market next week

The benchmark indices ended higher on Friday, but surrendered most of their intra-day gains and closed near the day's lows after the closing auction session (CAS).

HONG KONG. (Agency)

The Indian stock market is likely to remain sensitive to global cues next week, with crude oil prices, rising bond yields, stronger-than-expected US jobs data and foreign investor flows emerging as key factors that could shape investor sentiment. Renewed tensions between the US and Iran, uncertainty over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and shifting expectations around US interest rates are expected to keep volatility elevated.

The benchmark indices ended higher on Friday, but surrendered most of their

intra-day gains and closed near the day's lows after the closing auction session (CAS). The Sensex gained 363 points to close at 76,515, while the Nifty rose more than 24 points to finish below the 23,898 mark.The broader market performance remained mixed, with the Nifty Midcap 100 slipping into negative territory, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 managed to end in the green.One of the biggest concerns for investors heading into the new week is the renewed rise in crude oil prices. Oil gained around 8 per cent during the week after the US and Iran exchanged strikes following a month-long lull, reviving fears of a supply disruption as the Strait of Hormuz remains shut for oil transit. The prolonged disruption has also prompted a reassessment of crude price expectations. Citi has raised its average Brent crude price forecast for the third quarter to \$86 a barrel from its earlier estimate of \$80, citing expectations of a longer-than-anticipated timeline for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Higher oil prices could put additional pressure on inflation and corporate costs in oil-importing economies such as India. Investors will therefore closely monitor developments in the Middle East and any



indications of when normal oil shipments through the strategic waterway could resume.Another major concern is the sharp rise in global bond yields. A bond-market selloff of a scale not seen in decades has pushed yields across several major economies to multi-year highs. Markets are currently dealing with a combination of oil-driven inflation,

expectations of tighter monetary policy and deteriorating fiscal conditions.

The rise in crude prices and fuel costs has increased inflationary pressures while also pushing up government borrowing costs globally. At the same time, investors are assessing the possibility that tighter financial conditions could weigh on economic growth if there is no meaningful easing in inflationary pressures.US monetary policy expectations could add another layer of volatility. A stronger-than-expected US jobs report has brought the possibility of a September interest-rate hike back into focus, creating a difficult policy choice for Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh amid pressure from US President Donald Trump for lower borrowing costs.US employers added 162,000 jobs in August, almost three times the number expected by economists. The labour force participation rate also increased to 61.6 per cent.



Khushi Kapoor

Buys Tiny 180 Sq Ft Mumbai Apartment For Rs 63 Lakh

Khushi Kapoor, daughter of Boney Kapoor and late Sridevi, has made a real estate investment. Janhvi Kapoor’s sister Khushi Kapoor has purchased a residential flat in Mumbai’s Bandra West for Rs 63 lakh, according to property registration documents accessed by CRE Matrix. The property is located in Samtadeep Building on 25th Road in Bandra West, a well-known residential and celebrity neighbourhood in Mumbai. According to the documents, the flat has a carpet area of 180 sq ft and a built-up area of 216 sq ft. According to the registration document, Kapoor bought the property from Farooq Chagla for Rs 63 lakh. She also paid Rs 3.15 lakh in stamp duty for the transaction, which was registered on September 1, 2026. Based on the registered sale value and the flat’s carpet area, Kapoor paid around Rs 35,000 per sq ft for the property. Calculated against the built-up area, the rate comes to approximately Rs 29,167 per sq ft. On the work front, Khushi Kapoor made her acting debut with The Archies in 2023 as Betty Cooper. She has since starred in the romantic comedies Loveyapa and Nadaaniyan (both 2025). Kapoor did her schooling at Mumbai’s École Mondiale World School. She later did a year acting course at the New York Film Academy in New York City, in 2019.



Shreya Ghoshal

Calls Out Bollywood’s ‘Male-Heavy’ Music Industry: ‘It’s A Patriarchal, Gender-Based Thing’

Some of Bollywood’s biggest hits have also carried lyrics that women might have every reason to question. Shreya Ghoshal says she has turned down such songs in the past, even when they went on to become hugely popular. For the popular playback singer, the issue is bigger than a few questionable lines as it points to a music industry she still considers “very male-heavy.”

In an interview with The Male Feminist Podcast, Shreya Ghoshal was asked about saying no to songs which had inappropriate lyrics. The singer said, “The lyrics are one thing. There is also a composition and singing style. There were some popular songs which did very well, but I said no. Thankfully, now, those songs have become quite less. After a point, the songs in films became such that only those types of songs were given to female singers. The rest are male songs, and there are some romantic duets.”

“So we have to see where it is stemming from. The problem is for singers and actresses and everyone who is part of this industry. It is a slightly patriarchal, gender-based thing. But the good thing is now, because of independent music, it is changing. But still, I feel it is very male-heavy. I have spoken very strongly about it earlier, and I don’t mind if it is taken in a good way or a bad way,” she added.

Meanwhile, in 2025, while talking to Lilly Singh, Shreya had confessed to singing some raunchy songs in her career, including Chikni Chameli. However, she said that she would not sing them today. Shreya had said, “There is a very fine line between being sensual, sexy, and being outright objectified, or objectifying women in general. The reason I’ve become more conscious over time is that I see little girls singing these songs without understanding their meaning. They’re just dancing to them, and they come to me saying, ‘Oh, we love your song! Can we sing it for you?’ and I feel very embarrassed. A little girl, just five or six years old, singing those lyrics, it doesn’t sound right.”



Bigg Boss 20: Salman Khan Starts Grand Premiere Shoot, His Cowboy Hat Look Grabs Attention



The countdown to Bigg Boss 20 has officially entered its final stretch. Salman Khan has begun shooting for the landmark season of the reality show and, on Friday, September 4, gave fans their first look at him on the grand premiere set. Salman shared a four-picture carousel from the set on Instagram, keeping his caption characteristically brief with just “#BiggBoss20”. The photographs show him posing against a massive gold installation of the number 20, two days before the new season goes on air.

Salman Khan Shoots For Bigg Boss 20 Grand Premiere

For his latest appearance, Salman opted for a fitted black T-shirt, dark trousers and a grey waistcoat. He completed the look with a black cowboy hat. In the first two pictures, the actor poses in front of the giant “20” installation, while the remaining photographs show him standing inside the zero of the number.

The post quickly drew attention as preparations for the premiere gathered pace. Salman began shooting for the grand premiere in Mumbai on Friday. Photos and videos of the actor from the set have also surfaced online. Salman is returning as host for the twentieth Hindi season. The actor has been associated with Bigg Boss since Season 4 and has remained the face of the show through most of its run.

What’s New In Bigg Boss 20?

This year’s theme is titled “Tathas-Two”, with the season introducing an “Extra Jeevan Daan” twist. Salman had earlier teased that while the game changes every year, Season 20 would also alter the way contestants play it. Details about exactly how the additional life will operate inside the house are being kept under wraps until the show begins. The house itself has undergone a major makeover. Designed around the idea of duality, it includes unusual installations such as a teapot transformed into a couch, an octopus holding chess pieces and a hot-air balloon converted into a seating space. A mysterious Room No. 20 has also been created, although its purpose has not yet been revealed.

Samay Raina Accuses Varun Dhawan Of ‘Ruining’ Border 2, Actor Responds ‘Voh Chali Thi’



Samay Raina roasted Varun Dhawan in the latest episode of India’s Got Latent 2 and accused him of ruining Border 2. It all started after a contestant asked the judges to choose a number from 1 to 5. Varun chose 1, saying, “I like 1.”

Samay interrupted the actor and took a dig at him, saying, “Why did you spoil Border 2 then.” While the response left Varun laughing out loud, the actor defended the film and clarified that it earned money. “Yaar voh chali thi,” he said.

Following this, Samay asked Varun to name his last film, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai . The stand-up comedian then gave a hilarious twist to the name of the film and said, “Hai papa director toh actor toh hona he hai.”

About Border 2

Directed by Anurag Singh, Border 2 released on January 23, 2026. The film stars Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan, Ahan Shetty and Diljit Dosanjh, and serves as a sequel to the 1997 war classic Border. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar. The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, JP Dutta and Nidhi Dutta, and is presented by Gulshan Kumar & T-Series in association with JP Films.

The film received mixed reviews and performed decent at the box office. It had a lifetime collection of around Rs 465 crore.

Samay Jokes About Varun Dhawan’s IGL Appearance

During the show, Samay Raina also took another dig at Varun Dhawan and recalled how Alia Bhatt had also featured on his show after the last year’s controversy. “I have got such big stars after the FIR – Alia Bhatt and now Varun Dhawa, the show keeps going down,” he said. Sharon Verma also joked about a statement Varun made in the past. “I am a big fan of you Varun. My favourite performance is when you said ‘Dilwale is like Inception,” she said. However, Varun clarified that he said it sarcastically.

5 ways to organise your Book shelf

1. Categorise it alphabetically:

One of the best ways and the most common method of organising your book shelf is by arranging the books according to the alphabets. You can either do it by the author's first or last name or by organising it according to the book title.

2. According to genre:

This is the easiest way to organise your books and also find them when you are looking to read a particular genre. Make separate shelves for comedies, classics, thriller, suspense etc.

3. Colour coded:

You can turn your book shelf into a giant rainbow by arranging them according to the colour of the book. For example, if most of your books are black and white, you can create a monochrome section.

4. Arrange according to publications:

If you do not wish to mix your books, the ideal way to arrange them is by separating them according to the publisher. You can build different sections for each publisher, so that you do not get confused while arranging your books.

5. According to emotions:

You don't have to ideally follow the usual method of arranging books. You can do it a bit differently. If there are books that have been gifted to you by friends and family, you can make a separate section for them and label it accordingly. While the books that you have bought for yourself can be organised in another section and labeled.



If you're a bookworm and not a particularly organised person, you're sure to have tons of books lying around the house. It is easy to segregate your book collection in an organised and functional manner, this not makes your work easy but also makes your work and space a lot more clear and consistent. Here are a few ways you can organise your book shelf

How to clean a paddle brush

How to have a neat, clean and hygienic paddle brush for an everyday use.

Ask any women and her biggest nightmare will be a bad hair day. And to steer clear away from these real nightmares women resort to many helping tools and techniques. However, the most trusted helping tool is the paddle brush. But have you ever realized that these brush apart from giving our hair luster they consume a lot of dust, oil, moisture and germs as they are always kept in open. It's mandatory to clean up your paddle brush twice every month for a lustrous and healthy hair. Here are some tips:



1. Take a pen/pencil and start sliding it in the paddle brush under the accumulated hair. Slowly pull up until the hair starts to loosen; slowly remove the hair. Keep on repeating until your brush is clean.

2. Once you are done doing that, take a big bowl in which the bristles can be completely soaked. Now add some warm water in the bowl with a teaspoon of baby/mild

shampoo and stir well. Now soak the paddle brush in it for about two hours. It will remove the dust, oil and all the unwanted particles.

3. Remove the brush and rinse off the remaining water and pat it dry or dry it with the help of a drier.

4. Once dried, again soak your brush in a bowl filled with warm water and a pinch on baking soda for an hour. This works as a disinfectant.

5. Pat dry your brush and once it's completely dried you have a brand new brush there

How to manage your daily chores

Not everyday would you like to get involved in cleaning up act at home that involves you spending most of the time doing up the chores. Here's how to go about handling your daily chores wisely that would allow you spend more quality time with your loved ones:

Plan the day's activities: This sounds like chalking out a school time table, but planning out in advance makes your life simpler. Taking from giving a



particular time slot to washing clothes to arranging the utensils in the kitchen, allotting a set time to a set activity can take away the hassle of piled up and pending work.

Do not postpone things: Unless it is unavoidable, take up activities as per the plans. If you keep postponing doing things, the work load will multiply the next day. Sticking to a time table is always better. However, altering the time table to suit your

work and home requirement also can be tried.

Club events: If on a shopping trip, club the allied activities like going out for a lunch before or after the shopping or picking up essential things for home needs can be thought upon. This will not only save you making another trip on another day, but also enable you spend some more quality time with family.

Uncluttered space:

One fundamental rule of having a happy, inviting space is to have uncluttered space. Clutter gives a feel of stress to the space. Nobody likes to see piles of clothes, stacks of bills, magazines, books lying here and there. Keep your space uncluttered and bring in a sense of happiness.

Let your space be unobstructive:

For creating a comfortable environment, the space needs to have a sense of free flow. The idea is to make moving through your home — getting from the front door to the seating areas, the dining space, the bathroom and more — obstacle-less. Don't put huge, bulky furniture all over the place so that no one can squeeze through, and don't put too many floor pillows so that your guests will have difficulty in navigating.

Bring in your personality:

Your home should reflect your distinct personality. When people visit your house, they should be able to strike a connection with your personality. The essence lies in creating a space that feels like you. So, make all efforts to bring in different facets of your personality in your decor. Sprinkle unique design details around the house. For this, you need not spend a fortune. Push your creative boundary and indulge in some DIY projects.

Let your house smell fresh:

Good fragrance is heady. So make sure that your house smells nice. Keep some nice floating aromatic candles in the house. And of course nothing can beat the smell and aesthetics of fresh flowers.

A touch of green:

Having green space in your home makes it definitely a space worth visiting again and again. So, create your own green space no matter how small/ big your house is. If you want to extend a 'green' welcome to your guests then put some potted plants at the entrance/hallway.



Five ways to create an inviting Space

Having a home that is inviting – that welcomes visitors with a touch of warmth and lingers in the minds of guests long after they have left your home– definitely makes for an enjoyable and memorable place. Here are five simple ways to make your space inviting