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PUBLISHED FROM
Delhi, Haryana, Uttar
Pradesh, Punjab,
Chandigarh, Himachal
and Jammu

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT:
www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 18 No. 114

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Friday, 11 September 2026

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9654077232

12 pages ₹ 3

Jagan Reddy raises questions over DSC recruitment, targets Andhra CM

Amravati. (Agency)

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday questioned why Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and state Minister Nara Lokesh were not responding to the questions raised by the opposition regarding the DSC recruitment process.

He questioned why the preparation and supervision of DSC examination papers were placed in the hands of a single individual, and why the government introduced GO No 4 and GO No 47. He also asked why the GOs were changed after the recruitment process was completed. Jagan alleged that irregularities in the DSC recruitment were emerging one after another. He described DSC as a "gem" in what he called Chandrababu Naidu's history of scams.

BPCL MAK lubricants BPCL MAK lubricants He questioned how 372 posts under the sports quota were filled without conducting an examination. He alleged that GO No. 4 and GO No. 47 opened the gates for irregularities.

"People demand justice, get water cannons and tear gas": Mallikarjun Kharge targets MP govt over Sagar spurious liquor deaths

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday targeted the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government over the deaths of 31 people allegedly due to consumption of spurious liquor in Sagar district, alleging that the state government had failed to value human lives and take accountability. In a post on X, Kharge said, "The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has reached the peak of corruption. The state of apathy and negligence is such that now even human lives have no value left. In Sagar district, 31 people have lost their lives to poisonous liquor. 11 people are still fighting between life and death."

"31 families have been shattered - for some, a son is gone; for some, a father; for some, a husband. But for the BJP government, this too is just another 'accident'. Because this has been the BJP government's way for the past 22 years," he added.

Kharge further alleged that several incidents of deaths due to contaminated liquor, water and medicines in Madhya Pradesh reflected "failure of governance" and claimed that the government had avoided accountability.

"In Balaghat, more than 27 children died, and the High Court had to reprimand the government because the BJP's incompetent administration was still waiting for a survey report even after a month had passed. In Indore, contaminated water claimed 36 lives. 25 children died from poisonous cough syrup.

PM Modi-President Xi bilateral likely at BRICS, first since 2020 Galwan clash

Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to arrive in New Delhi on Saturday for the BRICS Summit, where he is likely to hold his first bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.

New Delhi(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12, marking the first face-to-face bilateral talks between the two leaders since the deadly Galwan Valley clash in 2020.

The proposed meeting is expected to be closely watched as India and China seek to consolidate a cautious thaw in ties following years of military tensions, diplomatic estrangement and strained economic engagement.

Xi is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on Saturday for the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit, which India will host on September 12 and 13. His visit will mark his first trip to India in seven years and his first since the 2020 border crisis. New Delhi

and Beijing, however, are yet to issue a formal statement confirming the proposed bilateral. The two leaders recently shared the stage at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek, where they shook hands but did not hold a formal bilateral meeting.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT AHEAD OF XI'S VISIT

Ahead of Xi's India visit, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval travelled to China for high-level discussions as part of efforts to sustain diplomatic engagement between the two countries.

The Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs has also met, followed by talks between the two countries' Special Representatives on the boundary question. The renewed diplomatic

engagement comes amid a gradual stabilisation of ties following the disengagement of troops from several



friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

FROM GALWAN TO CAUTIOUS STABILISATION

India-China ties have remained under severe strain since June 2020, when troops

of the two countries engaged in a violent confrontation in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the clash, while China later acknowledged the deaths of four of its soldiers. The confrontation triggered a prolonged military stand-off along the LAC and resulted in a sharp deterioration in political, economic and diplomatic relations.

Since then, the two sides have held multiple rounds of military and diplomatic negotiations aimed at disengaging troops and easing tensions at friction points along the border. While the disengagement process has reduced the immediate risk of military confrontation, the broader boundary dispute remains unresolved. The PM Modi-Xi meeting would therefore carry considerable political significance, coming after years of limited.

Need results, not reviews: Andhra CM asks officials to focus on governance delivery

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu told Andhra Pradesh collectors to prioritise results, factual reporting and faster execution. The message underlined his push for proactive governance and a stronger response to misinformation.

Amravati.(Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday told officials that results matter more than reviews, and asked them to submit an action taken report on issues discussed at the previous collectors conference. Addressing the eighth district collectors conference at the Secretariat, he said officials must focus on delivery and accountability.

Naidu urged district collectors to see themselves as public servants and said leadership begins with taking ownership. He told the two-day conference, being held on September 10 and 11, that the government now needed visible outcomes from its work. "Let's



remain public servants, avoiding ego. We need results, not reviews," Naidu said. He noted that several structural changes had been brought in over the past 27 months in the state, and said the results of those initiatives were now

visible. The Chief Minister directed IAS officers to move from reactive governance to proactive governance, saying pending files amounted to pending development. Likewise, he said pending complaints indicated pending justice for people.

Naidu said a vision without execution was only an aspiration. He added that times had changed, and that apart from delivering work, it was also important to counter 'fake propaganda'.

Amid what he described as fake propaganda, the TDP supremo asked officials to take the lead in countering misinformation. He also told collectors not to submit reports that mislead the government and instead place facts before them.

Intent of Census 2027 dubious, questions flawed: Congress targets Modi govt

New Delhi (Agency)

The Congress on Thursday alleged that Census 2027 had been "totally perverted", with party general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh saying its intent was "very dubious" and parts of its content were "worthless, superfluous and diabolical".

His remarks came after a media report said the government's decision to advance the Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027 in four poll-bound states, along with several new questions in the Census schedule. Some former Census officials have raised concerns about the quality of data to be

collected and possible links between the Census, the National Population Register and



the National Register of Citizens. In a post, Ramesh said, "Census 2027 has got totally perverted." "Its intent is very dubious

and content at times worthless (like the caste Q), at times superfluous since data sets already exist (like vaccination) and at times diabolical (like names, religion, place of birth, etc of a person's parents)," the Congress leader said.

The Congress on Wednesday also alleged that the government's decision to use open-ended questions instead of a drop-down list in the current format of the caste census was a "very serious flaw", and said it appeared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted the entire process to "fail". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi jointly wrote to PM Modi on the issue, along with the party's demand that the caste census.

How did Raghav Chadha become Delhi voter? Poll body explains curious case

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid a massive row over the sudden inclusion of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha's name in Delhi's electoral rolls, days after it was removed from the Punjab draft voter list, the poll body has now clarified the curious case. The office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said Chadha filed Form 6 to get his name added to the voter list of Rajinder Nagar constituency on August 26.

The application was approved on September 2 after "due procedure", the poll body said. At the centre of the controversy is a pertinent question. How was Chadha's name shown on the Delhi voter list after the draft rolls had been published and before the publication of the final list,

Amid a political row and curiosity over the addition of AAP-turned-BJP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha's name to Delhi's electoral roll, the poll body has now come out with a detailed explanation and chronology of events.



which is supposed to happen on November 4?

The AAP has gone hammer and tongs at the Election Commission, alleging that Chadha's name was added to Delhi's voter list through the "backdoor" after it was deleted from the Punjab draft electoral roll amid the ongoing SIR exercise.

CURIOUS SIR CASE OF RAGHAV CHADHA

Due to the SIR exercise to weed out ineligible voters, Delhi's electoral roll was frozen between June 16 and August 31. The draft list was published on August 31. It did not include Chadha's name. His name also did not appear in the draft Punjab electoral roll, which was published on August 13. The entry beside his name shows "permanently shifted", as per Election Commission records. Chadha had then accused the AAP government in Punjab of pursuing.

AAP rejigs top panel ahead of Punjab 2027 polls, Mann gets permanent PAC role

CHANDIGARH (Agency)

With an eye on the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, which are less than five months away, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has made a major change to its 10-member Political Affairs Committee (PAC), the party's highest decision-making body. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, and former Delhi minister and co-in-charge of party affairs in Punjab, Satyendar Jain, have been inducted into the committee.

Earlier, Mann was a special invitee to the committee by virtue of being Chief Minister. He is now a permanent member. These appointments suggest that the AAP is treating the upcoming polls as a high-stakes contest rather than assuming that its 2022 mandate will automatically translate into a second term.

A new 23-member National Executive has also been constituted, which includes Rajbir Singh Ghuman, OSD to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, and Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of Arvind Kejriwal. Ghuman's name has recently cropped up in the Enforcement Directorate's investigation into the alleged "cash-for-transfer and land fraud" case. Interestingly, Aam Aadmi Party Punjab president Aman Arora, Jagraon MLA Saravjit Kaur Manuke, and Talwandi Sabo MLA Baljinder Kaur are no longer members of the National Executive.



1-year-old drowns in water-filled bucket at Faridabad home

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A one-year-old boy drowned in a water-filled bucket at his home in Jeevan Nagar Part-II, Faridabad, on Wednesday. The child, Aryan, was the only son of his parents. Police said his mother was doing household chores in an upstairs room while his father, Bajrangi, had gone out for daily-wage work. Other family members were also busy with household activities when Aryan was playing on the terrace. According to his grandmother, Meena, Aryan wandered towards a bucket filled with water that had been kept near the bathroom. He fell face-first into it and was unable to



get out. When the family realised that the child had been missing for some time, they searched for him and found him inside the bucket. They immediately rushed him to a govt hospital, where doctors referred him to another facility. The family then took him to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Rain likely to return in Gurgaon from Sept 11, but activity to remain isolated

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After a sunny start to the week and a dry spell, rain is likely to return to parts of Haryana from Sept 11. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast isolated showers in Gurgaon and neighbouring districts over the next few days. The forecast categorises rainfall as “isolated” when up to 25% of reporting stations in a district are expected to record rain. IMD’s five-day district-wise rainfall forecast issued on Wednesday shows no rain in Gurgaon and Faridabad on Sept 9 and 10. But on Sept 11, both districts are to receive isolated rainfall, along with Palwal and Mewat in southern Haryana. Several northern districts — Yamunanagar, Panchkula, Ambala and Kurukshetra — are likely to see isolated or few spells earlier. ome more widespread across the state on Sept 12 and 13, though there’s no indication of heavy rain. Despite the expected increase in rainfall activity, IMD’s weather warning chart shows no warning for any district of Haryana through Sept 13. Meanwhile, Gurgaon remained dry in the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday. The minimum temperature at Gurgaon KVK station was 26.4°C, while NorthCap University automatic weather station recorded a minimum of 26.9°C. Faridabad recorded 27.1°C, with neither reporting rain. Across Haryana, the average minimum temperature rose by about 1°C compared with Tuesday but remained near normal, according to IMD. The state’s lowest minimum temperature was 23°C at Bhiwani.

Green corridor from Ghaziabad to Noida helps transport heart over 20 km in just 16 minutes

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Ghaziabad traffic police created a 20km green corridor on Wednesday to facilitate a heart transplant from Hindon airport to the city. The organ was transported in 16 minutes to Fortis Hospital in Noida Sector 62. The heart was harvested from a 34-year-old woman — declared brain-dead — and transplanted into a 62-year-old man suffering from heart disease. Fortis Heart & Vascular Institute chairman Ajay Kaul told TOI that Tapas, a retired govt employee, had a very bad heart condition, adding, “50% of his heart was not working”. Tapas’ treatment has been underway in the hospital since April. His health was in such poor shape that he had to be hospitalised every two to three months. In fact, there were times when he remained admitted for as long as 20 days. “In June, the first week, we registered him for a heart transplant,” Kaul said, adding, “On Tuesday night, we learnt about a woman at Army Command Hospital in Haryana who had been declared brain-dead, but whose heart was completely healthy. She had also expressed a wish to donate her organs. A team was assembled under the leadership of Gaurav Sharma — who heads the heart centre at Fortis Hospital — consisting of surgeons, anesthesiologists and other medical staff. At 3am, the team flew to Panchkula and after completing all the necessary paperwork, the heart was transported by the team in a private jet to Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad. It was then brought to the hospital at 2.30pm.” “We were prepared in the operating room and as soon as the donor heart arrived, we immediately removed the patient’s heart and implanted the new one. We successfully carried out the heart transplant and the patient is now in stable condition,” Ajay said. Sharma said the team reached Chandigarh airport around 5am on Wednesday. After collecting the heart from Army Command Hospital with necessary precautions, the team returned to Chandigarh airport at 1pm and reached Hindon airport at 2pm. The team transported the heart to the hospital within 16 minutes.

How many Satya Niketans in Gurgaon? Tiny EWS plot owners are now PG barons

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The collapse of a five-storey building in Delhi’s Satya Niketan, killing seven people, has brought renewed scrutiny to Gurgaon’s own PG boom. The sprawling ecosystem rests largely on residential bungalows quietly turning into unauthorised high-density accommodation blocks. And among the biggest income generators for PG barons are the smallest plots of land, meant to house economically disadvantaged families. The site of the tragedy was a boys’ PG on a small plot with illegal construction. Delhi authorities have now ordered structural audits, turning a spotlight on a problem Gurgaon has lived with for years. A survey by the department of town and country planning (DTCP) in

2022 identified 2,080 guesthouses in Gurgaon. Of these, roughly 1,400 were unauthorised, occupying more than 100 acres in prime residential pockets. A Jan 2026 estimate, drawn from housing data and RWA inputs, put the number of PGs in Gurgaon at around 7,000, of which fewer than 500 were registered. Haryana Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognisance, seeking reports from DTCP, fire services, Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran, the municipal corporation and the district administration. Evidence of how deep the rot runs has come from DTCP’s own enforcement drive in DLF Phases 1 to 5, long seen as ground zero for the city’s illegal-PG economy — 5,099 notices were issued till June this year; only 763 owners had responded. Around 2,000 more notices have been served since then. Nowhere is the scale

of illegal action starker than on Economically Weaker Section plots — 540 sq ft parcels allotted at subsidised rates to low-income families. These are sanctioned for barely two-and-a-half floors with strict density limits. An EWSPlot can be partitioned into a dozen-plus PG cubicles once expanded to six or seven floors, turning it into an income stream running into several lakhs of rupees, outside any registration, tax or licensing framework. A DTCP survey found violations in 83% of EWS plots. Construction proceeds often at night, so each addition passes for repair rather than a fresh illegal floor. Occupation certificates issued for the sanctioned structure are rarely revisited. Hearing petitions filed by DLF City RWA since 2018, Punjab and Haryana HC has noted that unauthorised constructions are “mushrooming”

despite officials having flagged the problem. The court has remarked that a “powerful lobby” appears to be resisting enforcement. It took a five-floor building in Phase 3 tilting to finally push DTCP to survey multi-storeyed construction on plots under 150 sq yards. “Smaller plots top the chart in violations,” a district town planner conceded. In June, DTCP enforcement teams sealed 262 PG and guesthouse rooms across eight buildings in DLF Phase 3. This included a Nathupur Road complex running 128 rooms out of one property. The problem, however, is not confined to the places where the crackdown has been concentrated. PGs have proliferated just as aggressively in Sushant Lok Phase I, Sector 38, Sector 46, U-Block, Chakkarpur, Sikanderpur and other pockets near Cybercity and the metro corridor.

Sanitation strike enters 35th day, workers demand written govt assurances

Gurgaon.(Agency)

On the 35th day of their protest, sanitation workers on Wednesday extended their strike by another four days till Sept 13, with their union alleging that state govt has failed to issue written orders on demands it has claimed to have accepted. “Govt has not accepted any of our demands in writing. At different times, ministers have claimed that 12, 13 or 14 demands have been accepted, but there is no official letter or notification,” Haryana Municipal Employees Union state vice president and Gurgaon president Basant Kumar said. He said that ministers, including urban local bodies minister Vipul Goel and social justice and empowerment minister Krishan Bedi, had made differing public claims about the number of demands accepted by govt but that no formal notification or govt order had been issued. The union has also demanded compensation for the families of two employees who it says died after losing their jobs, and a permanent govt job for

one dependent from each family. It has sought withdrawal of suspensions and terminations, cancellation of cases



registered against employees and an end to what it termed police intimidation of protesters. The employees are also demanding implementation of the agreement reached with govt on May 13, abolition of the contract system for sanitation and sewer work, creation of sanctioned posts and permanent recruitment, besides regularisation of temporary employees in municipal and fire departments.

Govt has, meanwhile, taken a tougher position as the strike has dragged on. It directed striking sanitation workers to return to duty by Sept 5, warning of action against those who failed to comply. The strike, which began on Aug 6, has caused mounting disruption to garbage collection and sanitation services across Haryana. In Gurgaon, workers earlier extended the strike till Sept 9 and warned that it could become indefinite if their demands remained unresolved. The latest escalation comes amid growing pressure on state govt. TOI had also reported earlier this month that garbage had accumulated across Gurgaon. The union had alleged that alternative arrangements for waste collection were being used to weaken the agitation and had called for an inquiry into expenditure and bills generated for sanitation work during the strike. Employee leaders on Wednesday alleged that govt was using police personnel to facilitate garbage collection and intimidating or detaining striking workers.

On-duty constable dies in collision between auto, tractor in Loni

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

An on-duty constable of Uttar Pradesh Police who was travelling for official work from Loni to Delhi died on Tuesday after a tractor-trolley rammed the auto-rickshaw he was in. The deceased, Suraj Kumar (24), had joined the police force in 2025 and received his first posting at Loni police station a few months ago. Loni SHO Yogendra Singh said Suraj left the police station in the auto around 4pm. He sat in front, beside the auto driver, as other passengers were seated at the back. Near Banthala-Chirodi Marg, a tractor-trolley, coming from Delhi, collided head-on with the auto, the officer said. “All the other passengers, as well as the auto driver, received minor injuries and were discharged after treatment. But because of where he was sitting, the constable’s leg



was caught between the tractor and the trolley. His leg was fractured and a vein ruptured, leading to severe blood loss,” Singh said. Passersby informed police about the accident, after which a team

reached the spot and took the injured to a hospital. Kumar succumbed to his injuries during treatment at night. The tractor driver, who had fled the spot after the accident, is yet to be traced, but police have seized both the auto-rickshaw and the tractor. The SHO said they are checking CCTV footage to identify the driver. Kumar’s family lodged a complaint on Wednesday evening and an FIR has been registered. On Aug 12, a 40-year-old home guard died and a constable was injured at the Rahul Vihar underpass on NH-9 after a PRV bike on which they were travelling was hit by a Thar. About 24 hours afterwards, a car carrying a police team and a 20-year-old who had gone missing from his house in Aligarh collided with a stationary tanker on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway at Lal Kuan.

Relief for 1.6k homebuyers as Supreme Court clears path for stalled Sushant Aquapolis project resolution plan

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

In a relief to 1,600 homebuyers of Sushant Aquapolis, which is under insolvency proceedings, Supreme Court has cleared the path for implementation of the resolution plan by permitting corporate debtor Ansal Urban Condominium to develop a 24-metre-wide pathway at the project without claiming any title over the land. The 26-acre township near Crossings Republik was launched in 2007-2008. Between 2014 and 2017, developer Ansal API submitted layout drafts and revised proposals to Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) under the Uttar Pradesh Integrated Township Policy, but financial constraints, mismanagement and disputes with creditors led to lapses in building layout approvals over the years. In 2019, the company was declared insolvent and the project went to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which tasked One City Infrastructure Pvt Ltd with completing it. The resolution plan submitted by One City was approved under Section 31 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, but construction could not resume as



GDA withheld renewal of the development licence and sanction of the revised building plan. The development authority held that the original allottee, Ansal API, could only apply under the rules. One City then moved Supreme Court, which ordered GDA and the UP govt to approve the layout plan.

On July 30, SC directed the UP govt and GDA to resolve the issues within two weeks and ordered a site inspection. GDA subsequently told the court it would sanction the building plan after an online application, keeping homebuyers’ interests in mind. On Aug 21, GDA board approved the proposal to pass the revised

building plan. On Sept 8, SC observed that where a resolution plan for a stalled housing project.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

NEWS BOX

Fire on passenger ferry in Philippines leaves dozens missing and at least 5 dead

MANILA.(Agency)

A fire broke out on a passenger ferry in waters off the western Philippines, leaving dozens of people missing, the coast guard said Thursday. At least five people were killed.So far, 42 people have been rescued and efforts are ongoing, so the count of 87 people missing may change, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said in a radio interview.

The ferry MV June Aster had sailed from Manila and was near Coron in Palawan province when the fire started Wednesday.Cayabyab said 134 peple were on board, 117 passengers and 17 crew.Images have been rescued and efforts are ongoing, so the count of 87 people missing may change, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said in a radio interview.

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Indian-Origin Couple Donates \$20 Million For US College To Be Named After Them

Washington.(Agency)

An Indian-origin engineer couple donated USD 20 million to the University of North Texas to set up a college of artificial intelligence and advanced analytics. The college will be named after them.

The university announced that the new college will be named Anuradha and Vikas Sinha College of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytics and will create new opportunities for students and faculty."Vikas and Anu's commitment will create new opportunities for our students and faculty to build, study and apply these technologies while advancing central priorities of our Look North: UNT 2030 strategic plan - reshaping how we prepare students for a changing labour market, accelerating interdisciplinary research and innovation, and creating enduring value for North Texas and the state," said UNT President Harrison Keller.

About College

The college will be organised around the Division of Applied Intelligence and Informatics, focused on building and deploying intelligent systems, and the Division of Information and Learning Applications, focused on how information and intelligent systems operate within human and institutional contexts.

5 Dead, Over 80 Missing As Ferry Catches Fire In Philippines

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

At least five people were killed and 87 remain unaccounted for after a fire erupted aboard a ferry near a tourist hotspot in the Philippine province of Palawan, the coast guard said Thursday.

The fire aboard the M/V June Aster broke out Wednesday evening about 2.2 kilometres (1.3 miles) offshore, the coast guard said, adding that five casualties had been brought ashore.

Video shared by the coast guard on Facebook showed the vessel completely engulfed in flames.

"Based on the data we have right now on rescued (42) and the casualties, we still have 87 people who are unaccounted for," coast guard Captain Noemi Cayabyab told a local radio station on Thursday, adding the ship's manifest had listed 134 passengers and crew."Just to make it clear, this is live data and may change as our search and rescue operations are ongoing," she said.

"Surge In Construction" Seen At Iran's Suspected Nuke Site At Pickaxe Mountain: Report

Washington.(Agency)

A suspected Iranian nuclear site, deep inside Pickaxe Mountain, has seen a surge of construction this year, even as the war in the Middle East continued, according to a group of analysts who reviewed six years of satellite imagery. Buried deep under granite, the site near the Natanz nuclear complex, roughly 140 miles south of Tehran, has been under the watchful eyes of global intelligence agencies as a likely location for Iran's new and undeclared enrichment facility.

Analysts at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank, reviewed satellite imagery spanning six years, the latest from August 9, and found "a clear surge in construction activity" this year, with Iran erecting "a security perimeter around the facility."

"Multi-source imagery analysis of Pickaxe Mountain and the Natanz Nuclear Facility from 2020 to the present reveals a clear three-phase activity signature across the five key points of interest and the roads

connecting them, indicating a site that has shifted from active excavation toward probable internal construction and continued exterior reinforcement," the CSIS analysts wrote in their report.

"Together, these images reveal more road activity at Pickaxe Mountain in 2026 than at any point in the site's history. There is a clear surge in construction activity in 2026 that corresponds to the raising and hardening of the portal accesses, paving of the internal road network, reinforcement around access areas, and the flattening and removal of excavation spoil," they added.However, the analysts added that they could not refute or substantiate a reported Israeli intelligence claim that Iran has moved uranium centrifuges and centrifuge parts into Pickaxe Mountain last fall. What New Activity Could MeanIranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in September said the satellite imagery of the site was insufficient to determine what was happening at Pickaxe Mountain and called for the UN's nuclear watchdog on the ground to verify the site's purpose.

Iran strikes ships, expands no-go zone outside Hormuz strait

The US military for its part had said it was responding to an Iranian attack targeting an American warship, the second such incident in less than a week.

TEHRAN.(Agency)

Iran said it attacked more than a dozen vessels trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, as it announced an expansion of a no-go zone outside the strategic waterway it has blockaded for months.The fresh attacks and fighting with the United States sent oil prices above \$100 per barrel again as Tehran chokes off the strait and Washington presses a counter-blockade of Iranian ports. Brent oil closed at \$101.21.Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Wednesday they attacked two US vessels, eight oil

tankers, and 10 "non-compliant vessels" that were trying to pass through the route crucial for oil and gas trade, Iranian state media reported.The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said "several" vessels in the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf were "subject to disabling fire as part of ongoing military activity in the region".The Gulf of Oman lies on the Indian Ocean side of the narrow Hormuz strait, a vital energy conduit that normally carries around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas.Iran's Guards also for the first time added parts of the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea to a new "prohibited zone" on Wednesday, saying exact coordinates will be announced later."If a vessel enters that area without coordination, it will be subject to our sanctions," Guards spokesman Hossein Mohebi told state television.The Guards also said they struck a US military base in Jordan in response to US forces destroying five Iranian oil tankers a day earlier.Jordan's army shot down 18 missiles fired at the

kingdom, it said.Iran's foreign ministry condemned the attack on its oil tankers as "an overt threat to regional and international peace and security," saying



the strikes "increase the dangers of tensions in the region".

It said the targeting of US military facilities in the region was "self-defence".

The US military for its part had said it was responding to an Iranian attack targeting an American warship, the second such incident in less than a week.

Long war?

Iran's Guards, the ideological arm of the military, said the war could be brought to an end if Washington met its conditions, which included demands on the wars in Lebanon and Yemen."It must... refrain from renewed threats, withdraw the Israeli regime's army from Lebanon, end the blockade of Yemen, release \$24 billion in Iran's frozen assets and refrain from any interference in the country's nuclear and missile capabilities," Mohebi said, according to Fars news agency.Donald Trump, an unpopular president eager to end an unpopular war, asserted Wednesday the conflict will conclude right after the mid-term US elections in November. Polls show his Republican Party could face a drubbing and lose control of one or both houses of Congress."I think the war will end immediately after the election" because Iran "can't hold out any longer," Trump told journalists, accusing Tehran of being "desperate to try and affect" the vote.However, the Wall Street Journal quoted US officials saying that Trump's top advisers are privately .

Trump promises each American \$5,000 if Republicans keep Congress in midterms

world.(Agency)

President Donald Trump on Wednesday promised \$5,000 to every adult American if Republicans retain control of Congress in November, coupling the extraordinary claim with a plea for his supporters to "pretend" he was on the ballot."If the Republicans win, you win with us and you get \$5,000. It will be called the Trump dividend," he told the Republican midterm convention in Dallas, as the party struggles in polls against the Democrats.The president did not say where the money would come from -- with the theoretical bill likely topping \$1 trillion -- citing only that "our country is making so much money."Doubling own on his bet that

he can help Republicans to defy opinion polls and retain both houses of Congress on November 3, Trump said “I’m asking you to pretend that



I'm on the ballot."I'm on the ballot, I'm on the ballot -- just one more time," he told the crowd.Opinion polls overwhelmingly show that Trump's approval ratings are in the low 30s, as voters become

increasingly angry about high prices and the war he launched against Iran.Decision Desk HQ projects Democrats to win the House 230-205 and the Senate to finish 51-49 in their favor in November.

Trump defends Iran war

Trump strongly defended the unpopular Iran war, predicting victory and linking it directly to lower oil prices -- before suggesting the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz should be renamed after him."Food prices and almost every other item are rapidly going down. And by the way oil will be going down as soon as we win the war with Iran, which is taking place right now," Trump said.

After eight years, Punjab family deported from Canada as asylum and humanitarian pleas rejected

➔The family is among a large number of immigration cases involving individuals facing removal from Canada, with preparations for deportation continuing in cases where removal orders remain in force.

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

An Indian-origin family from Punjab has been deported from Canada after eight years, following the rejection of their refugee claim and a subsequent request to remain in the country on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.The Kumar family—Harish Kumar, his wife, Sonika, and their two children, Gouresh, 12, and Japesh, 14—were ordered to leave Canada after their refugee claim was denied. They boarded a flight to India

on September 7.The family moved to Canada from Goraya in Jalandhar in April 2018 and had been residing in Quebec, where they sought asylum. Kumar said he left India because he believed his life was at risk.In his refugee claim, Kumar stated that he had run a grocery store in India and alleged that the police, under pressure from a political leader, had harassed him by filing false cases against him. He further alleged that he was illegally detained from August 12 to 19, 2017, and subjected to severe torture. He said the experience made him fear for his life and prompted him to seek safety in Canada.The parents worked, paid taxes and raised their two children in Canada. Harish worked as a truck driver, while Sonika also worked while raising and educating their children.According to the family, Canadian authorities informed them on September 4 that they would be deported on September

7 following the rejection of their asylum claim.The removal has been particularly difficult for Kumar's two sons, who spent most of their childhood in Quebec.Japesh was six when the family arrived in Canada. He told Canadian media that he had grown up in Quebec and had friends there, while knowing little about life in India. His brother, Gouresh, also said he knew little about India and would effectively have to start over. Mustafa Hennawy, an activist with the Immigrant Worker Centre, criticised the deportation. He said Harish had contributed to the Canadian economy by working as a truck driver during the COVID-19 pandemic and described his deportation as an injustice. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) said that once a deportation order against an undocumented foreign national is issued and the person is taken into custody.

A pilot of the Amazon cargo plane that careened off Miami runway warned it was coming in too fast

world.(Agency)

A lone juror blocked Lindsay Clancy from being acquitted, insisting he wouldn’t find her not guilty by reason of insanity despite saying during deliberations that he had reasonable doubt, the jury’s foreperson said in a TV interview Tuesday.

The interview with Boston’s NBC10 aired four days after a judge declared a mistrial when jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict on the question of whether Clancy was criminally responsible for killing her three young children in 2023.Clancy, a 36-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, never disputed that she killed the children. Her attorney said she had The pilots had time to correct or abandon their landing

At the point when the pilot first called out the plane was speeding, former FAA official Mike O'Donnell said the crew could have done a number of things to slow it down, including extending the spoilers, cutting the throttles and lowering the landing gear. Or the pilots could have just aborted the landing at that point and circled to try again.

"You have plenty of time to slow down, plenty of time to say, let's just do a go-around at two minutes out," said O'Donnell, who used to oversee airport safety and crash investigations.Plane was unsteady as it approached the groundInformation from the flight data recorder that was released late Tuesday shows how unsteady the plane was as it came in to land amid strong winds, and then the pilots briefly disengaged the brakes and shoved the throttles up as if they were trying to take off again and retry the landing. But they abandoned that just four seconds later.

The cockpit audio recordings also captured a series of automated warnings from the plane about the speed of descent and the approaching terrain. O'Donnell said those terrain warnings reinforce that the plane was unsteady and suggest it may not have been configured correctly for landingThe Amazon plane was well down the runway when its right and nose landing gear first touched down, reducing how much distance the plane had on the runway ahead of it to stop. Strong winds at the airport as storms moved in may have created a tail wind that helped propel the plane forward. Tracking site Flightradar24 estimated based on the NTSB data that the plane was nearly halfway down the 9,360-foot runway when it first touched down.The full transcript of the cockpit conversation won't be released until later in the investigation..

Several US Warplanes Damaged In Iranian Strike On Jordan: Report

Tehran.(Agency)

Several US military aircraft have suffered damage in an overnight Iranian attack at an American air base in Jordan, according to a CBS report. One A-10 Thunderbolt, known as the Warthog, was struck and left with a missing wing, while roughly eight F-15s sustained light damage and were placed back into service during the Iranian strike at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, CBS reporter Jennifer Jacobs said in a post on X.

"American forces in Jordan launched more than 30 Patriot missiles defending against the Iranian strikes. The overnight damage came after the US attacked five Iranian tankers in retaliation for Iran targeting a US Navy warship. In response, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed they launched attacks at eight tankers and two warships, including the base in Jordan," she wrote.The US has dozens of warplanes operating from the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, which acts as a key airpower hub for operations against Iran.The attack came after

the US sank five Iranian tankers earlier this week, and Iran retaliated by bombarding scores of American bases and allies in the region. In an official statement reported by



the state-backed IRNA news agency, Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced that they "struck the American Al-Azraq base in Jordan with heavy missile strikes" as part of a designated "punitive operation." Tehran also said it attacked more than a dozen vessels trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, as it announced an expansion of a no-go zone outside the strategic waterway it has

blockaded for months.Shortly after the barrage, the Jordanian military announced that its air defence network intercepted and neutralised the incoming projectiles.

According to an official army statement, Jordan's defence systems detected 20 incoming ballistic missiles, successfully destroying 18 of them, while two impacted unpopulated terrain.Iran Offers an End to WarIran's Guards, the ideological arm of the military, said the war could be brought to an end if Washington met its conditions, which included demands on the wars in Lebanon and Yemen."It must... refrain from renewed threats, withdraw the Israeli regime's army from Lebanon, end the blockade of Yemen, release \$24 billion in Iran's frozen assets and refrain from any interference in the country's nuclear and missile capabilities," Mohebi said, according to Fars news agency.US President Donald Trump, eager to end an unpopular war, asserted on Wednesday the conflict will conclude right after the mid-term US elections in November.

NEWS BOX

Teacher’s organ donation gifts life at SUMUM

BHUBANESWAR(Agency).
In an act of compassion, the family of a 47-year-old brain-dead patient at SUM Ultimate Medicare here donated the organs of the deceased, extending the gift of life to others. The deceased was a teacher by profession and native of Dhansar village in Cuttack district. He suffered a brain stroke during Teachers’ Day celebrations in the school following which he was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. Despite dedicated efforts of the medical and critical care teams, he was declared brain-stem-dead following completion of the prescribed medical assessment and certification process. After detailed counselling and understanding the significance of organ donation, the patient’s family provided consent for his organ donation. The liver and corneas were successfully retrieved for transplantation, offering hope and new lease of life to recipients awaiting organs. This marked the fifth case of multiple cadaveric organ retrieval undertaken at SUM Ultimate Medicare. Founder president of SOA Manojranjan Nayak said organ donation is one of the noblest acts of humanity. “At a time when a family is facing an unimaginable loss, choosing to donate organs is an extraordinary act of compassion that can transform the lives of several other families. We deeply appreciate the courage and generosity shown by the donor family and hope their decision will result in greater awareness and acceptance of deceased organ donation in society.”

Contaminated water due to damaged pipes: Ward 178 residents of in Taramani hold stir

CHENNAI(Agency).
Residents of Periyar Nagar and Gandhi Nagar in Taramani say they have been receiving foul and brackish water mixed with sewage for nearly a year, forcing many families to depend on canned water even for their daily needs. The problem has worsened in recent weeks, residents said, culminating into a protest near the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board office in Ward 178 on Wednesday. They also raised complaints over damaged roads and the delay in replacing ageing drinking water and sewer pipelines. “The water is very often brown or black. We cannot use it even for routine household purposes and are forced to buy canned water,” residents told. Kumaran N (23), a resident of Periyar Nagar, said repeated complaints over sewage contamination has not brought a lasting solution. Ongoing stormwater drain works in parts of Gandhi Nagar has damaged drinking water pipelines at some locations, allowing sewage to enter the supply network, he said. Residents also said many of the drinking water and sewer lines in the neighbourhood were old and needed replacement. They complained that several roads have not been relaid for years.

Why UP's ‘killer bahu’ devised 3 plans to eliminate crorepati bizman: ‘He controlled our finances’

KANPUR(Agency).
Plan A — make it look like a heart attack. Plan B — stage an accident. Plan C — a cold-blooded murder. These were allegedly the three plans devised by a "killer bahu" to get rid of her father-in-law. While the first two plans did not materialise, the third ended with the 60-year-old medicine trader being stabbed 26 times inside his Kanpur flat — even as his daughter-in-law allegedly danced with her husband at a lounge. According to police, the accused, Shalu Minocha, 30, allegedly hired her father-in-law Vineet Minocha's former domestic help for Rs 6 lakh after becoming unhappy over restrictions imposed on her and her husband, police said. The alleged restrictions included tight control over their finances and movements and CCTV cameras installed inside their apartment. Vineet was stabbed to death inside his C-104 flat at Ratan Orbit Apartment in Kalyanpur on the night of September 5. His son Subrat, 35, Shalu and their child were away at a party at the time. Plan A: Make his death look like a heart attack According to police, Shalu first approached Vishal Gautam, 30, a former employee of Vineet's pharmaceutical business, around 20 days before the murder and offered him Rs 6 lakh to kill her father-in-law. When Gautam refused, she allegedly suggested that he engineer an accident instead,DCP (West) SM Qasim Abidi said. Shalu then allegedly proposed another method: suffocating Vineet with a pillow while he slept so that his death would appear to be from a heart attack. Police said she also promised Gautam a job after the murder.

Over 300 BJP functionaries ‘show interest’ in contesting 12 seats on Surat Municipal School Board

Surat (Agency).
MORE THAN 300 BJP functionaries have expressed interest with the party headquarters to become members of the committee of the Municipal School Board, Surat (MSBS), that has just 12 seats. As per the instructions of the party leadership, elected corporators must cast their votes for the candidates. The election will be held on October 9. The MSBS runs around 365 municipal schools in Surat imparting education to over two lakh students in Gujarati, Hindi, English, Urdu, Odia and Marathi mediums – from Classes 1 to 8. Over 5,800 teachers are employed at these schools. In April, the election to 120 seats of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) were conducted and results declared. BJP candidates (the party had 93 councillors after the 2021 election) won 115 seats, while four seats went to AAP (which was down from 27 seats in the previous elections) and a single candidate from the Congress won the election (Congress scored a zero in the previous election). Now, the authorities have begun the process of electing the MSBS management committee.



Earlier, the BJP sought suggestions and inputs from its leaders and workers interested in becoming board members. The MSB, Surat, has 15 members, of which three are appointed by the state government, and elections will be held for the remaining 12. Among the 12 seats, one seat is reserved for SC/ST candidates. Sources in the Surat BJP said that over 300

As per the notification related to the election of MSB issued on Wednesday, the last date for submitting the forms is 23rd September at the Surat Mayor’s Office at SMC. The verification of the forms will be done on 1st October. The election will be held between 3 to 5 pm on 9th October at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s hall in SMC. The counting of votes will be done on the same day and later the results will be declared. The chairman of MSBS Rajendra Kapadia said, “During my tenure of 2.5 years, we have laid foundation stone of 60 new schools buildings and inaugurated 30 buildings. The approximate construction cost of such buildings is Rs. 250 crore and we have got such an amount from the state government under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.” A commerce graduate, Kapadia added, “We have taken care of each and every requirement of the students and teachers. We have provided school dresses, with schools, stationary items, etc. Our main aim was to give better education and provide good facilities to the students and teachers and we are very much satisfied with our services. As in the last 2.5 years not a single issue of MSBS has come into the record.”

Why ‘highly influential’ Parth Pawar not named in land case? Court asks

Mumbai (Agency).
The Bombay High Court on Monday, September 7, directed the Maharashtra Director General of Police (DGP) and the Investigating Officer (IO) in the Mundhwa land deal case to submit their reply after noting an unattributed submission on why Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar’s son and Rajya Sabha MP Parth Pawar has not been named as an accused in the case. The court made these observations while hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by suspended Pune City tehsildar Suryakant Yewale. The court also noted from the unattributed submissions that while Parth Pawar was spared from being named in the case as “he is very highly influential”, Digvijay Patil – another director of Amadea Enterprises LLP,



which purchased the government land – features as an accused in the Mundhwa land deal case. Noting the submissions on Parth Pawar and Digvijay Patil without attributing them to any of the specific parties, the court said, “It is submitted that the Company-M/s. Amadea Enterprises LLP, which purchased the

Government land measuring 40 acres, has two Directors, namely, Digvijay Patil and Parth Pawar.” “It is submitted that although said Digvijay Patil has been made accused, said Parth Pawar has not been made an accused as he is very highly influential and the son of the Deputy Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra. In view of the above, the DGP, as also the Investigating Officer, to file replies,” the Bombay High Court bench said. **Mundhwa land deal** It is alleged that the land in Mundhwa, which fell under the category of Mahar Watan land and was leased to the Botanical Survey of India, was sold to Amadea Enterprises, in which Parth Pawar is a partner. The Mundhwa land deal was allegedly done without the approval from the state government.

Ceiling slab of under-construction building collapses in Gujarat’s Gandhinagar, 15 workers rescued

Ahmedabad (Agency).
Fifteen workers were rescued after the ceiling of an under-construction commercial building in the Kudasan area of Gandhinagar, Gujarat’s capital,

them have been rescued,” Gandhinagar SP Ravi Washam Shetty said.

The collapse was likely triggered allegedly due to a “crane hitting a portion of the ceiling” while work was underway at the site, sources said. At 11:50 pm on Wednesday, MLA Alpesh Thakore told media persons that 13 people had been rescued from the rubble. No casualties were reported till late evening on Wednesday. Officials told The Indian Express that at least five of the injured persons were taken to the GMERS Civil Hospital, Gandhiangar. Officials at the GVK-EMRI 108



collapsed around 9 pm on Wednesday, according to news agency. “Work was underway to cast a slab. They were trying to construct an independent structure between two building structures, and during that work, the slab collapsed. Around 15 workers were working there, and they fell along with the slab. All of

emergency ambulance service said six of their vehicles were involved in transporting the injured persons. At least four rescue vehicles of the Gandhinagar Fire and Emergency Services (GFES) and the district police were making efforts to bring the situation under control as of late evening on Wednesday.

Judge who upheld Ahmedabad blast sentences leaves for Madhya Pradesh High Court

At his farewell, Justice Alpesh Y Kogje paid tribute to Additional Solicitor-General of India S V Raju, who had mentored him when he started his career at the Gujarat High Court.

Vadodara (Agency).
“I have to attribute everything I am today to this great institution.” With those words, Justice Alpesh Y Kogje on Tuesday bid farewell to the Gujarat High Court, where he started out as a lawyer under the mentorship of Additional Solicitor-General of India S V Raju, among others. An alumnus of Vadodara’s Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Kogje went to Madhya Pradesh as chief justice, weeks after being part of the bench that upheld 38 death sentences in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial blasts case. Speaking at his farewell on Wednesday, Justice Kogje looked back on a journey that began in lawyers’ chambers in Vadodara and eventually brought him to the bench of the Gujarat High Court, where he would go on to be part of several significant and sensitive cases. The central government last week notified his appointment as the chief justice of the

Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice Kogje said he owed his professional journey to the Gujarat High Court and spoke with unusual emotion about his attachment to the institution. “I have to attribute everything I am today to this great institution. I believe in rebirth, so I pray to God also that in my next birth let me be associated with this institution only and no other,” he said. Born in 1969, Justice Kogje completed his law degree in 1993 from MSU’s Faculty of Law and began practising that year. He later served as an assistant government pleader and an additional public prosecutor and held several important assignments, including as the special public prosecutor for a Special Investigation Team. He also handled many significant matters arising out of the 2002 post-Godhra riots. Justice Kogje was appointed an additional judge of the Gujarat High Court in April 2016 and was confirmed as a permanent judge in

March 2018. For the young members of the Bar, Justice Kogje had a simple message: treat the court as more than a workplace. “Please treat this institution as your second home. This is where you will draw your strength, reputation and maybe a path for your next generation,” he said. Recalling his early years in the profession, Justice Kogje said his initiation into law began in the late advocate K G Chauhan’s chamber in Vadodara and later in the office of senior advocate S V Raju, who is now additional solicitor-general of India. Paying tribute to Raju, Justice Kogje described him as a “father

figure” not only to himself but to several lawyers who had trained under him. Justice Kogje said one of the most important lessons he learnt was to focus on his work and give his best effort rather than fall into the “negativities surrounding the profession”. He also acknowledged the support of senior members of the Bar, saying he had always experienced “hand-holding” from them. The Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts case, in which Justice Kogje and Justice Samir Dave’s bench upheld the convictions in July, was among the most consequential criminal appeals heard by the high court in recent years.

Amravati hospital fire: Five officials suspended, two firms face blacklisting over safety lapses

Nagpur (Agency).
Five officials have been suspended and action initiated to blacklist two companies following a high-level inquiry into the August 24 fire at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of the government-run Amravati District Women’s Hospital that killed three newborns. The inquiry committee, headed by Health Services Commissioner Sanjay Katkar, found serious lapses in the maintenance of ventilators and medical equipment, besides non-functional fire alarms and sprinkler systems. The fire pump house was also found locked when the blaze broke out. The report has been submitted to the Maharashtra government, which has ordered disciplinary proceedings against those found responsible. Katkar confirmed to The Indian Express that the report had been submitted and action ordered by the government. The five officials suspended are Deputy Director, Health Services, Akola Circle, Dr Sushilkumar Wakchaure; Medical Superintendent of Amravati Women’s Hospital Dr Vinod Pawar; Additional District Surgeon Dr Arun Salunkhe; the hospital’s administrative officer; and its electrician. They have been prima facie held responsible for lapses in supervision. Proceedings under Rule 8 of the Maharashtra Civil Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1979, have also been ordered against officials and employees for negligence, irresponsible conduct and failure of supervisory control. Action has also been directed against Public Works Department officials found responsible for the lapses.



The limits of grandstanding in diplomacy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s discourse on the war in Ukraine while on a visit to Bishkek last week probably had its desired effect of drawing international attention to India’s self-projection as an independent power centre in an increasingly multipolar world. There was a deliberateness in Modi’s attempt as he front-loaded his remarks that were caught on camera during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

The relevant extracts of what Modi stated are: “Every day that the [Ukraine] war continues, humanity takes a step backwards; yet every step towards peace gives humanity real hope. We must move from endless war to the end of war, to the cessation of hostilities. And we must move in precisely this direction. This is crucial for all of humanity. We must resolve all problems through peaceful means; the entire world demands this. And this is India’s message, among others: India is the country of Gandhi, the country of Buddha—that is our message.”The contrast couldn’t have been sharper, insofar as Putin made no references whatsoever in his opening remarks to Ukraine and almost entirely focused on a positive resumption of the Russian-Indian bilateral relations, as is customary for such occasions; whereas Modi devoted almost half of his remarks to the war in Ukraine. Unless this was a pre-arranged pantomime between the two leaders, which is of course a preposterous thought, Putin would have been taken aback by the tone and substance of what Modi said.

Po-Russian western analysts have rushed to interpret that Modi administered a sharp rebuke to Putin. A popular western podcaster characterised Modi’s performance as a “ganging up on Putin” along with Turkish President Recep Erdogan and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, two other ‘dissidents’ at the SCO event.

Now, that is an uncharitable interpretation and rather ingenuous, to say the least, if only because Modi is a quintessential loner in politics. Besides, Erdogan is incensed over Russia’s tightening control over the Black Sea, which Turkey, the inheritor of the Ottoman legacy, cannot accept, apart from other geopolitical considerations as a Nato country.As for Tokayev, he views uneasily the Russian intervention in Ukraine, which creates a dangerous precedent for the substantial ethnic Russian population which accounted for nearly 40 percent of the population of Kazakhstan per the 1999 census, but has now dwindled to somewhere around 20 percent, per a UN estimate. A new Kazakh constitution that Tokayev mooted in February downgraded the status of the Russian language by specifying that it exists “alongside” Kazakh rather than sharing legal equality with it, a move upsetting Moscow.Fortunately, Modi would have no such disquiet. On the contrary, India has been a major beneficiary of the Western sanctions against Russia since 2022, which compelled Moscow to sell oil in the world market at a huge discount. This was so much to Delhi’s advantage that top American officials in President Trump’s inner circle began openly deriding that the ‘Brahmins of India’ made a huge fortune out of reselling Russian oil to European buyers.

In a recent TV interview, I characterised the present as a golden moment in India-Russia relations since the Modi government swears by the country’s national interests as the lodestar of its foreign policy. I was alluding to Putin’s open offer made at a recent Kremlin meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that Russia would meet India’s dire needs for fertiliser for its agriculture sector to provide livelihood for the ‘real India’. Therefore, it came as a rude shock when Modi rebuked the Kremlin leader so very publicly.

ISRO stands at a crossroads

The apex space agency may wither away without a transparent debate about its role

NINE employee associations representing thousands of workers from centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently came together to voice their concerns about the trajectory of India’s space reforms. Their intervention was triggered by a statement from Pawan Goenka, chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), that ISRO would eventually no longer manufacture launch vehicles or undertake routine satellite work.

He said private companies or public sector undertakings would handle those activities. At the same time, ISRO would concentrate on special-purpose satellites, scientific research and new technologies for transfer to industry.The employees’ response was unambiguous: private participation in defined commercial activities can operate alongside a strong, publicly owned ISRO. What requires debate, they argued, is a policy that could reduce ISRO to a residual research and development organisation while the actual production of launch vehicles and operation of launch infrastructure move out of public hands.The concern is not entirely without context. On June 10, IN-SPACe invited expressions of interest to transfer the technology of ISRO’s most powerful rocket, the LVM3, to the private sector. On August 11, it invited expressions of interest to operate the small rocket launch centre ISRO is building at Kulasekarapattinam (Tamil Nadu). Both invitations excluded public sector enterprises. This raises a basic question: should such enterprises be prevented from competing simply because the stated objective is to promote private participation?

ISRO has sought to allay these fears, calling reports of its dismantling “baseless” and saying that it will neither be privatised nor have its importance diminished. The stated objective, it says, is to expand India’s space ecosystem through reform.However, a more fundamental problem needs attention: ISRO’s capacity is being stretched. Reports of experienced scientists and engineers leaving the organisation have emerged, even as recruitment has slowed. The gap between sanctioned posts and actual recruitment, which was relatively small in the 2000s, is now approaching 30 per cent. This means ISRO is operating with only about two-thirds of its sanctioned workforce, much of it scientific and technical. Many senior employees are also approaching retirement. The fear that ISRO is being allowed to bleed to death is not unfounded.Staff leaving ISRO is not a new phenomenon. Engineers left during the Gulf boom of the 1980s and the IT boom of the 1990s. But the present situation is different. Private space companies are now poaching experienced personnel in areas that overlap with ISRO’s own capabilities: rocketry, navigation, telemetry, propulsion and systems engineering.This comes at a difficult time. India is planning a substantial increase in



satellite launches for civilian and military needs. Between 2025 and 2040, nearly 130 satellite launches are anticipated. Further, ISRO is simultaneously expected to deliver ambitious missions such as Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan-4. It is clear that ISRO’s current rate of just five launches per year cannot meet the launch manifest. Overall launch capacity must increase.

But does this necessarily mean ISRO should withdraw entirely from manufacturing and launch operations? One important fact is often missing from this debate. ISRO has never manufactured every part of its rockets. Industry has been deeply involved in launch-vehicle production for decades. By 2000, Indian industry had already undertaken 80-90 per cent of the manufacturing of mature launch vehicles. ISRO retains only the vital responsibilities of quality assurance, space-worthiness testing, and crucial assembly and integration.

The issue, therefore, is not whether private industry should participate. It already does. The real question is where the boundary between public capability and private participation should lie.Recent launch failures make this question more important. When failures are linked, at least allegedly, to supplier-side quality-control problems, simply shifting more responsibility to private industry is not automatically the solution. Quality assurance and accountability continue to remain essential, particularly when strategic and civilian requirements depend on these systems. There is also a financial question. ISRO’s former chairman S Somanath has argued that its budget needs to rise substantially from around Rs 14,000 crore to about

Rs 25,000 crore to meet India’s expanding requirements. Much of the projected satellite programme serves civilian and military needs rather than commercial markets. Thus, markets will not fund it. If the government cannot find the money for ISRO, how does it expect to compensate private industry for these civilian launches? Shifting end-to-end operations to the private sector will not solve this logjam.IN-SPACe was conceived primarily as a facilitator and regulator for private participation, just like the DGCA in the civil aviation sector. But IN-SPACe is now transferring ISRO-built assets and technology to private industry and appears to be acting as a de facto asset-divestment channel. The proposed Space Activities Bill, first drafted in 2017 and revised in 2025, also needs proper parliamentary and public discussion.

Reforming ISRO is one thing. Dismantling parts of a national scientific institution without a transparent discussion is quite another. If the objective is genuinely to strengthen India’s space capabilities, there is no reason to fear debate. The real danger is that ISRO may wither away incrementally, without Parliament, scientists, employees and the public having a meaningful say.

India certainly needs a vibrant private space industry. But vibrant private-sector participation does not require a weakened public space agency. That is why the present debate should not be reduced to a choice between “ISRO versus private industry”. The more important questions are what scale of space economy India hopes to build in the coming years and what kind of space capability it wants to retain in public hands.

Constant vigil needs to enforce building rules

What Delhi needs is a system to check building approvals, fire clearances, structural safety certificates and violations.

Buildings found unsafe should not continue to operate while files move between departments

How long can Delhi continue to treat building and fire safety matters to be addressed post mortem? The collapse of a student accommodation in Satya Niketan on Sunday, where renovation and basement work was reportedly underway, is another reminder of how poorly regulation works in the national capital. It has now emerged that the building did not have construction sanctions and a fire safety certificate. As a result, seven lives have been lost, while five others were injured. The first question is why such a building was allowed to operate. The Delhi High Court correctly expressed concern about the regulatory practices of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

This is not the first such case. In May, six people died when an unauthorised building collapsed in Saidulajab. An inquiry found that the MCD knew about illegal construction, failed to act on complaints and fabricated inspection records. In June, 23 people died in a fire at a Malviya Nagar bed-and-breakfast that was authorised for six rooms, but was running 26 rooms without a fire licence. The Mundka fire in 2022 killed 27 people. The



Karol Bagh hotel fire in 2019 killed 17 people. There have been committees, inquiries and recommendations after these incidents. In June, the Supreme Court’s amicus curiae asked for directions to municipal authorities to conduct structural audits and seal or demolish illegal structures. After the Malviya Nagar fire, the government announced committees to survey and seal unsafe buildings. Delhi’s disaster management plans

also called for identifying vulnerable buildings and enforcing construction regulations.So why does the system keep failing citizens? Delhi’s new Master Plan for the next 20 years again proposes measures to prevent hazardous, unplanned and non-compliant structures—similar to the rules issued in 2007 that have evidently not been strictly enforced. What guarantees that this time it will be different?What Delhi needs is a system to check building approvals, fire clearances, structural safety certificates and violations. Buildings found unsafe should not continue to operate while files move between departments. Responsibility must be fixed for inspections, approvals and failures to act. With governance going digital, lack of access to updated information on building approvals, violations and inspections can no longer be an excuse. A city cannot call a building disaster an accident when the risks were visible, documented and repeatedly warned about. The credibility of regulation itself is at stake.

Delimiting Bengal, limiting choices

➤The BJP govt in West Bengal seems to be in a hurry to redraw ward boundaries in the Kolkata and Howrah municipalities. The exercises are based on post-SIR voters’ list, from which lakhs of cases are still being decided by tribunals. Most of the adjudicated deletions are being restored

Within 100 days of winning the West Bengal Assembly election, the BJP government has raced ahead with remodelling municipal constituencies in Kolkata and Howrah. Impatient to get on with it, the Suvendu Adhikari government has been using the voters’ list post its special intensive revision, even as the first phase of house-listing for the much-delayed census is underway.The Chief Minister is correct that populations within Kolkata and Howrah have shifted, hollowing out the more congested areas and moving to what were once ‘fringe’ areas. Therefore, a redrawing of electoral constituencies is necessary. Unfortunately, using the post-SIR voters’ list makes the exercise problematic. There are two reasons why such basis is neither sufficient nor logical. First, if West Bengal could vote in April to elect a new government based on the existing delimitation of constituencies that were last revised in 2006, why does the Kolkata and Howrah municipal corporations need a separate and dubious delimitation of their own constituencies?Second, even though the delimitation of the two municipal corporations’ constituencies are fait accompli, there are ongoing cases in both cities being heard by the tribunals set up by the Supreme Court to sort the cases of voters deleted from the electoral rolls by the SIR because of discrepancies. Thus, using incomplete data of electors as the basis for redrawing the constituency maps in the two populous cities makes no sense. By the Election Commission’s own account, nearly 29.6 percent of voters were struck off the rolls in the north and 27.5 percent in the south of the state capital—among the highest rates in the state.

The commission also admitted that there were 38 lakh cases pending with the 19 adjudication tribunals. Of particular note is the fact that of the 83,000-odd appeals disposed of, the tribunals ruled in favour including 75,000 cases on the rolls—thus reinstating over 90 percent of those who appealed and could not vote at the latest Assembly polls. The purge of so many eligible voters begs serious questions of the entire post-SIR list. It’s surely not the soundest data to use for redrawing constituency maps in Kolkata. It also flows from the observation that a key feature of the West

Bengal SIR in detecting “ineligible” voters was targeting ‘ghuspaithiyas’ or illegal immigrants, deemed to be from Bangladesh and presumed to be masquerading as Indian citizens with falsified documents. Impatience over delimitation is a BJP affliction, as is evident from the party’s efforts to push through the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill—along with the Delimitation Bill and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill—in



Parliament in April that was defeated by the opposition, and its recent move to table it during the tumultuous monsoon session of the House. But for West Bengal, it’s the Suvendu Adhikari government—not the BJP high command—that needs to explain why the number of municipal wards needed to be increased, which triggered a redrawing of the ward maps and a cascading effect on voters and their choice of representatives.

The dissolution of the elected corporation in Kolkata and the resolution of the

legal issues vis-à-vis the Howrah Municipal Corporation certainly set a timeline for elections. Quite apart from the inconvenience and confusion that the redrawing of constituencies will cause for voters, there is the complaint by all opposition parties that there was a political purpose behind the alteration of the territorial boundaries and the numbers of voters within them. Even the so-called ‘rebel’ Trinamool Congress leaders—such as long-time Kolkata Corporation councillor Javed Khan—felt compelled to point out that some constituencies would have 7,000-8,000 voters while others would have 15,000-25,000. The uneven distribution of voters, based on an incomplete voters’ list, has provoked the Congress, the Left and the loyalist Trinamool Congress to accuse the BJP of redrawing maps to give the ruling party an advantage by redistributing votes and breaking up the concentration of Muslim voters.The exercise, then, becomes tantamount to gerrymandering, a practice that gets its name from the US where ruling parties use a heavy hand to put rivals at a disadvantage. It also reflects an odd similarity with the contentious delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, and the equally disputed delimitation exercise in Assam in 2023 based on the 2001 Census.

If the BJP continues to use the post-SIR list as its preferred data base for ‘managing’ elections, it could become a model of sorts with consequence in other states, too. Experts have estimated that the SIR process across the country may end up deleting about 10 crore voters. The exclusion of eligible voters by a hurried revision process, followed by a delimitation exercise based on it, is doubly problematic. The ethical and practical validity of an election using truncated voters’ lists—just because the Election Commission’s machinery could not resolve “logical discrepancies” like categorising misspelt names, addressing suspicious age gaps between parents, grandparents and children, and the number of siblings—ought to be an issue concerning all political parties. It could pose a challenge to the legitimacy of any elected representative of any political party, and to the fairness of the electoral process.

NEWS BOX

UP textiles reaching global markets, says Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak

Lucknow (Agency).

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak addressed the closing ceremony of the two-day "UP TEX-2026" on Wednesday organised by the Handloom and Textiles Industry Department in Lucknow.

The Deputy CM said that textiles were already established in the state, but they could not get a market. "Today, the textiles of Uttar Pradesh are reaching the country and the world. Considerable investment is



also coming into the state regarding the textile industry," he said.

Pathak added, "The rich handloom and textile tradition of Uttar Pradesh is not only our cultural heritage but an important basis of livelihood for lakhs of artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs. It is the resolve of our government that, while empowering the weavers and handicraft artisans, their skills should be taken to the global market."

Govt doctors can now serve till 70 through reappointment

Pathak also announced that government doctors in the state will now be able to continue providing services through reappointment until the age of 70. Pathak said the move is aimed at strengthening healthcare services in the state. Government hospitals, CHCs and PHCs receive a large number of patients daily. Extending the services of experienced doctors would provide patients with better medical treatment and ease pressure on hospitals and health centres.

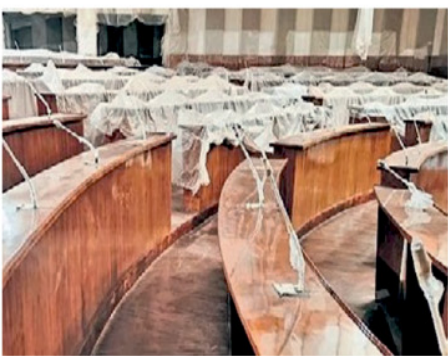
Six years without elected civic body, Bengaluru's basic woes deepen

LUCKNOW (Agency). BENGALURU:

It is six straight years without an elected body in Bengaluru. While aspirants and ex-corporators say the new and potential leadership was killed by the delay, issues with basic amenities, like potholes, traffic and garbage, continue to haunt Bengalureans. Also, resolution of complaints, including illegal constructions which are rampant, takes a long time.

In the process, the city lost a grant of around Rs 1,000 crore under the 15th Finance Commission as it does not have an elected body. Also, the general paucity of funds with the local administration has led to a delay in paying salaries to the staff, including grave diggers, who are the lowest hierarchical-grade workers.

"The question remains whether the state is willing to share or devolve power to the local bodies. Do recipients of the



democratic values of decentralisation have a say in governance? Are the recommendations of the Balwant Rai committee, Ashok Mehta Committee and the 74th Amendment followed in letter and spirit? Are the 18 administrative functions delegated to the civic bodies? Otherwise, there should be a movement to push the government to get serious in holding civic elections," said Albert Smith, Political Science Professor, Sacred Heart Degree College for Women. From small issues to big civic concerns, the entire bureaucracy appears to be in total paralysis as there is no elected civic body. There has been no transparency in the execution of any projects. Goons and middlemen run the roost, allege residents of Prakruthi Township, Horamavu.

"Here, the CMC water supply, which was efficiently managed previously by the RWA, fell into the wrong hands. Today, this supply is controlled by a few.

They decide who gets water, while the bureaucracy pleads helplessness. If there was an elected civic body, the management of this critical infrastructure would have been efficient," said Varkey Thomas, RWA, Prakruthi Township, Bengaluru East.

'Pregnant influencer burnt after argument': Twist in Manjit Kaur murder case

The arrested accused, Pinda, is learnt to have told the cops that Rinku, the main accused, and Manjit Kaur were in a relationship

Chandigarh (Agency).

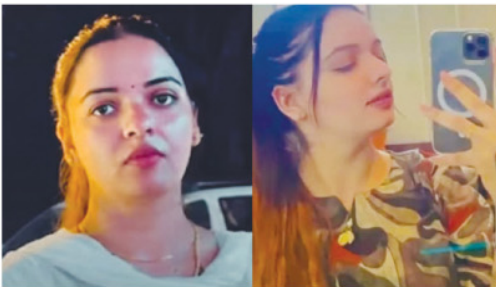
The first arrest in Punjabi influencer Manjit Kaur's murder case has opened a fresh line of probe, with the accused revealing a possible series of events — from an argument to abduction to immolation that eventually led to Kaur's death.

Two months after 28-year-old Kaur was set on fire and two weeks after she succumbed to her injuries, Chandigarh Police have arrested Parminder Singh alias Pinda, an associate of the main accused Rinku. Pinda, 25, is learnt to have told the cops that Rinku and Kaur were in a relationship. He has also shared a possible series of events that took place late on July 3. Pinda's arrest is being seen as a breakthrough at a time when Chandigarh cops were struggling to find a concrete lead and reconstruct Kaur's movement that night.

A Sector-34 angle

According to police sources, Pinda told investigators that Rinku and Kaur had an altercation on July 3. The argument escalated

into a scuffle after they reached Sector 34 of Chandigarh. Pinda's statement suggests that Kaur was taken to a location near a park in Sector 34, allegedly assaulted and set on fire, police sources have said. Investigators are trying to corroborate Pinda's statement with



technical and forensic evidence.

Earlier theory being revisited

Investigators earlier suspected that Kaur was abducted at Sector 34 and taken to a forested area near Morinda, where she was tied to a tree, doused with oil and set ablaze. A person she knew reached the spot and doused the

flames with a blanket. A seriously injured Kaur was then taken to a local hospital and later referred to PGIMER. She was then shifted to Max Hospital in Mohali before being referred back to PGIMER. Kaur died on August 26 due to an infection.

But the latest leads after Pinda's arrest have prompted the investigators to revisit the earlier sequence of events and examine whether the assault and burning actually took place in Sector 34, police sources have said.

Who is Pinda?

Pinda told the cops that he ran an immigration business in Kharar, but started working as Rinku's driver days before the incident. Police said the two were friends.

During his interrogation, Pinda is learnt to have told investigators that Kaur was in a relationship with Rinku, and that he only helped Rinku. Rinku, the main accused, is still on the run. Kaur's mother, Kanta Devi, had named Rinku in her statement to the police.

A minister, a dead father, and a Punjab story: How drugs 'broke' Gulzar Singh

A family recounts fight with 26-yr-old's drug addiction, and what proved to be the last straw for his father, a farm labourer who confronted state Minister Cheema

Ahmedabad (Agency).

A narrow lane with open drains on either side leads to the house of Gulzar Singh in Toor Banzara village of Dirba constituency of Sangrur district. There are barely eight houses in the lane, and Gulzar's house stands at the very end. Now, the bare two-room house, with unplastered walls, also finds itself at the centre of a simmering controversy, following the death of Gulzar, 53, an agricultural labourer, apparently by suicide, pained over the unchecked supply of drugs in his village and his son's addiction.

He is said to have consumed pesticide soon after trying to question Punjab Finance Minister and Dirba MLA Harpal Singh Cheema, who was visiting Toor Banzara, over what the government was doing to keep drugs away from youngsters like his son. According to Gulzar's family, the 53-year-old was threatened and humiliated

after this, and made to apologise to Baljit Singh, the husband of village sarpanch Baljinder Kaur. Says his 23-year-old son Sehbaz Singh: "My father left home at around



10.30 am on Monday. But when he came back at around noon, he had already consumed Sulphas." He died at hospital on Monday night. The family says Gulzar confronted Cheema as he was broken after having failed

to rid his eldest son of his drug addiction. A daily wage, the 26-year-old claims to earn around Rs 800 a day, most of which he spends on drugs.

His mother Pal Kaur says the 26-year-old got addicted a couple of years ago, and now, they never leave the house unattended. "One person has to remain at home or he steals one thing or the other and sells it to meet his needs. Last year, he stole my gold earrings. He has sold utensils, the LPG cylinder, whatever he finds," says Pal, who is in her early 50s.

Prabhjot's grandmother Bant Kaur points to the bathroom and says he once even sold the buckets, mugs and a tub. This year, the 26-year-old went one step further. "He sold almost the entire wheat stock which Gulzar had harvested and stored... Now we don't even have one kilogram of wheat left," says Bant.

SIR: 6.24 lakh voters have anomalies, 18 lakh no mapping notices in Bengaluru

BENGALURU (Agency).

As many as 24.06 lakh notices have been generated in Bengaluru as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Karnataka for no-mapping data or logical discrepancies, requiring voters to appear in person before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for a hearing. According to GBA data, of the 24,06,044 notices generated, 6.24 lakh have been found to have anomalies, and 17.81 lakh people have been served notices for no-mapping. A total of 2,67,693 hearings have been held.

Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) M Maheswar Rao, who is also the District Election Officer, addressing a press conference on Wednesday said, "A total of 1,301 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), including regular and additional AEROs, will hold the hearings from 10am to 5pm, and take a call on the notices."

He said 6.24lakh anomalies have been found, including name mismatch, wrong age, difference between the ages of children and parents that are either very low or very high, along with other discrepancies. For VIPs who have been issued notices, Rao said officials will visit their homes and make arrangements to include their names in the voters' list.

Freight Loading at NFR Registers 4.5% Growth During August 2026

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 10th September: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) registered a total freight loading of 0.957 million tonnes (MT) during August 2026, recording a growth of 4.5% over the 0.916 MT loaded during the corresponding month of the previous year. The cumulative freight loading from April to August 2026 reached 5.09 MT, reflecting an increase of 6.5% over the 4.78 MT recorded during the corresponding period of the previous financial year. Several major commodities contributed to the growth during August 2026. Cement loading more than doubled to 0.13 MT, registering a significant increase of 106.6% over August 2025. Loading of miscellaneous commodities, including fruits, vegetables and timber, grew by 92.3%, while coal and dolomite loading increased by 54.5% and

46.4%, respectively. Foodgrains loading also recorded a growth of 39.6%, followed by container

commodities registered an increase of 44.6%. Dolomite loading grew by 34.2%, fol-

lowed by coal at 7.5% and container traffic at 7.1% over the corresponding period of the previous year. The sustained growth in freight loading reflects NFR's continued focus on improving operational effi-



ciency, strengthening coordination with freight customers and facilitating the timely

transportation of essential commodities. NFR remains committed towards expanding its freight traffic base and providing reliable and customer-oriented transportation services across the region.

Gujarat HC quashes FIR against man accused of deceit after ending relationship with woman

The woman also stated that they had, subsequently, travelled together and stayed in several guest houses, and that a ceremony for "tying mangalsutra" had also been held. She had approached the police after the man refused to marry her.

Vadodara (Agency). Observing that a prolonged consensual relationship cannot simply be treated as one based entirely on a false promise of marriage, the Gujarat High Court has quashed an FIR filed after a nearly two-year relationship between a man and a woman ended.

Justice MR Mendhey of the Gujarat High Court allowed a plea filed by a man from Kutch, seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita for 'sexual intercourse by employing deceitful means' and the criminal case pending before the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Gandhidham.

According to the FIR, the complainant, a 37-year-old widow at the time when the case was registered, alleged that she had been in a relationship with the applicant between June 2023 and April 2025, during which the man had promised to marry her, telling

her he would live with her even if their families objected. The FIR further stated that the two would meet when the woman took her son with special needs to a hospital in the district. The woman also stated that they had, subsequently, travelled together and stayed in several guest houses, and that a ceremony for "tying mangalsutra" had also been held. She had approached the police after the man refused to marry her.

Appearing for the applicant, advocate Jigneshkumar Nayak argued that the relationship was consensual and that the FIR was lodged only because the proposed marriage had not materialised. He submitted that it was the complainant who had gone to the applicant's house upon her return from Dubai and created a disturbance, prompting his father to approach the

police, after which the FIR from the side of the woman also followed. Relying on two Supreme Court rulings, Nayak submitted that "a soured relationship does not



automatically translate into intercourse by deceit".

The state, represented by Additional Public Prosecutor Krina Calla, opposed the plea, contending that the applicant was already married when the relationship began and

was therefore aware he could not marry the complainant, yet went ahead and established physical relations with her on a false promise, rendering her consent invalid in law. Advocate Mittal Patel, appearing for the complainant, also opposed the plea, telling the court that investigators had gathered guest house registers showing the applicant had taken the complainant to various locations "under the garb of marriage". Examining the FIR itself, the court noted that the complainant had "categorically stated that there was love affair between herself and the applicant," and that she had "consented for physical relations with the present applicant after being promised for marriage". The court observed that the couple had "visited several places together and also stayed together at several guest houses."

Gujarat man pleads guilty of running \$9.36 million gambling racket in US using amusement business as front

Ahmedabad (Agency). Six businesses in the state of Missouri of the United States presented themselves as places for amusement and skill-based games. US federal investigators, however, said they were fronts for an illegal gambling operation that generated more than \$9.36 million. An Indian national of Gujarati origin living in New York has pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy.

Sunilkumar Patel, 53, last week, pleaded guilty in a federal court in Missouri to charges ranging from wire fraud and illegal gambling to laundering the proceeds of the operation, a statement from the US Attorney's Office, Western District of Missouri said.

The statement counted this case as part of "Operation Take Back America — a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs)"

Patel admitted that he and his co-conspirators ran businesses presented as "internet amusement arcade games, skill game arcades, and adult arcades", but which, according to the statement, operated "contests of chance, gambling devices, and slot machines" in violation of Missouri and federal law. The operation spanned six locations in southwest Missouri—four in Springfield, one in Joplin and another in Branson West—and employed local workers to run the businesses.

Patel pleaded guilty before US Chief Magistrate Judge Willie J Epps Jr. to one count each of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to operate an illegal gambling business, conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering.

Supreme Court rejects Abu Salem's plea for early release, to stay in jail till 2030

The Supreme Court dismissed Abu Salem's plea for premature release and upheld the Bombay High Court's order. The ruling means his 25-year extradition-linked prison term will be treated as ending in 2030.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed gangster Abu Salem's plea seeking premature release from prison, rejecting his claim that he had already completed the 25-year period linked to the terms of his extradition from Portugal. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta upheld the Bombay High Court's April 2026 order, which had dismissed Salem's plea seeking immediate release as "premature" and "misconceived." The apex court delivered its verdict on Salem's challenge to the High Court order. A detailed verdict is awaited.Salem, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case, was extradited from Portugal on November 11, 2005, following a prolonged legal battle. He had been arrested in Portugal in 2002. The case centred on an assurance India gave Portugal on December 17, 2002, as part of the

extradition process. The Indian government assured Portugal that if Salem were extradited for trial in India, he would neither receive the death penalty nor face imprisonment for more than 25 years. Salem subsequently faced trial in two TADA cases, one relating to the 1993 Bombay blasts and another separate case. Courts convicted him and sentenced him to life imprisonment in judgments dated February 25, 2015, and September 7, 2017, respectively. Salem argued that the 2017 judgment violated the terms of the extradition arrangement under which India brought him back from Portugal in 2005. The Supreme Court, while dealing with an earlier appeal filed by Salem on the issue, clarified in a 2022 ruling that once he completed 25 years of imprisonment, the

Central government would have to ensure his early release. However, the top court also made it clear that it was not commuting his sentence and that the period he spent in



Portugal in a passport fraud case could not count towards the 25-year period. In his present plea, Salem claimed that he completed 25 years in prison on March 31, 2025. He argued that his under-trial custody, post-conviction custody and remission

earned for good conduct should be counted together. According to Salem, these periods took his total imprisonment beyond 25 years by March 31, 2025, making any further custody illegal. His lawyer also argued that the remission he had earned should be added to the period of imprisonment and that he was therefore entitled to release. The Bombay High Court, however, had held that Salem's plea was filed prematurely and that his 25-year period would be completed in 2030. Salem then challenged the High Court's order before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court had completed the hearing of Salem's plea on July 27 and reserved its decision. The apex court initially asked Salem to continue pursuing the matter before the High Court. The High Court subsequently rejected his remission plea in its April 2026 ruling.

India, France strengthen space cooperation with new private-sector deals

Delhi. (Agency)

India and France are deepening cooperation in the space sector, with companies from both countries signing three new agreements covering satellite launches, space surveillance and microsatellite technology, according to an official announcement. The agreements, announced at the International Space Summit in Paris, include contracts worth more than 5 million euros between France's Safran Space and India's Dhruva Space for technologies to be used in India's planned 52-satellite space-surveillance constellation. The new agreements come against the backdrop of more than five decades of space cooperation between India and France, built around the partnership between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France's space agency CNES. The first edition of the International Space Summit is being held from September 9-10, bringing together governments, companies, space agencies and scientists. The summit featured 51 announcements representing about 20 billion euros in contracts, investments and other commitments. Safran Space signed contracts worth more than 5 million euros with Indian space company Dhruva Space to supply communication systems, inertial navigation units, optical payloads and ground stations for India's planned SBS-III space-surveillance constellation. The constellation is envisaged to deploy 52 satellites between 2027 and 2030, according to the announcement. The partnership is aimed at supporting India's sovereign space capabilities and marks a further expansion of cooperation between French industry and India's growing New Space sector.

Delhi Satya Niketan building collapsed after ground-floor wall was removed to make space for a shop

Delhi. (Agency)

Shudhanshu Lovneesh, the 31-year-old paying guest (PG) operator, has been arrested in the Satya Niketan case that claimed seven lives. Lovneesh is a resident of Bhajanpura in northeast Delhi. He completed his graduation from Delhi University in 2019. In 2022, he, along with his friend Shubham Tyagi, started operating the PG accommodations in the Satya Niketan under the name of "Hostel Daze". At present, he runs seven PGs in the area. In August 2025, he and Tyagi leased four floors of the collapsed building for '1.05 lakh per month. The property was rented at a relatively lower rate due to its dilapidated condition. Despite being aware that the ongoing construction work could affect the structural integrity of the building as a whole, officials said, he continued it. Earlier, the labour contractor Sanoj Kumar, 35, a resident of Bihar, was arrested from UP. Kumar had told police that he was engaged in renovation work at the building and had been assigned the project by Mahesh Gupta around 10 days ago. The work involved levelling the basement with the ground floor. Around three truckloads of debris had been dumped in the basement as part of the work. Kumar was being paid '2,800 per day by Mahesh for the job. During the probe, it was found that a wall on the ground floor was obstructing space meant for a shop, and on the day of the incident, the wall was removed to create additional space. The building was unable to withstand the additional load and eventually collapsed, a senior police officer said. Mahesh, Sanoj and Sudhanshu were produced before a city court on Wednesday and sent to two days of police custody. Investigators are now probing how many students used to stay in the PG, its layout and the number of rooms in the building. Police are also procuring rent agreements signed by students with the owners and operators of the house to ascertain the accommodation arrangements and conditions imposed on the tenants.

Go, touch your mother's feet: SC rebukes man over property dispute with parents

While dismissing a man's appeal in a Delhi property dispute with his parents, the Supreme Court said children who harass or defraud parents over assets cannot be protected by law.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court refused to grant relief to a man in a property dispute with his parents and advised him to seek his mother's forgiveness and blessings, telling him to "touch her feet".A bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and N Kotiswar Singh made the oral observations while dismissing the son's petition in the case.The petitioner's parents

had built their Delhi home with their hard-earned money. Out of love and affection, they allowed their son and daughter-in-law to live on the first floor of the house without paying rent.

The dispute arose after the man and his wife began claiming ownership of the property on the basis of forged documents. The lower court and



subsequently the Delhi High Court ruled in favour of the parents.

The Supreme Court upheld the High Court's decision and dismissed the son's appeal.

It also directed him to vacate the house within 60 days and pay compensation to his parents.

Looking at the lawyers present in the courtroom, Justice Sharma said, "Isn't this boy's behaviour wrong? The court wants him to go back to his

mother, feel her, touch her feet, and seek her blessings."

The Supreme Court also emphasised the dignified place accorded to mothers in Indian society and across religions, including Hinduism.The court made it clear that "such behavior by children who harass or defraud their parents for the sake of property cannot be protected by law."

Volatile Trump may misinterpret BRICS Summit as anti-West, warns ex-diplomat Ajay Bisaria

Delhi. (Agency)

As BRICS nations prepare to convene in New Delhi for the 18th Summit on Saturday, former diplomat Ajay Bisaria said there is a danger of the US interpreting the summit as anti-Western this time, while stressing that India remains firmly opposed to any attempt to turn it into an explicitly anti-Western platform. Speaking at the India Today BRICS Roundtable, the former High Commissioner of India to Canada said New Delhi had worked to recast BRICS as a "non-Western" grouping rather than an "anti-Western" one.When asked about US President Donald Trump's opposition to BRICS and his labelling of the grouping as anti-American, Bisaria said,"There is a

small danger of the US misinterpreting it that way because of a very volatile White House and a very volatile Trump," and the engagement of China and Russia in the platform.



He added, "But I would say India, on this, is not going to be batting on the back foot. India is going to be on the front foot on strategic autonomy and defending the BRICS, uh, but there's always this small danger of it being

misinterpreted." However, Bisaria noted that there is not a huge risk of a strong anti-Western message coming out of this BRICS summit.

Bisaria said there had been attempts in the past to push BRICS towards an anti-Western position, but that did not suit India."There were some instincts within BRICS in the past which tried to push it towards an anti-Western kind of positioning. That doesn't suit India and India doesn't push it in that direction," he said.He added that India had instead sought to change the "branding" of BRICS and present it as a grouping of non-Western countries focused on economic and developmental issues. "What India has been doing successfully is changing the branding to a non-Western grouping.

Don't derail: Supreme Court refuses to hear plea against HPV vaccine campaign

The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea challenging the nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for adolescent girls. The bench said compensation rules would apply in cases of incorrect vaccination and allowed the plea to be withdrawn.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a petition that raised concerns over the government-run nationwide human papillomavirus, or HPV, vaccination campaign for adolescent girls to prevent cervical cancer. The court said ordinary rules on compensation would apply in cases of incorrect vaccination. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was hearing a plea filed by the Universal Health Organisation, which challenged the manner in which the government-backed programme was being implemented. When the court declined to entertain the plea, the

petitioner's counsel withdrew it and the matter was dismissed as withdrawn. During the hearing, the bench asked, "Would you like to withdraw? Do you want us to comment on something?" It then said, "Don't ask us to make harsh observations. If petitioner members are doctors, it's a very, very serious issue. It's a question of the health of millions of our daughters. And you want to derail this." The top court orally said the plea had been filed with an ulterior motive and lacked bona fide.The lawyer for the petitioner said he was raising only the issue of adverse events and compensation, and not opposing the HPV vaccine itself. "I am not at all anti-vaccine. My first

contention is the way it is being implemented. Second, there is no adverse event mechanism. Whenever there is an adverse event, it must be



monitored. There should also be a compensation scheme," the lawyer said. The plea had alleged that the implementation of the vaccination

programme violated constitutional guarantees of informed consent, bodily autonomy, transparency and accountability.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls from Ajmer in Rajasthan on February 28. A single-dose Gardasil 4 vaccine, a quadrivalent HPV vaccine, is being used under the campaign. It protects against HPV types 16 and 18, which are responsible for cervical cancer, as well as types 6 and 11.In the end, the Supreme Court refused to examine the plea, said compensation rules would apply in cases of incorrect vaccination, and allowed the petitioner to withdraw it against.

Concerned about health of children: Supreme Court seeks warnings on junk food packs

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it is concerned about the health of people, especially growing children, and asked all those involved in food safety to consider, in the national interest, the issue of front-of-pack warning labels on packaged products high in salt, sugar and fat.A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran said it would pass a detailed order on the "serious matter" and seek information from stakeholders. "We are only concerned about the health of people, especially growing children. We want all the concerned to consider the cause in national interest," the bench said.

The court said it had also done some homework on the issue, asked the parties to study the order once uploaded, and posted the matter for hearing on September 28.During a brief hearing on a plea filed by public charitable trust 3S and Our Health Society, the bench asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India whether it had framed any guideline to show, on the front of a packet, when the food content crosses the limit for sugar, salt or fat.The court noted that details about packaged food contents are usually printed on the rear side of packets.

Appearing for the FSSAI, senior advocate Maninder Singh said international practice requires two disclosures on the rear side of packets: the quantity per 100 grams and the quantity per serving.

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for an intervenor, said the government was putting "Kurkure" on the same pedestal as other nutritional food such as eggs and salted cashew. He said ultra-processed food should carry a stronger warning. "Red is for non-vegetarian and green is for vegetarian. So instead of red if some other colour can be used for a warning label in case of ultra processed food items," he submitted. The bench took his suggestions on record and said its order would be uploaded in a day or two.

In an earlier affidavit filed in the case, the FSSAI told the court that it has proposed a prominent front-of-pack warning label in a red-coloured hexagonal shape for food products high in added saturated fat, added sugar and salt. It said the proposal is meant to give consumers a simple, prominent and easily understandable warning about such products.

NEWS BOX

Raphinha and Torres shine as Barcelona, PSG lead Champions League goal rush



New Delhi. (Agency)

Barcelona continued their free-scoring start to the Champions League, while Paris Saint-Germain also made a statement on the opening night of their title defence. Raphinha struck twice as Barcelona overwhelmed Feyenoord, with Karim Adeyemi, Lamine Yamal and Gabriel Jesus also finding the net in a five-goal rout. PSG were just as ruthless, with Ferran Torres scoring a hat-trick after Ousmane Dembele's first-half double. Liverpool, meanwhile, had to fight back from an early Marcos Llorente goal to beat Atletico Madrid at Anfield, while Martin Odegaard's fourth goal in five games gave Arsenal a hard-earned victory over Napoli.The night's results offered plenty of different flavours: Barcelona and PSG produced goal fests, Liverpool showed their ability to respond under pressure, and Arsenal relied on patience before their captain delivered the decisive moment. **RAPHINHA LEADS BARCELONA'S GOAL PARTY** Raphinha's sensational start to the season continued as Barcelona tore Feyenoord apart. The Brazilian opened the scoring inside three minutes after producing a brilliant piece of skill to evade two defenders before finishing calmly.Karim Adeyemi soon doubled the advantage with a curling effort from outside the box, before Raphinha returned to strike again in the 57th minute. Lamine Yamal added a fourth from a free-kick, while Gabriel Jesus marked his Barcelona debut with a late header. Sem Steijn's consolation ensured Barcelona's wait for a Champions League clean sheet continued, but the attacking display was emphatic. **FERRAN TORRES BAGS HAT-TRICK FORPSG** PSG began their title defence in style as they dismantled Slovan Bratislava. Dembele set the tone with two goals in six first-half minutes before turning provider for Torres, who tapped in his first of the night.

AS Roma to wear special Nepal tribute jerseys in Champions League clash

New Delhi. (Agency)

AS Roma will take the pitch in Istanbul wearing a special jersey dedicated to Nepal during their Champions League clash with Fenerbahce. The one-off shirt will replace their usual sponsor with a message supporting relief efforts after devastating floods and landslides in the country. Roma's regular shirt sponsor, Eurobet.live, cannot be displayed in Turkey because of the country's restrictions on gambling and betting advertising. Instead, the Italian club have teamed up with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to use the fixture as a platform to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Nepal.The special jersey will feature the WFP logo across the front, alongside the message "Together for Nepal" and the Nepalese flag. The initiative comes after a major



natural disaster left thousands of people in urgent need of assistance. "The visitors will take to the pitch with the World Food Programme (WFP) logo on the front of their shirts," Roma said ahead of the match. **ROMA TURN SPONSORSHIP RULE INTO RELIEF EFFORT** Rather than taking the field with a blank shirt, Roma have turned Turkey's advertising restrictions into an opportunity to support those affected by the disaster. A flash flood triggered by a glacier and rockslide near the China-Nepal border on August 26 has caused a devastating humanitarian crisis. According to the figures provided, at least 1,410 people have died, while 5,651 remain missing.The club's partnership with the WFP will extend beyond Wednesday's fixture, with the special shirts set to contribute to the organisation's relief efforts.

Pakistan U-19 cricket team mistaken for asylum seekers during UK protest

Pakistan's Under-19 cricketers were caught in an extraordinary mix-up in Portsmouth after protesters mistook the touring team for asylum seekers. Police later confirmed the concerns were misplaced, with no offences identified during the incident.

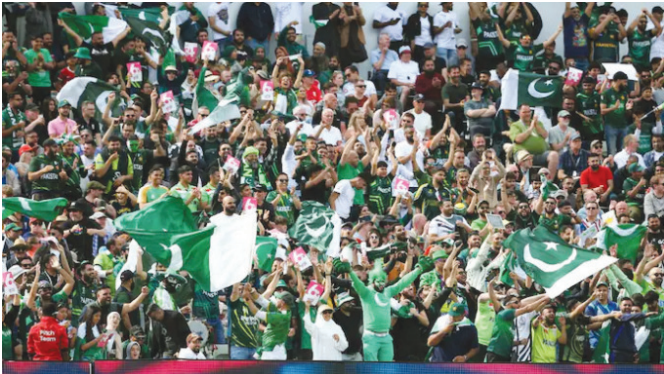
New York. (Agency)

AA Pakistan Under-19 cricket team found itself at the centre of an anti-migrant protest in Portsmouth after protesters mistakenly believed the young cricketers were asylum seekers. The bizarre mix-up unfolded outside the Marriott Hotel, where the touring Pakistan side was staying. Around 30 to 40 people gathered outside the

hotel on Tuesday evening after rumours spread online that a group of foreign nationals had arrived by coach. Police were called to the scene shortly before 6.30pm, with officers later establishing that the group in question was actually Pakistan's Under-19 cricket team.Reform councillor George Madgwick helped clear up the confusion after contacting the hotel and speaking with the Pakistan team's coach. He then approached the protesters and explained that they had got the wrong group."I spoke to the coach of the team, who was very understanding," Madgwick told the Guardian."I went out to the protesters and told them, 'You've got it wrong guys, it's a cricket club.' They left within a couple of minutes. It was a massively unfortunate incident."

HOW THE MIX-UP STARTED The confusion reportedly began after a photograph of people getting off a coach was shared online. Assumptions about the

identity of those arriving quickly followed, despite there being no confirmation that they were asylum seekers.Madgwick later said the situation was driven by speculation rather than fact and acknowledged that the



incident was an unfortunate reflection on Portsmouth.Someone online saw a group of what looked like foreign nationals leaving the coach and put a photo of it online and that's where it spurred from," he told the BBC. "It was mere speculation rather than

based on truth or fact." Hampshire Constabulary confirmed that officers spoke to the protesters and explained that their concerns were misplaced. No offences were identified, and the crowd left shortly before 9pm. **CRICKETERS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSHAIRS** The incident drew criticism from Portsmouth North MP Amanda Martin, who said it was unacceptable that misinformation had resulted in young cricketers being wrongly targeted. "There is a legitimate debate to be had about immigration, but it must be based on facts not misinformation or rumour,"

Martin said.The England and Wales Cricket Board has since checked on the Pakistan Under-19 team's wellbeing and is reviewing security arrangements for the remainder of their tour.

Big Ben time at US Open: The night Ben Shelton broke through against the elite

Ben Shelton's stunning US Open win over Carlos Alcaraz was more than the biggest victory of his career. After years of promise and repeated failures against the elite, the American may finally have found his breakthrough moment.

Chennai . (Agency)

At 3:33 on a Wednesday morning in New York, Ben Shelton had lost all sense of time.Four hours and 28 minutes after stepping onto Arthur Ashe Stadium to face Carlos Alcaraz, Shelton had just produced the win of his life. He looked towards his team, grinned, let out a roar and brought back the telephone celebration that has become synonymous with him.The timing could not have been more fitting. Shelton had waited a long time for a moment like

this.Until Tuesday night, the 23-year-old was 0-17 against players ranked inside the world's Top 3 and had lost all three of his previous meetings with Alcaraz. For all



the noise around his booming serve, explosive athleticism and boundless potential, there remained a line between Shelton and the game's true elite that he had been unable to cross.THE SIGNS WERE THERE The signs had been there for a while. Shelton arrived at the US Open in the middle of the best stretch of his career,

having won 11 of his previous 12 matches and gone 13-2 during the North American hard-court swing. His run included a second ATP Masters 1000 title in Montreal, while the victory over Alcaraz also sent him into a third Grand Slam semifinal.His explosive game was no longer simply producing highlights. It was producing results. But there remained an obvious barrier. Before Tuesday, Shelton had never beaten a player ranked inside the Top 3, losing all 17 of his previous attempts. Alcaraz, whom he had faced three times and lost to on each occasion, represented the most significant obstacle yet.For all the progress Shelton had made over the past few months, there was still a difference between being one of the most dangerous players on tour and proving he could beat those sitting at the very top of it. Tuesday night offered him another chance to close that gap.

Aryna Sabalenka watches Rybakina take her No. 1 throne, then gets back to work

Elena Rybakina beat Zheng Qinwen to reach the US Open semi-finals as Aryna Sabalenka watched the finish during practice. The win ends Sabalenka's 99-week stay as world number one and gives Kazakhstan its first player at the top.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Aryna Sabalenka's 99-week reign as the world's No. 1 women's tennis player is coming to an end, with Elena Rybakina officially taking over the top spot after reaching the US Open semi-finals. While Rybakina celebrated a milestone she had dreamed of, ESPN caught Sabalenka's live

reaction to the changing of the guard.

Rybakina fought back from a set down to



beat Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 and book her place in the last four at Flushing Meadows. The victory gave her enough ranking points to move above Sabalenka when the WTA rankings are updated on Monday, ending the Belarusian's lengthy spell at No. 1. Interestingly, Sabalenka was not completely removed from the moment. The four-time Grand Slam champion was

in the middle of a practice session when she stopped to watch the closing stages of Rybakina's quarter-final, with ESPN capturing her reaction after the Kazakh sealed the victory.

Rybakina's achievement marks a historic moment for Kazakhstan as she becomes the first player representing the country, male or female, to reach No. 1. For Sabalenka, however, there is still plenty to play for as she remains in contention for a third consecutive US Open title.

SABALENKA WATCHES THE MOMENT, THEN GETS BACK TO WORK

Sabalenka briefly stopped her practice to watch Rybakina close out the match. Once the result was confirmed, she returned to her training, seemingly wasting little time dwelling on the loss of her ranking.Rybakina, meanwhile, admitted that the significance of the moment had not

Zverev stays up for Shelton-Alcaraz till 3.30am, then cruises into US Open semis



New York. (Agency)

Alexander Zverev stayed up until 3.30am to watch Ben Shelton and Carlos Alcaraz produce a US Open classic. The German revealed that after sacrificing his sleep for the five-set thriller, he returned to Arthur Ashe Stadium and wasted little time booking his own semi-final spot with a straight-set win over Botic van de Zandschulp.The top seed beat the Dutchman 6-2, 7-5, 6-1 to reach the last four, where he will face Karen Khachanov. While Shelton and Alcaraz battled for four hours and 28 minutes before the American sealed a dramatic victory at 3.33am, Zverev's own quarter-fi"I watched Shelton Alcaraz until 3:30 a.m. last night. I did not go to bed. I was up late. I was watching TV because I was sleeping in until 1 p.m. anyway, so credit to Ben," Zverev said after his win. "He played an unbelievable match, and, tomorrow, after tomorrow it's gonna be, I think, a fun semi-final between two Americans."nal was wrapped up in just over two hours.ZVEREV'S OWN QUARTER-FINAL WAS MUCH QUICKER Zverev did not exactly begin his match in flawless fashion. He produced five double faults in the opening set, but van de Zandschulp was unable to make the German pay, leaking forehand errors as the top seed secured the first break and moved ahead. The Dutchman came close to dragging the match level in the second set, earning a set point while leading 5-4. Zverev held his nerve, levelled at 5-5 and then broke again before serving out the set.An early break in the third effectively ended the contest. Zverev kept pressing while van de Zandschulp's resistance faded, closing out the match 6-1 and reaching his third US Open semi-final. **FROM SLEEPLESS NIGHT TO SEMI-FINAL DUTY** The victory also continued a remarkable Grand Slam season for Zverev.

India's pursuit of an eighth Women's Asia Cup crown enters knockout territory

India face Bangladesh in the Women's Asia Cup semifinal in Dubai on Thursday, with the seven-time champions looking to continue their unbeaten run and move one step closer to an eighth continental title.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's pursuit of an eighth Women's Asia Cup title enters the business end on Thursday when Harmanpreet Kaur's side take on Bangladesh in the semifinal in Dubai. The seven-time champions have been the standout side of the tournament so far, progressing through the group stage unbeaten. But the stakes change

considerably in the knockouts, where one poor outing could bring an abrupt end to India's otherwise dominant campaign.Watch Women's Asia Cup 2026 Semifinal - India vs Bangladesh on September 10, 2026, from 8 PM IST live on Sony Sports Ten 1 SD & HD, Sony Sports Ten 3 SD & HD (Hindi), Sony Sports Ten 4 SD (Tamil,Telugu, Kannada) & Sony LIV.

Bangladesh arrives with less fanfare but have reason to believe they can make life difficult for the favourites. They have beaten India before, including a four-wicket win in Mirpur in 2023, while the slower conditions in Dubai could offer their bowlers an opportunity to narrow the gap.With a place in the final on the line, India's superior depth and big-match experience will be up against a Bangladesh side hoping to turn the contest into a low-scoring battle.

INDIA'S BIGGEST TEST?

India have done little wrong on their way to



the semifinals, emerging as the only unbeaten side from Group A and underlining their credentials as tournament favourites. Their campaign has featured convincing victories, with the comprehensive seven-

wicket win over Pakistan standing out after the bowlers dismissed their opponents for just 55.Smriti Mandhana has produced the tournament's standout individual batting performance with her century against Hong Kong, while India's bowling attack has consistently found ways to put opposition batters under pressure. Deepti Sharma's experience and control have been central to that effort, with the spin resources expected to become particularly important on the Dubai surface.However, knockout cricket brings a different kind of pressure. The margin for error disappears, and India cannot afford to rely solely on their superiority on paper. Their batting has not always been tested in difficult situations, while Bangladesh will be keen to drag the contest into a tighter battle.

Kenya sets up joint panel with Tata Chemicals to resolve Magadi dispute

New Delhi. (Agency)

In a shift from Kenya’s recent hardline stance against Tata Chemicals, the country’s Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs has agreed to set up a high-level technical committee with Tata Chemicals Magadi Ltd (TCML) to resolve outstanding compliance issues and determine the way forward for its suspended operations at Lake Magadi.The development comes just days after Kenyan President William Ruto directed Tata Chemicals to cease operations in the country and said a new investor would be brought in to develop the soda ash resources at Lake Magadi.Kenya’s Mining Cabinet Secretary Hassan Ali Joho said the decision to form the committee followed a meeting with Tata Chemicals Magadi executives on Tuesday. The panel will be jointly led by the Principal Secretary for Mining, Harry Kintai, on behalf of the government and TCML chief executive officer Swaminathan Nagarajan on behalf of the company. The committee will conduct a detailed technical review of the unresolved compliance matters and submit its report to Joho for consideration and further direction.

According to Joho’s statement, the committee will examine five key issues: mineral beneficiation and in-country value addition; outstanding community benefits and royalty obligations; unresolved land matters; opening up the area for multiple mineral extraction; and outstanding matters between TCML and the Kajiado County Government. The move is significant as it opens a formal channel of engagement between the Kenyan government and Tata Chemicals after President Ruto publicly criticised the company for failing to create sufficient local economic value from its century-old operations at Lake Magadi.

New Apple CEO unveils latest iPhone lineup

CUPERTINO, California:.. (Agency)

Apple is unveiling its latest generation of iPhones, widely expected to include a foldable version, on Wednesday at an event headlined by new CEO John Ternus, who took over from Tim Cook on Sept. 1. Ternus briefly took the stage at the Steve Jobs Theater, kicking off the event to loud cheers. In a video message, he praised Apple’s "relentless pursuit of excellence."The iPhone 18 Pro and 18 Pro Max, Ternus said, bring improvements to the battery, camera, and performance. Apple is focusing on Siri’s new AI capabilities with the new phones, emphasizing privacy and security to stand apart from rivals who are further along in incorporating AI.Many of Apple’s biggest rivals, such as Samsung, Motorola and Google, have already come out with foldable smartphones. But Apple is not one to rush on new technologies.

"The foldable launch is straight out of Apple’s playbook: Wait for the product to work out its kinks and for the market to offer glimpses of viability, then enter and shape the category," said Forrester analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee. "The difference is that foldables still represent a minuscule share of the smartphone market. The test of Apple’s ambition will be whether it can expand that niche into a meaningful new segment."

Compared with earlier generations, the iPhone 18 likely will cost more due partly to a global memory chip shortage. The iPhone 17’s price ranges from \$799 to \$1,999 depending on the model.

RIL plans Rs 12,500 crore rupee bond sale, first since

New Delhi. (Agency)

Reliance Industries, India’s largest company by cash balances, is planning to tap the domestic debt market with a Rs 12,500-crore five-year bond issue as early as next week, according to a source. If completed, it would be the largest listed corporate bond issuance in the domestic market this year. RIL, which has a cash pile of Rs 2.46 lakh crore against net debt of Rs 1.23 lakh crore, is likely to offer a coupon of 7.47% on the five-year notes. The issue will have a base size of Rs 10,000 crore and a greenshoe option of Rs 2,500 crosaid.pace India is among a handful of countries that have spacefaring technology and globally competitive capabilities. The space economy is targeted to grow about five times and reach \$40–45 billion by 2030. What’s more, private investment in this sector through firms such as Skyroot, Pixxel and Agnikul are moving fast towards commercial execution. Semiconductors This sector has already started blooming in the country. India’s push is moving from policy to execution and there are around \$20 billion of investment in the works. Chip fabrication units are being built and several OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) projects have started production. An incentive scheme of about \$13 billion could be offered to make the accelerate investment.Space India is among a handful of countries that have spacefaring technology and globally competitive capabilities. The space economy is targeted to grow about five times and reach \$40–45 billion by 2030. What’s more, private investment in this sector through firms such as Skyroot, Pixxel and Agnikul are moving fast towards commercial execution. SemiconductorsThis sector has already started blooming in the country. India’s push is moving from policy to execution and there are around \$20 billion of investment in the works. Chip fabrication units are being built and several OSAT(Outsourced.

Why India is an 'oasis' amid global chaos, explains FICCI chief Anant Goenka

Anant Goenka said India is better placed than many economies amid global turmoil. He said manufacturing, global market ambition and deeper BRICS ties will decide how fully India uses this opening.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India is emerging as an “oasis” amid global geopolitical and economic chaos, Anant Goenka, Vice Chairman, RPG Group and President, FICCI, said on Thursday, speaking at the India Today BRICS Roundtable in New Delhi.Goenka said India’s macroeconomic fundamentals were

“possibly the best in the world” even as businesses globally grapple with wars, supply-chain disruptions, rising commodity prices and uncertainty.“While the world is undergoing chaos, I think India is the oasis today,” Goenka said.ndia has credit lines at the end of June.He mentioned factors such as strong corporate balance sheets, lower debt, political stability and a continued reform push giving the country a window to accelerate growth.WHY GOENKA CALLS INDIAAN ‘OASIS’ Goenka said India’s relative resilience was not simply a result of strong GDP growth, but reflected improvements across several underlying economic indicators.He pointed to lower debt levels at the country level, stronger corporate balance sheets and non-performing assets



at banks being at an all-time low. Political stability and a continuous path of reforms were other factors supporting India’s economic position, he said. Goenka also highlighted improvements in ease of doing business, efforts to bring down logistics costs and India’s increasing focus on renewable power. “Decades happen in weeks,” Goenka said, arguing that the current period of

global uncertainty could accelerate India’s growth as companies look to diversify their supply chains and reassess investment destinations.He said countries and businesses were clearly looking at diversifying supply chains, making the opportunity for India one that was “still to be grabbed”. JOBS CRISIS RISK: MANUFACTURING IS THE ANSWER

Goenka, however, acknowledged that India’s opportunity comes with a significant challenge, employment. Asked whether India was facing a jobs crisis amid de-hiring trends and automation, particularly in sectors such as IT, Goenka said there was “some risk of jobs crisis”. But he argued that the bigger opportunity was to turn India into a manufacturing powerhouse.

Why iPhone 17 prices jumped the same day Apple launched the iPhone 18

New Delhi. (Agency)

Apple has turned one of the most predictable rules of the iPhone business on its head. When a new iPhone arrives, older models usually get cheaper.This year, Apple did the opposite.As it unveiled the iPhone 18 Pro, iPhone 18 Pro Max and its first foldable, the iPhone Duo, it also raised the prices of severThe iPhone 17 is now Rs 99,900, up Rs 17,000 from Rs 82,900. The iPhone 16 has risen by Rs 20,000, while the iPhone 17e is Rs 15,000 more expensive. The iPhone Air has seen the biggest increase, jumping Rs 30,000 to Rs 1,49,900.al older iPhones in India.That is a remarkable move for a company that has historically used older iPhones as its more affordable options when a new generation arrives.So why did Apple make its older iPhones more

expensive just as it launched new ones?The answer is buried inside the phones: memory chips are getting much more expensive, and the AI boom is partly to blame.THE



CHIPFLATION EFFECT “Chipflation” is essentially inflation caused by rising semiconductor prices. And right now, memory is at the centre of the squeeze. DRAM and NAND chips are essential components in smartphones, laptops and other consumer electronics. But they are

also critical to the enormous data centres being built to power generative AI.AI companies and cloud providers are consuming huge amounts of memory, creating a new source of demand for components that smartphone makers have relied on for years. That is putting pressure on supply —and pushing up prices. TrendForce estimated in August that the bill of materials for a 256GB iPhone 18 Pro could rise by around 38% year-on-year, largely because of higher memory costs. Memory’s share of the phone’s total bill of materials was estimated to have climbed from around 10% a year earlier to about 34% in the third quarter of 2026.In other words, a component that once represented a relatively small part of a smartphone’s manufacturing cost has suddenly become one of its biggest cost pressures.

Centre refutes criticism of GST growth estimates

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central government has refuted criticism of its GST revenue growth calculations, saying comparisons must be made on a like-for-like basis and not across different tax bases. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a statement on Wednesday that



the GST revenue figures published month on month reflect the correct picture of GST revenue performance, with full disclosure.The CBIC statement said that the GST Council took a decision to discontinue the compensation cess effective from September 22, 2025, on all items except tobacco and related products. The cess levy on tobacco and related products was also

removed from February 1, 2026. Accordingly, for the above period, there is no cess collection. In view of the above, from the month of November 2025 (first tax period post GST rate rationalisation), GST revenue figures published in the public domain transparently showed compensation cess separately in a table below, and the year-on-year growth was computed on the tax base consisting of CGST, SGST and IGST for the corresponding periods. A footnote was also carried as an ample disclosure, the statement said."A growth rate is meaningful only when it is computed on a comparable basis, that is, on the same set of levies on both sides of the comparison. Otherwise, it is like comparing apples and oranges," the CBIC said."The purpose of a growth figure is to show how the tax base has moved. The GST revenue figures published month on month reflect the correct picture of GST revenue performance, with full disclosure. Where a levy has ceased to exist in law, retaining it in the base measures something else altogether. It is neither arithmetically right nor makes any logical sense.""Therefore, any attempt to cherry-pick figures from two different tax bases is thoroughly misleading and mischievous. A fair analysis must compare like with like, instead of misleading our citizens by comparing two fundamentally different datasets," the CBIC statement added.

Asian shares fall and oil prices hold steady above \$100 a barrel

Inflation was already stubbornly high when the U.S. started its war against Iran because of the U.S. trade war with much of the world.

BANGKOK..Asian shares skidded Thursday following a retreat on Wall Street as the price of crude oil again traded above \$100 a barrel.U.S. futures were modestly higher. The price of Brent crude jumped 34% on Wednesday, surging above \$100 a barrel for the first time since July. It fell back slightly early Thursday to about \$101 a barrel.The latest attacks between the U.S. and Iran are stifling the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz, and U.S. President Donald Trump said

Wednesday that oil prices likely won’t fall until after U.S. midterm elections.In Asian trading, Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 lost 0.8% to 64,597.46 and the Kospi in South Korea declined 0.9% to 6,989.06.Hong Kong’s Hang Seng fell 1.4% to 24,932.95, while the Shanghai Composite index gave up 0.3% to 3,939.43.In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 slipped 1.5% to 8,774.50. Taiwan’s Taiex fell 0.8%. On Wednesday, the S&P 500 index fell 0.5%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, and the Nasdaq composite gave up 0.6%. The indexes are all on track for a weekly loss.Oil prices drove much of the action on Wall Street. The U.S. destroyed five Iranian tankers on Tuesday in a series of attacks between the two nations. The conflict that began in February has essentially shut down traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, where a fifth of the world’s oil supply passed before the war began.Retailers were among the

companies that pulled the market lower. Amazon fell 1.8%, Starbucks lost 1.9%



and Home Depot dropped 1%. Every sector within the benchmark S&P 500 declined except for energy, which rose as oil companies notched gains. Exxon Mobil rose 2.2% and Chevron added 1.9%.The jump in oil prices over the course of the war has pushed prices for many goods higher. Gasoline prices in the U.S. are up about 32% from a year

ago to \$4.22 per gallon. Higher fuel costs cut into household budgets directly and also indirectly raise prices for goods because of higher shipping costs.The price of diesel, whichcan have an outsized impact on consumers because it is used in shipping and production, hit an all-time high Friday and has continued to climb since. The average price for a gallon reached \$5.94 overnight and is now 9 cents higher than it was Friday.Inflation was already stubbornly high when the U.S. started its war against Iran because of the U.S. trade war with much of the world.An update on wholesale prices is due later Thursday with the release of the Producer Price Index for August. It measures the prices businesses pay for goods before they reach customers. That report will be followed up Friday with the release of the Consumer Price Index.

Kiara Advani

Imagines Herself With Sidharth Malhotra In The 80s, Their AI Look Is Pure Bollywood Nostalgia

What if Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra had been a Bollywood couple in the 1980s? A new viral AI trend has offered social media users a way to imagine exactly that, with celebrities and netizens recreating their looks as retro-era portraits. Kiara recently hopped on the trend and shared an AI-generated image featuring herself and Sidharth, complete with an unmistakable 80s Bollywood aesthetic. The picture has since sparked plenty of interest among their fans online.

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra join Instagram’s viral trend
On Wednesday, September 9, Kiara Advani took to Instagram to share an AI-generated portrait that reimagined her and Sidharth in an 80s setting. While Sidharth channels the retro hero look in a double-denim outfit paired with dark aviators, Kiara embraces the era’s glamorous style in a vibrant pink puff-sleeved dress. She completed the look with oversized hoop earrings and bangles, adding to



the vintage Bollywood-inspired aesthetic. Kiara also paired the post with Samjho Na, the romantic track from Sidharth’s upcoming film The Vvaan, adding another connection to her husband’s latest project. Along with the picture, she wrote, “Back to the 80’s.” Have a look:

Soon after she shared the picture, fans of the couple were seen going gaga over it. One fan wrote, “They look like Akshay Kumar and Raveena Tandon.” Another fan wrote, “Such a lovely couple.” Others were seen dropping red heart emojis. Meanwhile, Kiara was recently seen in Geetu Mohandas’ Toxic: A Fairytale For Grown-Ups. It also starred Yash, Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth. The film received mixed reactions from the audience. The actress is yet to announce her next project. On the other hand, Sidharth is currently busy promoting his upcoming film, The Vvaan. Also starring Tamannaah Bhatia, Shweta Tiwari, Sunil Grover and Maniesh Paul, the film is directed by Arunabh Kumar and Deepak Kumar Mishra. It is set to release on September 25.



Anushka Sharma

And Virat Kohli Step Out For Casual Outing In London, Pics Go Viral

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli were recently spotted together in London, where the couple appeared to be enjoying a quiet family outing. Photos of the actress and the cricketer have surfaced online, giving fans a glimpse of their low-key morning. **Anushka, Virat Spotted Near Akaay’s Nursery** Virat and Anushka were photographed on the streets of London on Tuesday morning. Kohli kept his outfit casual in a green sweatshirt paired with jeans, while Anushka was seen wearing grey leggings, a white T-shirt, a jacket and a cap.

In one of the photos, Virat and Anushka can be seen chatting with a woman. While Virat held on to a pram, Anushka appeared to be all smiles as they spoke. The stroller is believed to belong to their son, Akaay, although the toddler was not visible in the pictures. According to posts shared by fan accounts, the couple were photographed outside Akaay’s day nursery. **Anushka And Virat Have Kept Their Children Away From The Limelight**

The couple have consistently tried to keep their children, daughter Vamika and son Akaay, away from the public eye. They have also previously requested photographers and fans to respect their family’s privacy. The latest sighting comes a few weeks after the couple were photographed together in Delhi. They have also been spotted visiting several spiritual places in recent months, including Neem Karoli Baba’s ashram at Kaichi Dham in Nainital and his ashram in Vrindavan.

Anushka Sharma And Virat Kohli’s London Connection

Anushka and Virat tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Italy in December 2017. They welcomed Vamika in 2021 and their son Akaay in 2024.

Their decision to spend time in London has also previously been discussed by Dr Sriram Nene. In



a conversation with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, Madhuri Dixit’s husband recalled meeting Virat and said he had “a lot of respect” for the cricketer, describing him as “just a decent human being”.

Dr Nene also recalled a conversation with Anushka about the couple’s plans to move to London. According to him, the constant attention surrounding their lives in India made it difficult for them to simply enjoy their success and have a normal family life. He said the couple wanted their children to grow up with greater privacy and away from intense public scrutiny.



Preity Zinta Breaks Silence On Batwara 1947's Box Office Failure: 'You Can't Control What Happens'



A film’s box office journey is not always in an actor’s hands, and Preity Zinta seems to have accepted that reality following Batwara 1947. The actress, who returned to acting after an eight-year break with the Sunny Deol-starrer, has now addressed the film’s disappointing theatrical run. While the period drama failed to live up to expectations at the box office, Preity believes certain parts of a film’s journey are simply beyond an actor’s control.

Preity Zinta talks about Batwara 1947’s failure

While speaking to Mid-Day, Preity Zinta said she was extremely proud of the film and described the experience as overwhelming. She said, “I am very proud of the film, and it’s a very overwhelming experience. And as an actor, I am always managing expectations. Once I am working, I put in my 100 per cent. As I said earlier, I believe in karam (deed). You do your karam and then leave the rest to god. You can’t control what happens. So, you work as hard as you can on every film; I give my 1000 per cent and then leave the rest to God.”

Rajkumar Santoshi’s Batwara 1947 stars Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal and others. Recently, even Shabana Azmi spoke about the film’s box office failure. She told Zoom, “Why can’t you see Sunny Deol as a Muslim? There were films like Coolie in which Amitabh Bachchan played Muslim characters with ease. He used to use 786 and it was completely accepted. Now, what should we understand from this, that such an environment is being created here in which such divisions are happening deliberately? I don’t understand. I am very surprised at the total box office disaster Batwara 1947 has been. I am surrounded by people who come and tell me that they loved the film and they loved the message. On the other hand, people did not go to the theatres and those who did, had confused reactions.” Meanwhile, Preity is currently busy promoting her upcoming film, Vibe. The film also stars Kunal Kemmu, Sparsh Shrivastava, Vanshika Dhir, Yashpal Sharma and Dinesh Lal Yadav. The film is set to hit theatres on September 18. It will clash with Kareena Kapoor Khan’s Daayra.

National Film Awards 2026 To Repeat A 1970 First: Why The Ceremony Is Moving From Delhi To Gujarat?



The 72nd National Film Awards will break a decades-old tradition this year. For the second time in the awards’ history, the ceremony will be held outside Delhi. The 2026 edition is scheduled to take place at Ekta Nagar (formerly Kevadia) in Gujarat’s Narmada district on September 22 and President Droupadi Murmu will present the honours.

For the unversed, the National Film Awards have been closely associated with New Delhi since their inception in 1954. For decades the ceremony used to take place at the Vigyan Bhawan in the national capital. The last major exception came in 1970, when the 17th National Film Awards were presented at the University Centenary Auditorium in Chennai. As the ceremony now moves out of Delhi, let’s take a look at what happened in 1970 and why will it be held in Gujarat this year.

The 17th National Film Awards, which honoured films released in 1969, were held in Chennai. The ceremony took place at the University Centenary Auditorium on November 21, 1970. Among the major winners was Mrinal Sen’s Bhuvan Shome, which won the President’s Gold Medal for Best Feature Film.

The Indian government never officially revealed the reason for holding 1970’s National Film Awards in Chennai. However, it should be noted that Chennai was then one of India’s major filmmaking centres, and the awards’ regional jury structure itself included a dedicated Chennai jury alongside Bombay and Calcutta.

Why Is The 2026 Ceremony Being Held In Gujarat?

The government has announced the shift as part of a broader policy decision to take the National Film Awards beyond the National Capital and hold them in different parts of the country. However, it should be noted that the Union government has not revealed a reason on why they decided for Gujarat for this year’s ceremony.

Live like paying guests to make marriage work



Just the way a banker's wife has to put up with her husband's painfully long hours at work, a lawyer's husband too spends the better part of his life on teleconference with his wife.

While it is a matter of great pride to be an investment banker's wife or for that matter a savvy corporate lawyer's husband, deep down men and women still have inhibitions about each other's career choices, and would rather give anything for some quality time at home with each other.

With blurring gender divide, women are making a success of high-flying corporate jobs that involve living out of a suitcase while making way for men to explore the finer nuances of culinary art by way of a sous chef's job at a Star hotel. From waiting tables at a restaurant, assisting in a portrait photo shoot, to piercing people's eyebrows, jobs are getting as vivid and imaginative as they come, and are no longer limited to pursuing engineering or medicine to find a standing in the society. Under the facade of this happy acceptance have we really moved beyond professional stereotypes; is a woman as proud if her husband

mixes drinks at a bar, or a man compassionate towards his working-late-hours-in-office wife?

For Nishit Mangal, a manager with a UK-based travel company, it is critical that his partner has it easy at work and returns at day's end to look after their home. "A teaching job would be best suited for my spouse as she can have some time off with the family. While this doesn't go on to imply that a woman with a powerful white collar job is not respectable, just that she'd be too busy for her own good."

Like a busy woman, a very busy man at work too can cause relationships to fall apart. For instance, Anisha Singh, pursuing her Masters, winces at the mention of men from a Merchant Navy background. "Anything but Merchant Navy for me because my father comes from that background and I have experienced a sense of bewilderment that comes with getting to see him after long intervals," she rues. Anisha, however, doesn't attach a prestige-factor to her partner's job. Says she, "He could be doing any job, so long as the two of us are making a decent living, it doesn't really matter."

Shedding more light on this socio-cultural-economic thought process, senior clinical psychologist and marital

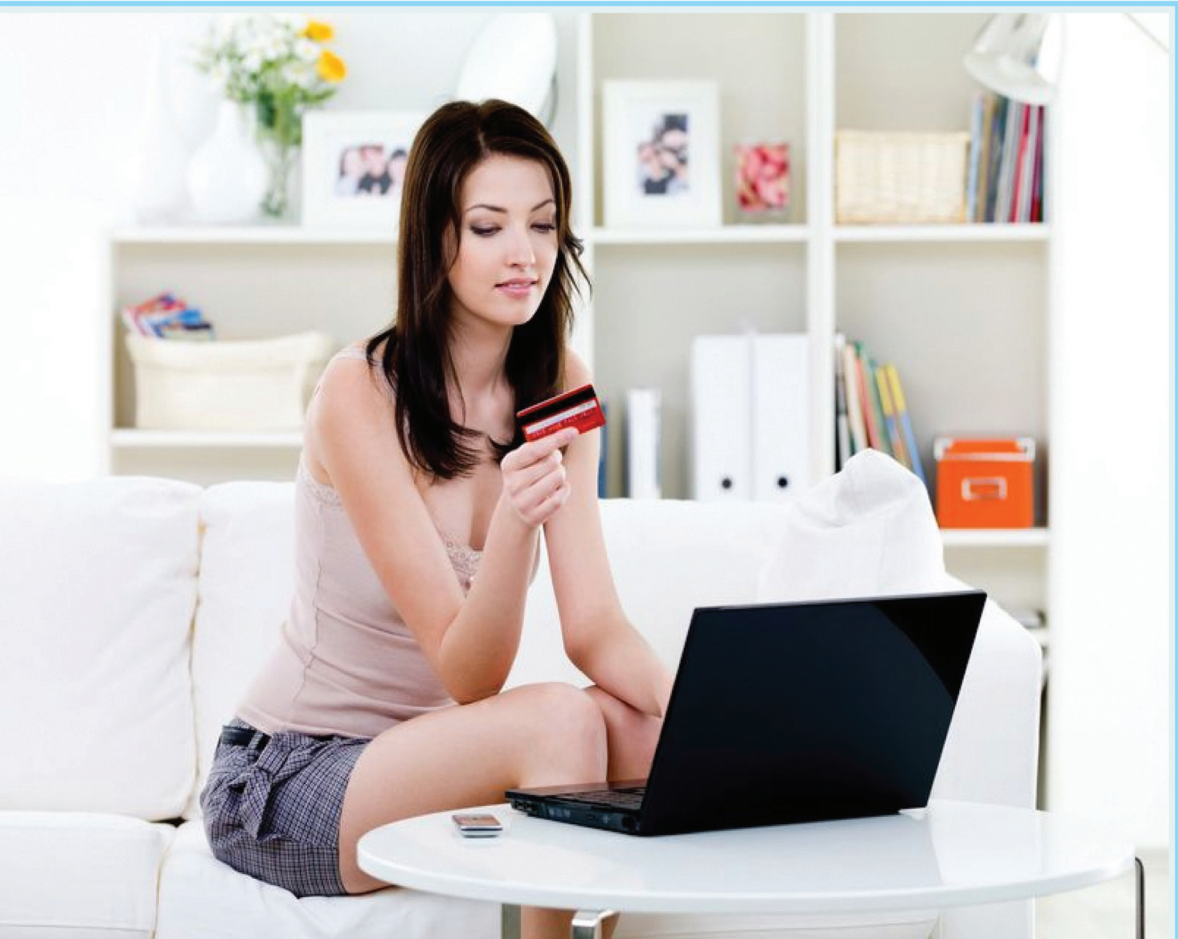
therapist, Dr Bhavna Barmi says, "Men stress on respect-worthy jobs for their women, and women by the same token crave for a pride-worthy job for men. Today, family and work lives are so closely intertwined that if one partner is too passionate about his job it can bring about a sense of displacement in the other. And if it turns out to be the woman that does a high profile job and contributes more financially, the man is bound to feel threatened."

Perhaps it is true at some point that your job and your partner's attraction to you are interrelated. There are men like Francis Hughes, a marketing professional with an MNC, who think women with an interesting job is a plus and not an essential for attraction. "It is enough that she is passionate about her job. The worst would be to date or marry someone who hates her work as she'll carry that grumpiness back home, making it difficult for any companionship to bloom," he avers.

Dr Kamal Khurana, marriage and relationship expert, attributes this difference in outlook towards each other's professional commitments to man's organic role as the provider and woman's as the upholder. "Deep within women still prefer men who would provide for them, protect them, and by virtue of which earn a higher salary than them. Men too continue to be deeply conventional in their ideas, expecting a woman to still look after the house and kids, even if she goes out to do a job," says he.

Then how about making the differences work? Explains Dr Khurana, "Both should have the right self-esteem, and live together like paying guests to run the house. The 'unisex mindset' should extend to finances as well, and if you can't rationalise your expectations, you are your partner's gravest enemy."

A job is never dreadful or embarrassing; the key lies in owning yourself, your people, and subsequently, your situation.



5 Things you should never reveal Online

You may love being online, but that doesn't mean you can reveal all. Here are some things that should be kept under wraps:

Intimate photos or videos: Something that you post in the heat of the moment may come back to haunt you many years later. Anything that's once posted online can never be deleted completely. So make sure that you don't post something that you may not want your colleagues, boss, siblings or parents to see.

Your phone number: And for that matter even your

address. Even if you think that you can trust your e-friend, don't be naive. Similarly don't give out your address for some lucky draw. This very lucky draw may prove 'unlucky' for you.

Don't post any abuses: If you have some complaints against your boss or teachers don't write messages against them over the net. For starters, it can be easily traced back to you. Wouldn't you rather talk about your complaints face-to-face with your boss than miss out on that promotion you were vying for.

Bank details: It's one thing to pay your bills online over secure websites, but never ever can you give out your account number or your ATM pincodes. Don't take such risk no matter what the emergency is. If someone asks you for such details be suspicious of them.

Minute-by-minute details: It's one thing to tell people how you feel or crack a joke a two over the net, but don't give out details like 'going out for groceries' or 'heading to the local bar'.

Is your friend a toxic one? Enrol your kid into a toy library



Take this quiz to know if your friend is someone who doesn't want to see you happy. While knowing that a friend can be toxic is easy, spotting one out of your circle of buddies may be very difficult. Friendship is based on trust, and, at times, unconditional trust can make one not notice things. Certain kind of friends can use unconditional trust to bring about negativity and unhappiness in your life. If you think you know one such person, who is supposedly a friend but probably has vested interests, take this quiz to be sure of it.

You've passed an exam your friend couldn't clear. The next level post the exam is making you extremely nervous but you want to clear it by hook or by crook. Your friend:

a. Encourages you because she is



very happy that at least you cleared the test.

b. Is extremely upset that she couldn't clear the exam. Instead of encouraging you, he/she decides to narrate failure stories of people who've appeared for the level too. Something happened in your life months back and you confide in your friend about it. At the next get-together, a related incident takes place with another friend.

Your friend:

a. Doesn't reveal your secret to anyone.

b. Decides to narrate your experience as a case study to people, thinking it's okay to tell them.

You have been gymming, but still haven't been able to reduce your weight and are extremely conscious about it (which most people know). Your friend:

a. Tells you it's okay to be a little healthy, and gives you company to workout.

b. Makes fun of how you can't fit into this one perfect dress that you love, just because you eat so much. Does your friend make you feel upset most of the time, never helping you when you feel low?

a. My friend never does that.

b. Yes, most of the times.

Do you enjoy the company of this friend, or does he/she never miss a chance to hamper your self-esteem?

a. I love spending time with my buddy, and just can't do without him/her.

b. Sometimes, I feel my friend can never be nice to me, and makes me feel bad about myself.

Has your friend ever broken your trust without being sorry about it?

a. Never.

b. Way too many times.

If most of the answers are:

a's: You have a friend worth keeping. He/she is extremely loyal to you, keeps you happy most of the times and most importantly, will never leave your side, come what may. Be with them like they've always been with you; we see bonding of a lifetime here.

b's: Sorry to say, but you're friends with a toxic personality who doesn't care one bit about you. Your so-called friend is all about him/herself and sees no reason why he/she should care for your feelings. We suggest you say no to their company, so that you stay happy. Make friends wisely.

Toy libraries — with a range of engaging, colourful and child-safe playthings — are the new way to keep your fidgety kid occupied.

Raghav is like any other five-year-old and constantly needs new toys to keep him engaged. His parents had scoured all the toy shops and were at their wit's end when they discovered a toy library. Full of the latest playthings, these new additions to city life are a dream destination for hyperactive kids and their harried parents. "Membership of a toy library is a good way to keep the child engaged. My son Raghav gets bored with toys easily. But after becoming a member of Nutty Newton he waits for a new toy every week," says Priya Farmania. Toy libraries like Toyz Hub, Toyswala, Nutty Newton and Playful Champs prevent parents from burning a hole in their pocket buying expensive toys. All of them stock global brands with a wide selection like wooden toys, puzzles, board games, constructive games, inflatables and more. Educational toys are the latest on the rack and give the kids the knowledge of phonic sounds, spellings and numbers.



"Our vacation packages are very popular. The members can take a break during exams and come back once they get over," says Richa Kanoria of Toyswala, which provides three toys at a time for two weeks for a membership fee of 850 per month. Toys can even be ordered online. "We have around 150 members — from newborns to eight-year-olds," says Sakshi Jain. The libraries hold workshops for artwork, storytelling, and vegetable carvings every week. "The

kids come and have a great time with their friends," adds Sakshi. Hygiene is very important for these institutions. "We have toy-specific detergents. We sterilize and dry them in the sun before they're wrapped and delivered," says Sonam Bagrecha of Toyz Hub. They also send out books with two toys every week but don't charge for these. "The idea is to get the kids to start reading," Sonam quips. Seems like kids can have all the fun!

Learn the art of French parenting

There isn't any doubt about the fact that new generation believes in self-improvement. Same could be the reason why French-parenting is coming into talks. New age parents; if not want to act; at least surely want to feel conscious enough toward how well they are performing their duty as parents. Surf a bit of net and you'll know, French parenting is on blogs, in discussions and in books that are on bestseller lists. So here we try to give a gist of why French people boast of having the secret of raising their children right, and what is that they do to make their children sit quietly at the dinner table in a restaurant instead of jumping on your soup bowl or spill your plate in your lap.

The following are some of the important beliefs of the art of French Parenting.

-Children must learn and firmly believe in basic courtesy. Educate them with 'hello', 'goodbye', 'thank you' or 'please' and make sure it comes as a part of their regular vocabulary.

-No matter how much you love your kids and are there with all your one hundred per cent, they must know 'Who's the boss'. Give them the 'big eyes' (a stern look of disapproval) when needed.

-Children must know how to wait. They must understand that things in life don't

always come served on a platter and for that a parent should learn to say 'No'. Don't give in to your child's demands each time. -Let them learn how to handle frustration. It's observed that French kids learn very

quickly to sleep quietly through night; and the secret is — their parents don't go rushing to pick them up every time they cry during nights.

