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Use tech to fix civic challenges faced by city: L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu to NSUT

New Delhi (Agency)

Delhi L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday called on Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) to develop technological solutions for civic challenges such as sanitation, traffic management, road conditions and flooding. He also exhorted the institution to convert research into actionable outcomes.

Chairing the sixth court meeting of NSUT at the Lok Niwas, Sandhu stressed, "The technical university should focus on research that addresses real-world challenges faced by the city." He directed the university to coordinate with expert agencies and facilitate the MCD, NDMC, Delhi Police, Health Department, PWD and Transport Department with technological solutions tailored to their specific requirements.

The L-G also highlighted the need to make AI education future-ready through global collaborations, with a focus on transformative applications, particularly AI-enabled healthcare in government hospitals.

High Court Setback For Arvind Kejriwal In PM Modi Degree Case

Gandhinagar. (Agency)

The Gujarat High Court division bench has dismissed the appeal filed by Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, upholding the Rs 25,000 fine imposed on him in the Prime Minister Narendra Modi degree disclosure case.

The two-judge bench delivered the verdict after having previously reserved its judgment. The court found no merit in Kejriwal's challenge and refused to interfere with the earlier ruling.

The controversy originated when the Central Information Commission



directed Gujarat University to provide details of PM Narendra Modi's degree. In response, Gujarat University approached the high court to challenge the information commission's order, naming Arvind Kejriwal as a party in the legal proceedings.

A single-judge bench of the high court subsequently set aside the Central Information Commission's order and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on Kejriwal. Following this, Kejriwal filed a review petition seeking relief from the single judge, but the petition was dismissed.

Seeking further remedy, Kejriwal moved the division bench of the high court to set aside the single judge's order. The division bench heard the matter in detail before reserving its final verdict, which has now been delivered.

INDIA Meet On 'Op Gyanesh Kumar', Sources Reject Attacks On Poll Panel

New Delhi (Agency)

A key meeting of the Opposition INDIA bloc got underway in the Capital on Wednesday to discuss its strategy for cornering Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the Centre after the recent row over the functioning of the poll panel. The bloc is likely to firm up its action plan for a wider agitation against Kumar and the BJP over the SIR issue.

Government and poll panel sources have, however, rejected the Opposition's criticism and defended the SIR exercise and the CEC.

Leaders and representatives of over 20 political parties are attending the meeting at the Constitution Club.

While Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge will represent the Congress, the Samajwadi Party has nominated two MPs - Harendra Malik and Maulana Mohibullah Nadvi - for the meeting. This came after speculation over SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's absence from the meeting. The Congress and SP later clarified that Yadav is busy with the UP Rajya Sabha elections and will send his nominees instead.

Other leaders expected at the meeting include Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee from the TMC, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Supriya Sule of NCP (SP), CPM general secretary MA Baby, CPI chief D. Raja, CPI (ML) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya, and Independent MP Kapil Sibal, among others.

The meet will also draw up a strategy to launch a nationwide agitation. Protests and public rallies against the Chief Election Commissioner will be held across the country, while an impeachment motion will be moved in Parliament.

The meeting is taking place a day after the Congress Working Committee demanded Gyanesh Kumar's removal, calling him a "puppet" of the BJP.

Speaking at the CWC meeting, Kharge accused the Modi government of systematically and conspiratorially hollowing out democratic foundations over the past 12 years. "The Modi government has systematically and

**The meeting is taking place a day
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conspiratorially hollowed out the strong democratic foundation that our forefathers built through their sacrifices and dedication over the last 12 years," he said. "Names are being removed from voter lists through calculated conspiracies, and the Chief Election Commissioner has become a puppet of the Modi government. This runs counter to the ethos and spirit of Indian democracy, which mandates that every eligible citizen's vote be secure and every vote be counted impartially," he added.



Kharge said that with elections in five states in 2027, it is essential to ensure that no voter's right is violated. The Congress President said the party must ensure that every person's vote is secure and elections are fair, so that the common people's trust in India's election process remains intact.

Kharge put forth five major demands at the CWC, noting that all data on changes in electoral rolls be made public, all voters whose names have been deleted should get a chance to appeal, and all political parties should be given electoral rolls in a simple format in time. He also demanded that an independent, time-bound probe be conducted where serious anomalies are found and that the poll process be made transparent so no one feels that

BJP Must Answer Where Drugs Are Coming From; Why Doesn't BJP Start Its 'Nasha Mukh Yatra' From Gujarat: Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal

The Sikh Times

CHANDIGARH: 30th September: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal on Wednesday questioned the BJP over its campaign against drugs in Punjab, asking where the drugs entering the country are coming from and why the party does not begin its 'Nasha Mukh Yatra' from Gujarat. He said that before targeting Punjab, Union Home Minister Amit Shah must explain the large drug consignments being intercepted at Gujarat ports, the interstate supply routes feeding Punjab and the BJP's position on the ₹6,000-crore synthetic drug case involving Bikram Singh Majithia. The Punjab Chief Spokesperson also questioned why the Enforcement Directorate (ED) took no action against Bikram Singh Majithia despite its investigation into the case, and why ED officer Niranjana Singh was transferred when the Jagdish Singh Bhola drug case investigation

was at a crucial stage. He said that if the BJP is genuinely serious about ending drugs, it must answer for the record of the Akali-BJP government and the drug supply routes operating through Gujarat instead of turning Punjab into the sole target of its political campaign. Addressing a press conference, AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, said, "Jagdish Bhola and Bikram Singh Majithia should be made to sit face-to-face and questioned so that the truth can come out. Every aspect of the drug network must be investigated and no person should be given any special treatment." The AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson stated, "Every citizen of Punjab knows how the drug network spread across the state during the 2007-2017 Akali-BJP government. Bikram Singh Majithia and his associates played a major role in that period. Whoever has brought drugs into Punjab and pushed

Punjab's youth towards drugs must face the strictest action under the law." He noted,



"Under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has launched a comprehensive war against drugs. Thousands of smugglers have already been put behind

bars and strict action is continuing against those involved in the drug trade." "The opposition parties are doing politics on the drug issue only to defame the Bhagwant Mann government. The people of Punjab know very well what action this government is taking against drugs and the drug network," he said. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal affirmed, "The allegations of political vendetta being levelled by the Shiromani Akali Dal are completely misplaced. The objective of the CM Bhagwant Singh Mann government is not political vendetta but to make Punjab drug-free." He asserted, "If we wanted to register a false case against someone, we could have done so earlier. Instead, the investigation is being conducted through the proper legal process and with complete transparency. Whether it is a politician or a senior police officer such as dismissed AIG Rajjit Singh, whoever has played a role in pushing Punjab's youth towards drugs will have to face punishment under the law."

Contd.....page-3

Sonia Gandhi Snaps At Digvijaya Singh's Nitish Kumar Mention At Congress Meet

Digvijaya Singh remarked that the INDIA alliance should not have let Nitish Kumar leave in 2024. But Sonia Gandhi asserted that Nitish Kumar was bound to leave anyway.

New Delhi (Agency).

As the Congress Working Committee met on Tuesday to discuss the party's strategy to corner Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the BJP, a former ally's mention by one of the members triggered a sharp retort from the party's matriarch Sonia Gandhi.

Sources told that during the discussions at the CWC meeting, senior leader Digvijaya Singh remarked that the INDIA alliance should not have let JD(U) chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar leave in 2024.

"The political situation would have been different," Singh told the meeting, according to sources present at the meeting. But Singh's assertion regarding Kumar was promptly shot down by Sonia Gandhi, who, according to sources, said Nitish Kumar was

bound to leave anyway. "He did not wish to remain in the INDIA alliance. It was for the best that he left when he did. That was where



he was headed; he had been actively seeking ways to exit the INDIA bloc," Sonia Gandhi told the meeting. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge concurred with Sonia Gandhi's views

and added: "While he had not intended to bring this up, he would mention that Nitish Kumar had indeed been looking for a way out of the INDIA bloc. His bid to become the convener of the INDIA bloc was merely a charade, given that he had previously told Kharge he wanted to remain active in state politics while supporting the INDIA bloc at the national level." Then Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar officially quit the INDIA opposition bloc on January 28, 2024, when he resigned as Chief Minister of the Mahagathbandhan government and returned to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Kumar, who was seen as a primary architect in uniting opposition parties to form the INDIA bloc, reportedly grew frustrated by delays in finalising seat-sharing agreements and the failure to name him the coalition's convener early on.

Bhagat Singh To Punjab's Water: AAP Widens Its Political Campaign

The clearest example came in Ludhiana, where the AAP government organised 'Jashan-e-Inqilab' at Punjab Agricultural University to mark Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary.

Punjab (Agency).

The Aam Aadmi Party's politics in Punjab is increasingly taking the shape of a full-fledged campaign, with the party moving beyond governance claims to a sharper mobilisation around Punjab identity, youth, nationalism and the legacy of Bhagat Singh.

The clearest example came in Ludhiana, where the AAP government organised 'Jashan-e-Inqilab' at Punjab Agricultural University to mark Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary. The event combined a large youth gathering with music, theatre and cultural performances, while Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann used the occasion to make an extended political pitch around his government's record.

The Punjab Chief Minister linked Bhagat Singh's legacy with his government's claims on education, healthcare, jobs, electricity,

irrigation, women's welfare and protection of Punjab's water. He also contrasted his government with previous regimes, accusing them of ignoring the ideals and sacrifices of the martyrs.

The naming of the Mohali airport after



Bhagat Singh, the 30-foot statue at Nishan-e-Inqilab Plaza and the ₹52-crore heritage complex at Khatkar Kalan were presented as evidence of the government's commitment.

Truck hits pedestrian, 27-year-old dies on way to PGI Rohtak

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 27-year-old labourer died after a truck hit him while he was walking near Basai Chowk Saturday morning. The truck driver fled after leaving the vehicle at the accident spot, police said.According to the complaint filed by the deceased’s elder brother Ram Jeevan, the victim, Arun, was unmarried and lived alone in a rented accommodation in Basai village, where he worked as a labourer.Police stated that Arun was walking from Bhawani Enclave side towards Basai Enclave, underneath the Basai flyover, around 6.30 am on Sept 26 when a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction hit him. He suffered serious injuries in the crash.An emergency response vehicle alerted cops at Sector 9A police station about the accident. ASI Sajjan Kumar reached Basai Chowk and found truck number RJ11GA8267 at the spot. The vehicle was taken to the police station and kept in police custody.Arun was taken by ambulance to Civil Hospital, Sector 10, Gurgaon. Doctors referred him to PGIMS Rohtak for further treatment. He died from his injuries while being taken to PGIMS Rohtak. Police later received a brought-dead report from PGIMS Rohtak and reached the hospital.In his complaint, Ram Jeevan, brother of the deceased, alleged that the driver of truck RJ11GA8267 was driving at high speed and in a negligent manner when he hit Arun. Based on the complaint, a case was registered at Sector 9A police station under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death due to negligence) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on Sept 27.

Primary teacher shortage hits schools, Gurgaon has 656 posts vacant

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Uneven distribution of primary teachers across Haryana’s govt schools has left hundreds of posts vacant in some districts while others have teachers in excess of their sanctioned requirement. A teachers’ association has urged the govt to bring primary teacher (PRT) and junior basic teacher (JBT) posts under a state cadre and introduce a transparent inter-district transfer system to address the imbalance.According to figures cited by the association, Palwal has the highest number of vacant primary teacher posts at 1,017, followed by Yamunanagar with 827, Gurgaon with 656, Faridabad with 579, Ambala with 550 and Sirsa with 474 vacancies. At the same time, some districts have more teachers than required. Mahendragarh has 250 surplus teachers, followed by Rewari with 225 and Charkhi Dadri with 149.Association representative Ashok Jain said the existing district-cadre system restricts teachers to their respective districts, making it difficult to deploy surplus staff in districts facing vacancies. “The govt needs to undertake inter-district adjustment based on the actual requirement of teachers and vacant posts rather than keeping deployment restricted to district boundaries,” Jain said.The association has demanded that PRT and JBT teachers be included in the state cadre, followed by an online and transparent inter-district transfer system. Under the proposed mechanism, teachers could be shifted to districts with vacancies based on school-wise requirements and available posts. Jain said the system would help rationalise deployment and ensure that govt schools have teachers according to their needs.The association said the shortage was particularly significant in rural and remote schools, where vacancies can disrupt classroom teaching and affect students’ learning.

39 buses seized as cops crack down on safety lapses after fire that claimed 9

Noida.(Agency)

Traffic police seized 39 buses and challaned another 67 in the last three days for violations ranging from safety lapses to regulatory offences. The action, coming days after a bus fire claimed nine lives on Yamuna Expressway, has put passenger vehicles under closer lens, particularly those whose emergency exits, fire equipment or other safety features may not be fit for an emergency.Traffic police checked 1,003 buses



between Sept 27 and 29, examining emergency exits, CCTV cameras, fire-safety equipment, curtains and black film, besides conducting drunk-driving checks. Drivers and conductors were also briefed on passenger safety and emergency equipment.Separately, the transport department launched Operation Kavach 2.0 on Sept 28 against unauthorised and rule-violating buses. Five teams conducted surprise checks across routes, seizing 21 buses on the first day and 18 on Sept 29.Unlike a routine penalty, the buses that have been seized will also undergo technical examination. A bus will be released only after being found compliant with AIS-119 safety norms. If it fails, its registration and fitness certificate could be suspended.The scrutiny assumes significance as recent checks found that sleeper buses are often modified after obtaining fitness certificates and RTO clearance.

Branded PGs & guesthouses set up at homes in Gurgaon’s Sushant Lok-3 on govt radar, 30 served notices

Gurgaon.(Agency)

More than 30 buildings in Sushant Lok-3 have been identified for possible enforcement action following a survey by the district town planner (enforcement), with unauthorised PGs, guest houses and other commercial activities operating from residential premises emerging as the main violations.The properties are largely located on bigger residential plots. Several are allegedly being used for activities beyond their sanctioned residential purpose, while some have allegedly carried out unauthorised construction in stilt parking areas. Managed PG accommodation providers, including Stanza Living, are also among those under scrutiny.Officials said show-cause notices and restoration orders have already been issued, with the process completed in several cases. Further action will be taken after examining the

nature of individual violations and compliance with planning regulations. The survey found a concentration of such properties in F and G blocks, particularly around Hong Kong Bazaar. “In one building in G Block, Stanza Living is operating a PG, while the basement of the same building has been rented to food delivery platform Swiggy,” an official said. Residents alleged that the large number of delivery vehicles around the basement has added to parking and traffic-related problems in the area.Residents said the concentration of PGs and guest houses had increased pressure on local infrastructure, including parking, drainage, sewerage, electricity and water supply. They said properties meant for residential use were being subjected to higher-intensity commercial and accommodation-related activities. Apart from PGs and guest houses, the enforcement department is examining a



farmers’ market, commercial offices and other business activities operating from residential properties.District town planner (enorcement) Amit Madholia said the Sushant Lok-3 survey had been completed and the department was

focusing on buildings where commercial activities were being carried out from residential premises. He said the enforcement process had gained momentum following recent Supreme Court directions concerning unauthorised commercial activities. The action comes amid a wider enforcement drive against commercial use of residential properties in Gurgaon. The department has maintained that its enforcement powers in licensed colonies continue even after such colonies come under municipal limits.Punjab and Haryana high court has previously examined the jurisdiction of the town and country planning department (DTCP) in licensed colonies. The court settled a key issue that had complicated enforcement action for years, holding that the inclusion of licensed colonies within municipal limits does not divest DTCP of its authority to act against building violations.

Biker dies as Thar hits him from behind on Golf Course Road in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 43-year-old man was killed and another person injured after the driver of a black Thar hit their motorcycle at a traffic light on Golf Course Road near DLF Camellias on Sept 26 night.Mohammad Idrish was riding a motorcycle with Ashiq Ali (23) as a pillion towards Malviya Nagar in Delhi when the Thar came from behind and hit the bike. The impact threw both riders around 10 feet away, after which the Thar driver fled.The injured men were taken to Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Sector 24, about 11 km away, by two bikers, Mohd Naim and his friend Ranjit Yadav, who were also stuck at the same traffic signal. The hospital referred the two men, both construction workers, to another hospital due to trauma injuries. Idrish was shifted to Civil Hospital in Sector 10, another 11 km away, but died



on the way. Ali was taken to Safdarjung Hospital and later shifted to a hospital in Gonda by his family.An FIR was registered on Sept 27 at Sector 53 police station on the complaint of Naim against the unidentified Thar driver under BNS Sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death due to negligence).

An ASI and a constable visited Narayan Hospital and later the govt hospital. Police said an investigation was initiated and the inquest proceedings were being conducted. Police said they were investigating the circumstances of the crash and trying to identify the Thar driver. “We are checking footage of CCTV cameras installed in the area and have got access to some videos, but the number plate of the Thar is not clear in the clip. Efforts are on to nab him,” a police officer said.Idrish’s brother-in-law Ashik Ali said the victim had suffered serious injuries and was in critical condition when he was taken to Narayana Hospital. “Doctors told me that he was in critical condition and there were little chances of his survival. They also told me that it would cost me over Rs 5 lakh for treatment there, but they didn’t assure me of his survival.

Noida, Ghaziabad to seize old vehicles & send them to scrap yards

Noida.(Agency)

Transport authorities in Noida and Ghaziabad will seize and deregister vehicles that have crossed their permitted age limit if found plying on roads and send them to registered vehicle scrapping facilities. Owners of such vehicles registered outside NCR will face a Rs 5,000 fine if they are found operating in the region.The crackdown – implemented with immediate effect – is being stepped up ahead of winter, when vehicular emissions add to the region’s pollution burden. It follows the long-standing prohibition on diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol and CNG vehicles older than 15 years in NCR. The move also conforms to enforcement directions issued by the Supreme Court and CAQM.“Under



directions issued by National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Supreme Court and Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), enforcement action will be taken against diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol and CNG ones older than 15 years across NCR. Such vehicles are most likely to be seized and deregistered without a separate notice being issued to their owners,” said Amit Ranjan Rai, assistant regional officer in Ghaziabad.The first step

of the crackdown will involve identification by transport enforcement teams. Once an overage vehicle is found plying, officials will seize it and complete the required deregistration process. The vehicle will then be handed over to an authorised scrapping facility. The action will not be limited to vehicles registered in just NCR. An overage vehicle registered outside the region will also be liable for action if found operating here. According to officials, it will be fined Rs 5,000. Officials also clarified that action can be taken against overage vehicles found parked in public or shared parking areas.Owners, however, have a way to avoid the outcome. Transport officials advised them to voluntarily surrender overage vehicles at a govt-authorised scrapping facility.

UP fixes 112-day deadline for land use change, cuts conversion fee

Noida.(Agency)

Local development authorities will now clear land-use conversion applications for plots up to 6,000 sq metres within 112 days. The amended Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning and Development (Assessment, Levy and Collection of Land Use Conversion Charge) Rules, notified by the state cabinet on Sept 15, set for the first time a timeline for disposal of land-use conversion proposals, which earlier involved multiple layers of scrutiny. Under the amended rules, technical scrutiny has to be completed within 22 days after an application is submitted. Property owners would get 60 days to respond to the queries raised after the technical valuation and submit papers. Thereafter, a six-member committee, headed by a development authority’s vice chairperson, will have 30 days to decide on the objections and suggestions to the changes proposed over the land parcel. The committee would also comprise the district magistrate and municipal commissioner or their nominated members, a member



nominated by the divisional commissionerate and the chief town planner of the development authority. Once all the formalities are cleared and payment is made to allow land use change, final go-ahead would have to be granted within 15 days. The revised framework, officials said, seeks to cut procedural delays and simplify compliance requirements for land-use change applications and would

greatly benefit developers. For developers, this could mean faster project launches, lower approval costs and greater predictability in timelines. The amendments to land-use conversion charge rules, which seek to improve ease of doing business, allow local development authority boards, like GDA, to change land use for plots up to 6,000 sqm, bypassing the state-level clearance previously required for such

tracts and in many cases dragged on for months.

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BJP Must Answer Where Drugs Are Coming From; Why Doesn't BJP Start Its 'Nasha Mukh Yatra' From Gujarat: Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal

Contd....Front page
Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said, "BJP leaders should first answer where the huge quantities of drugs entering the country are coming from before lecturing Punjab on drugs. Large quantities of drugs are entering through ports in BJP-ruled Gujarat and being moved through different routes towards other states, including Punjab." The AAP Chief Spokesperson stated, "Today, while Amit Shah is standing in Jalandhar talking about drugs, Bikram Singh Majithia has been summoned along with Jagdish Bhola in the very ?6,000-crore drug case which happened during Akali-BJP rule. So Amit Shah should answer: what

happened to the central investigation into this case? Why did the BJP-led Centre not take the matter to its logical conclusion? Why has the Modi government never made this case a subject of the same political campaign it is now running against Punjab?" He said, "The ED questioned Bikram Singh Majithia in 2014. Punjab Police registered an FIR against him in 2021. The investigation has continued for years. Now the Punjab SIT has summoned him again. Amit Shah should tell the people why his government's agencies have not brought this matter to a conclusion." "Before coming to Punjab to do politics on drugs, Union Home Minister Amit Shah should

answer the people of Punjab about the drugs coming through Gujarat. Why does the BJP not start its 'Nasha Mukh Yatra' from Gujarat and answer questions about the drug consignments being seized there?" he said. The AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson stated, "Punjab shares a 532-kilometre-long international border with Pakistan, while a 50-kilometre area along the border comes under the BSF. Drones are being used to bring drugs and weapons across the border. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has repeatedly demanded that the Centre install anti-drone systems and take effective steps to seal the border, but the Central

Government is running away from its responsibility." "The Punjab Government is doing everything within its jurisdiction to stop the drug trade, but border security is the responsibility of the Central Government. The Centre must strengthen surveillance, install anti-drone systems and take effective measures to stop the smuggling of drugs and weapons across the border," he said. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said, "Bhagwant Mann's government will continue its fight against drugs. No matter how influential or powerful a person may be, anyone found involved in bringing drugs into Punjab or destroying the lives of Punjab's youth will have to

face the law." Meanwhile, AAP Punjab President and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora said there was a time when the people of Punjab had not even heard the term 'chitta' in the context in which it later became known across the state. "The term became prominent in Punjab during the 2007-17 period when the Akali-BJP alliance was in power. Those were the years when the names of several prominent leaders repeatedly came into the public discourse in connection with the drug issue," he noted. He pointed out, "The reality was that a form of narco-terrorism was operating, in which political leaders of the then SAD-BJP dispensation,

police officers and drug traffickers were working as a nexus. That was the period when chitta reached households across Punjab." Aman Arora said the BJP cannot now ignore the record of the governments it supported. "Today, when we look back at that period, Punjab hangs its head in shame before the entire country that such governments ruled the state for 10 years. The BJP is today taking out a yatra against drugs, but I want to ask why both those governments, from 2007 to 2012 and from 2012 to 2017, continued with BJP support," he said.

UP cop booked, suspended for harassing Class 9 girl

Ballia (UP): A constable was booked here for allegedly harassing a Class IX girl and suspended from the force, the police said on Saturday. A case against constable Pankaj Gupta of the Lalgarh police outpost was filed Friday night at the complaint of the family of the 15-year-old girl. Gupta was booked under Section 74 (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of the BNS. According to the police, on September 8, when the student was returning home from Lalgarh after her coaching class, Gupta spotted her and asked for her mobile number. On September 9 and 10, Gupta again stopped her, allegedly made lewd remarks, and again asked for her mobile number. On Friday, Gupta again intercepted her and behaved indecently. When she raised an alarm, he fled on foot, abandoning his motorcycle.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client **Mrs. Kanta Maggar** in respect of **Third Floor, From Side-B, with Roof Rights, out of Property No. 153-D, Gali No. 19, AREA Measuring 70 Sq. yards approx., out of Khalsa No. 716/33/2, Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasirpur, Delhi State Delhi Colony Known as Dashrath Puri, New Delhi-110045** claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends to sell the property in which **SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited** will provide the financial assistance if any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within Seven days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

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Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as PRAKASH SHAH S/O LOGI PRASAD GUPTA R/O 39, Nehru Marg Kewal Park, Azad Pur, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi-110033 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as OM PRAKASH GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANIL KUMAR S/O BABU LAL R/O C-1/98, Krishan Vihar North West Delhi - 110086 have changed the name of my minor son DEV KUMAR KOLI aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as DEV KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RAJESH KUMARI alias RAJESHWARI alias RAJESHWARI DEVI D/O MAM CHAND W/O RAJEEV SINGH R/O 9/5255 Old Seelampur Gol Baldhak, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJESHWARI CHOUHARY.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as DINESH CHANDER S/O HANS RAJ HIRA R/O B-1, Subhadra Colony, Old Rohatkar Road, Okar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DINESH HIRA.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAVIDER BAJAJ S/O KRISHAN KUMAR BAJAJ, R/O E-340, Entire First Floor, Greater Kailash Part-1, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed the name of my minor daughter KIARA, aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as KIARA BAJAJ.

NAME CHANGE

I, VAIBHAV GUPTA S/O DINESH KUMAR GUPTA, R/O C-24, Preet Vihar, Nirman Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my minor daughter AVIQA GARG, aged 05 years and she shall hereafter be known as AVEEOA GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, VAIBHAV GUPTA S/O DINESH KUMAR GUPTA, R/O C-24, Preet Vihar, Nirman Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed the name of my minor daughter SIYA GUPTA, aged 09 years and she shall hereafter be known as SEEYA GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE

I, IMADAN RAI S/O DHUP LAL R/O G-158, DHARAM COLONY PALAM VIHAR EXTN CARTERPURI HARYANA-122017, HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER NAME ANURADHA KUMARI TO RANI KUMARI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, NIDHI SINGH W/O NIKHIL SUB-RAHAMANIYAM R/O FLAT NO-904, TOWER C PARK VIEW CITY 2 SECTOR 49 GURGAON-122001, HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NIDHI CHAUHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ram Vinod Mehto son of Mr. Ganga Mehto is the Owner in respect of Property No. B-137, Built upland area measuring 25 Sq. Yards., out of Khalsa No. 10/15, situated in the Village Khaila in the abadi of Vishnu Garden, in Block-NW, New Delhi, by virtue of Regd. I. GPA dated 27.12.2006, Duty Registered in the Office of the SRI, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Delhi, as Doc. No. 29065, in Book No. 4, Vol No. 11589, On Pages 35-38, Registered on dated 27.12.2006, ATS & Will, executed by Mrs. Madhu Devi wife of Mr. Gauri Shankar Sah and said property to be sold to Mrs. Bindu Devi wife of Mithlesh Bhagat, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot no. 20, Koushambhi near HDPC Bank, U.P.
E-MAIL:
sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 8130309204

NAME CHANGE

I, SANGEETA legally wife of Army no-Jc462366N Rank - SUB, Name - Bisen Anil Kumar Roshanlal, Presently Residing At - karutola, Post - Dawanivada, Teh - Gondia Dist - Gondia, State- MH Pin - 441614 have changed my name from SANGEETA TO SANGITA for all future purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 30/09/2026 before Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD ISRAFIL S/O HAMID KHAN R/O BHARWARA DARB-HANGA BIHAR 847104, CHANGED MY NAME TO MD ISRAFIL KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, Praveen Gandhi W/o Sunil Dua R/O 10/42, Geeta Colony, East Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Parveen for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Brijesh Kumar S/O: Ramesh Chandra R/O 232, charthawal, dhudhli, Dhudhli, PO:Doodhli, DIST: Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, 247772, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KOMAL KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, PARVEEN BEGUM W/O ABDUL SATTAR R/O A15/120 DAAI FLATS INDERLOK SARAI ROHILLA DELHI-110035 have changed my name to PARVEEN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Yogesh Kumar Gupta S/O Girish Chand Gupta R/O H-14/56-A (Old H 15/56) first floor, sangam Vihar, Deoli South Delhi 110062 Have Changed My Name to Yogesh Gupta for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rakhi W/O Deepak Sharma R/O House No-F.C.A.-139, Garg Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad Haryana -121004 Have Changed My Name to Rakhi Sharma for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, VED PRAKASH ARORA/VED PARKASH ARORA R/O B-8, FIRST FLOOR, DOUBLE STOREYED FLATS, MOTIAKHAN, PAHAR GANJ, DELHI-110055 have changed my name to VED PARKASH.

NAME CHANGE

I, SALMA BEGUM W/O ZAKIR KHAN R/O 1166, GALI SAMOSAN, FARASH KHANA, NORTH DELHI -110006 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAHIDA BEGUM

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GOPI SACHDEV alias GOPI SACHDEVA D/O RAM GOPAL MEHRA W/O A K SACHDEV R/O E-8 BHAGWAN DAAS NAGAR EAST PUNJABI BAGH PANJABI S/O WEST DELHI, DELHI-110026, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GOPI SACHDEV.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANGEETA legally wife of Army no-Jc462366N Rank - SUB, Name - Bisen Anil Kumar Roshanlal, Presently Residing At - karutola, Post - Dawanivada, Teh - Gondia Dist - Gondia, State- MH Pin - 441614 have changed my name from SANGEETA TO SANGITA ANILKUMAR BISEN for all future purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 30/09/2026 before Notary Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Mahmood Sani Owner of the Residential House bearing no.Cassia Road 27/04 Nova, Ground floor, in Shipra Suncity II, Indirapuram , Ghaziabad U.P. Mr. Mahmood Sani have lost Original Allotment letter issued by Ghaziabad Development authority and Shipra Estate Ltd. dated 10.03.2005 and possession letter issued by Shipra Estate Ltd. dated 24.04.2005 both in favour of Mr. Mahmood Sani of said property , for which complaint lodged to the police. Therefore, by way of this Public Notice it is hereby notified that any person, Attorney and/or entity, firm/company, society and/or member of the Society, Bank, HUF/member of HUF, Financial Institution having any claim, charge, interest, or lien whatsoever with respect to the Said house/plot or otherwise, may notify to undersigned only on his m.sani32@gmail.com with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication of notice, failing which any such claim etc shall be deemed to be null and void, whereas title shall be deemed to be clear, and marketable without any defect or encumbrance and free to create equitable mortgage

Mr. Mahmood Sani
M.NO-9312337848

NAME CHANGE

I, LEENA ANBAIAN wife of JC-442628X, Rank-SUB, Name-JABAL RAJ S residing at VENKANJIL, VILAVANCODE, KANYAKUMARI, TAMILNADU-629160, have changed my name from LEENA ANBAIAN TO LEENA A for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 29/09/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK SAWANT S/O GOVIND SINGH, presently residing at QTR NO-353/4, VIKRAM BATRA VIHAR, DELHI CANTT-110010, declare that in my minor son's school records, his name is wrongly mentioned as ANSH SAMANT, instead of his correct and actual name as ANSH SAWANT.

NAME CHANGE

I, DHIRENDRA S/O BHAGWAN SINGH R/O F-124 LADO SARAI, SOUTH DELHI-110030 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHIRENDRA FOR ALL PURPOSES.

NAME & DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, DHANNU mother of No. 15747579P Rank-SIGMN (OCC) Name-KISHORE CHOUHAN Presently residing at GRAM-NOGAWA, TEHSIL-HATOD, DIST-INDORE, M.P-453111, have change my name from DHANI BAI CHOUHAN to DHANNU for all future purposes, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 12/10/1973 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1973 vide affidavit No. 1032 dated 03/09/2026 before Notary Public, HATOD, INDORE, MP.

NAME & DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, KAILASH father of No. 15747579P Rank-SIGMN (OCC) Name-KISHORE CHOUHAN Presently residing at GRAM-NOGAWA, TEHSIL-HATOD, DIST-INDORE, M.P-453111, have change my name from KAILASH CHOUHAN to KAILASH for all future purposes, in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/08/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1963 vide affidavit No. 1033 dated 03/09/2026 before Notary Public, HATOD, INDORE, MP.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANNIO W/O MOHD SALEEM R/O H.NO-848, 3RD FLOOR GALI NO-22 ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR NEW FRIENDS COLONY SOUTH DELHI 110025, CHANGED MY NAME TO GUDIYA.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MADHU KUMARI D/O CHANDESHWAR SHAH R/O B-80/1, B-BLOCK VIKAS VIHAR, KAKROLA, DIST: SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as VIDHYAWATI in my 12TH class educational documents and the name of my mother name has been wrongly written as VIDYAWATI in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is VIDYAWATI DEVI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Upendra Kumar to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Sona Devi is the owner of Plot area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., out of Khalsa No. 283, situated in the Village Surajpur, Pargana Dabri, Tehsil & Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 18.04.2017 executed by Sh. Biku, as Doc. No.9024, Book No.1, Vol. No.23264, pages no.25 to 48, duly registered with the office of Sub-Registrar, Sadar-Gautam Budh Nagar and same will be financed & mortgaged by Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd. That, Sh. Biku was the recorded owner of the entire property through Khatani Record. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Advocate Abhishek Singh
B-82, Ground Floor,
DLF Dlishad Extn.-II,
Bhopura, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005
Mobile: 7706007066, 9310370510
Email:
advabhisheing1993@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SUJEET KUMAR S/O DEVENDRA JHA R/O HOUSE NO-867, KH NO-141/22, 3RD FLOOR, GALI NO-20, BLOCK-B, SHIVKUNJ SANTI NAGAR, BURARI, DELHI- 110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUJEET JHA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, Amrita Mishra, Mother of Gaurav Kumar Mishra Army No. 4282733L Rank - HAV Posted at Bihar, REGT Center, C/o 56 APO, Danapur Cantt Permanent Resident of Village - Gogri, Post - Gogri, Teh + P.S - Gogri, Dist. - Khagaria, State - Bihar Pin-851202 have changed my name from Amrit Mishra to Amrita Mishra & Date of Birth From 04/08/1962 to 01/01/1966 for all future purposes. My Adhar Card No. is 737475968152. Vide Affidavit Dated 30 September 2026 before The Notary Public at Delhi in presence of Advocate Rajkumar.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-2614188P Rank-HAV Name-SHIDDAPPA MAGEPPAGOL legal father of PRAJWAL R/O VPO-YADGUD, TEHSIL-HUKKERI, DIST-BELGAUM, KARNATAKA-591309, have changed my minor son's name from PRAJWAL to PRAJWAL SHIDDAPPA MAGEPPAGOL for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 30/09/2026 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RUKSANA PARVEEN W/O JUNE ALI R/O H NO-D-14/18, GALI NO-15, CHAUHAN BANGER, GARHI MENDU, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to RUKHSANA PARVEEN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Ravita W/O Gopal Singh R/O C-132, Third floor, Street no 11, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali Fazalpur East Delhi , Delhi -110092 have changed my name to Ravita Bagri for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANAGHA C/O PUNEETA DUA R/O Flat no-B-262, Prodyogiki CGHS Ltd., Plot no-11, Sector-3, Dwarka, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Anagha Dua for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAILBALA legally wife of Army No. JC461929W Rank. Sub Ck (SD), Name - SURENDRA BAHADUR SINGH Presently Residing, Village, Khajurgao, Post, Khajurgao, Tehsil, Lalgarhi, Dist. Raebareilly (UP), have changed my name from SHAILBALA TO SHAILBALA SINGH for all future purposes, Vide Affidavit dated 30/09/2026 before Notary Delhi

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAVINDRA KUMAR S/O SURAT SINGH R/O B-73 A, 2nd Floor, Near Shivshakti Mandir, Sewak Park Dwarka More, Sewak Park, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as RAVINDRA KUMAR BADGUJAR and SURAT SINGH BADGUJAR in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine and my father are RAVINDRA KUMAR and SURAT SINGH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHMA DEVI, W/o, SUNIL KUMAR PATHAK, R/O. RZ-207/3A, S/F, GALI NO-11, NEAR RAM GOPAL MARKET, KAILASH PURI, PALAM VILLAGE, NEW DELHI-110045, declare that my name is mentioned in my Aadhar Card, as SUSHMA DEVI, whereas my name is mentioned in my son's namely (Shourya Pathak) Birth Certificate No. MCDOLIR-0112-005457849, as SUSHMA PATHAK. That this affidavit is being submitted by me for both the names of myself SUSHMA DEVI & SUSHMA PATHAK, are the same Person and the same Individual. That for all intent in future I will be called by my correct name SUSHMA DEVI.

Public Notice

I, RAZI AHMAD S/O LATE KHALILUR RAHMAN R/O 24A GROUND FLOOR, NOOR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI 110025, have changed the name of my minor daughter SIDRA RAHMAN aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANSHA RAHMAN. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RAJINDER KUMAR GROVER W/O SWARAN SINGH R/O House No-953, Right Portion 2nd Floor, Block-WZ, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Near Shiv Mandir, Rani Bagh, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJINDER KAUR

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Rukmani - who is the owner of A Property/ Plot(Plt) NO. 3TTJ4R0) area measuring 4.999, Marla/e. 157.810 Sq. Yards situated at Waka Mouja Sohna Haal Band Colony, Tehsil Sohna and District Gurugram, Haryana within MC Sohna. Through Reg. Transfer Deed No 4159 Dated 05.08.2028 executed by executed by Mr. Ramu/S/O Mr. Ghisain favour of Mrs. Rukmani W/O Mr. Ramu, Here chain documents of said property that is missing :

1. Original Reg. Sale Deed No. 2279 dated 01.12.2000 executed by Mrs. Mithlesh O/ Rajo and Mrs. Laxmi Ds/O Mr. Raghuari in favour of Mr. Ramu S/O Mr. Ghisain, area measuring 4.999 Marla i.e. 157.810 Sq. Yards. Above said document has been lost, a complaint for which was lodged in the Haryana police citizen services ,vide Application Number : 132271052600815 and missing date : 15/07/2026 and same is acknowledged. That Mrs. Rukmani is true and lawful owner of the said property. The customer is availing loan facility from M/s WONDER HOME FINANCE LIMITED. Branch - Gurugram Haryana and the lender will create its charge over the said property to secure the facility. Any person/Bank/NBFC who has any right, objection or claim against the said property can raise objection within 7 days from the date of issuance of publication of notice. No claim of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter. Kindly contact below Address.

Deepak Malik. (Advocate)
Address - Shop - 2 Kataria complex Dayanand, Colony, Gurgaon Mob - 9540419009

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/G, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for allotment of Misc contracts of NFR at following railway stations:

E-Catalogue No.	Type of Asset	Station	Date & Time for e-auction
AdvT-Sept-07-26	Vinyl Stickers/ Wrapping Exterior	Train No. 14041/42	Start: 12.10.2026 at 11:00 hrs
AdvT-Sept-07-26	Waiting Rooms	Sonipat Railway Station	Start: 12.10.2026 at 11:00 hrs
AdvT-Sept-07-26	Advertising on Station Premise (Non-Digital)	Kurukshetra, Karnal & Panipat Railway Stations	Start: 12.10.2026 at 11:00 hrs
AdvT-Sept-07-26	Emergency Medical Room (EMR)	Meerut City, Ghaziabad, Sarai Rohilla, Panipat, Rohtak Railway Station	Start: 12.10.2026 at 11:00 hrs
Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen:			https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing)

No.: 7PUB/E-Auction/NIT-2026 Date: 29.09.2026

3391/2026

NAME CHANGE

RAJESH KUMAR S/O GURDAYAL R/O H NO 1323A, SECTOR-15 PART-II GURGAON HARYANA-122001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH ARORA ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, Rajiv Kumar Chhabra, S/o Om Parkash Chhabra, resident of RZ-44, Gali No. 3, South Extension Part 1, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059, have changed my name from Rajiv Kumar Chhabra to Rajeev Kumar Chhabra and shall hereafter be known as Rajeev Kumar Chhabra.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Anchal Arora and Sumit Singh both intend to purchase Entire Upper Ground Floor without roof rights (said floor) built up on Eastern Side Half Portion of Property bearing No.B-70, area 110 sq.yds. out of 220 sq.yds., part of Khalsa No.1977, situated in the area of Village Tihar and the colony known as Hari Nagar, Clock Tower, New Delhi, from Mrs.Kamal Preet Kaur,. She was owner of the property vide Sale Deed dated 13.01.2055 executed by Ashwani Kohli (HUF) through its karta Ashwani Kohli, vide at Document No.2025/25/1/1189, in Book No. I, Volume No. 13634, on Pages 2134 on dated 13.01.2025 SR-IB, Delhi. And in the property chain Death Certificate of Late Kamal Singh. And Probate Order of Will regd. on 08.02.2006 passed by competent court in favour of Jagmohan Singh, in respect of entire property (area 220 sq.yds.) both are not available with the seller Accordingly, Mrs.Kamal Preet Kaur argues, mortgages, claims, disputes, litigation, attachments, and all other third-party rights or interests of whatsoever nature. It is further informed that the aforesaid property is proposed to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, NSP Delhi.If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Court,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MOHIT YADAV S/O YUGAL YADAV R/O House No 29, Village, Sahipur, Shalimar Bagh , North west Delhi, Delhi - 110088 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as DEEPIKA in my minor daughter namely DEEPIKA YADAV aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of my minor daughter is DEEPIKA YADAV, Which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Toudid Alam S/O Khursid Alam RO RZ-3186/36,4th Floor Front Sidegal No-36, Tughlakabad, extr, kalka-jdehli-110019 Have Changed My Name to MD Toudid Alam for All Future Purposes.

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NEWS BOX

Paris Eiffel Tower says chief to step down after uproar over removing women staff

PARIS, France.(Agency)

The operating company that runs the Eiffel Tower said Tuesday its chief would step down at the end of this year in the wake of a controversy over the removal of women staff during a visit by a Hindu religious group.Patrick Branco Ruivo, who has been director general of the Paris landmark since 2018, would leave his job at the end of the year after an internal probe revealed that "operational flaws and shortcomings" in organising the visit led to the "unacceptable" removal of women staff, the company SETE said in a statement.The removal of women staff during a visit by the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) spiritual movement on September 5 prompted a staff walkout and the closure of the monument for a day, as well as an outcry across political spectrum in France which prizes secularism and gender equality.At the time, SETE acknowledged the Hindu delegation had requested the visit be organised so as to limit "interactions with women" and said that "these conditions should not have been accepted"."The coming months will allow us to prepare for the leadership transition under the best possible conditions," said Ariel Weil, SETE's board chairman.

'Female employees sidelined'

He said he was demanding the creation of a "dedicated protocol department" and the implementation of a new set of measures and training programs to promote gender equality.

The Eiffel Tower, which is owned by the city of Paris, says it receives nearly seven million people a year.The Socialist mayor of Paris, Emmanuel Gregoire, had lambasted the move to remove women staff as an "absurd, unjust and unacceptable decision" and ordered two separate probes.

'She Said It Was Consensual': US District Attorney's Shocker In Cornell Case

TRENTON .(Agency)

A US district attorney has released new disturbing details about a Cornell University student's alleged fraternity gang rape, explaining why he reopened the investigation after accuser "Jane Doe" filed a civil lawsuit against the seven Chi Phi fraternity brothers and the school. Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten also detailed the accuser's statement submitted to campus police in November 2024, about a week after she claimed seven men drugged and raped her during an hours-long assault at their Ithaca house.In the copy of the statement accessed by NDTV, Houten said that Doe's 2024 testimony to police presented a different version of events from the details in the new civil complaint she filed against the seven accused and the university, while insisting that "it can take years of therapy and healing for victims of sexual assaults to fully process and understand what happened to them."

He also blamed his extraordinary move of putting Doe's 2024 testimony in the public domain on people flooding his office with phone calls and emails seeking answers."While I generally refrain from commenting publicly on criminal investigations, the community outrage stemming from the incomplete news and social media coverage requires that I provide an answer to why the investigation resulted in a lack of criminal charges," he said.

What Jane Doe's 2024 Statement Said

According to Houten, Doe's sworn six-page statement in November of 2024 did not allege that she was drugged against her will or gang-raped. "On the contrary, Jane Doe's statement described her participation in drug use and sexual conduct as voluntary, conscious, and consensual," he claimed. In her statement to the cops, Doe, who was 20 years old at the time, had said that on the evening of October 19, 2024, she walked to the Chi Phi Fraternity to meet one of the accused, who was her friend.

Iranians face soaring prices for medicine as the US blockade and sanctions hit hard

Supplies are also strained because medicines are smuggled to neighboring Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, where prices are higher, state media reported.

TEHRAN.(Agency)

Medication prices are soaring in Iran and some treatments have become hard to find, leaving patients and their families scrambling as a U.S. blockade and stepped-up sanctions squeeze the country's pharmaceuticals industry.Some medicines have more than tripled in price, further squeezing Iranians' finances seven

months into the country's war with the United States and Israel. Prices for food and other goods have skyrocketed even as unemployment has risen and the currency, which hit a record low this week, has lost half its value.The war has become an economic endurance test. Iran has tried to push world energy prices higher with attacks on the region's oil shipping routes; the United States, in turn, has aimed to wreck Iran's economy by blockading its ports since June and slapping it with increasingly tough sanctions.Iran's pharmaceutical industry is vulnerable because of its reliance on imports. So far there has been little sign of major shortages of medicines at Iran's hospitals, but the difficulties are showing at pharmacies.Gholamreza Rahmani, a Tehran welder, and his wife recently scoured several pharmacies over two days hoping to fill prescriptions for four medicines for their 12-year-old daughter, who was having stomach troubles. "Each one would have one or two items, not all of

them," he said, noting that they couldn't find one of the medicines anywhere. The search cost him two days of wages because he couldn't go to work."My daughter's illness and the loss of income



are like scissors, cutting from two sides," he said.Iran's pharmaceutical industry needs importsIran produces more than 80% of its medicines domestically, according to official statistics, but many of those rely on imported raw materials. Before the war, most medicines and

pharmaceutical components were brought in by sea, but the American naval blockade has cut off shipping, Bahman Sabour, a member of the Tehran Pharmacies Association, told local media.Medical importers switched to more expensive air routes. But that access has been threatened by new U.S. sanctions on a number of Iranian airlines, which led to some international flights being halted.U.S. sanctions don't directly target medicines, but financial sanctions in place for years also hurt the pharmaceutical supply because international banks and companies often will be overly cautious and refuse transactions because they fear running afoul of sanctions, said Reza Majdzadeh, a professor at the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex in England."A medicine may be perfectly legal to sell to Iran, but a bank may refuse to process the payment," he said. "A pharmaceutical or shipping company may simply decide that dealing with Iran is not worth the risk.

US to hike EB-5 Green Card fees

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The US has decided to drastically increase fees for immigrants seeking to invest in America and eventually claim permanent residency under the EB-5 investor programme which remains one of the most reliable ways for Indian entrepreneurs and families to obtain Green Card.The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) finalised a rule on Tuesday that seeks to more than double the fees for applying to the EB-5 visa. The rule will be effective from November 30.The US EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programme grants permanent residency (a Green Card) to foreign investors and their immediate families who invest capital into a US commercial enterprise and create 10 full-time jobs for American workers. The filing fee for Form I-526, used by standalone investors, will rise from USD 3,675 to USD 7,615. The fee for an initial Form I-526E petition, used by investors participating through an approved

regional centre, will increase from USD 3,675 to USD 7,850.Initial I-526 and I-526E petitions will also include a USD 75 technology fee.Regional-centre investors must



additionally pay the programme's investor integrity fee. The fee for Form I-829, filed by investors seeking to remove conditions on their permanent resident status, will increase from USD 3,750 to USD 5,000.Charges imposed on regional centres will rise more sharply. The fee for an initial Form I-956 application seeking regional-centre designation will increase from USD 17,795 to USD 44,115. The charge for

Form I-956F, used to seek approval of an investment in a commercial enterprise, will rise to USD 42,675 from USD 17,795.The annual fee for Form I-956G will decrease from USD 3,035 to USD 2,165.The final rule also establishes Form I-527 for certain investors seeking to amend older Form I-526 petitions. The new filing will cost USD 10,330. Announcing the new fees, USCIS said in a press release that the agency is largely funded by the fees it charges, rather than taxes.ng applications, conducting background checks, verifying eligibility, detecting fraud, and maintaining programme operations must be paid by those who use the immigration system," the release said.However, like most employment-based immigration categories, EB-5 visas are subject to annual caps and country limits.

As demand from India has increased dramatically over the past decade, a backlog has developed that affects how long investors may wait for a Green Card.

Morocco's king appoints the country's first female prime minister

CASABLANCA, Morocco.(Agency)

Morocco's King Mohammed VI on Tuesday named Urban Planning Minister Fatima Zahra Mansouri as the country's prime minister, making the 50-year-old attorney the first woman to hold the position in the Muslim kingdom. Mansouri, who until her nomination also was the mayor of Marrakech, was tasked with forming a new government, the Royal Palace said in a statement. The announcement came four days after results of parliamentary elections were announced, with Mansouri's centrist Authenticity and Modernity Party, or PAM, the highest vote-getter. Mansouri, the second woman to serve as prime minister in the Arab world after Najla Bouden in Tunisia, is expected to build a coalition in coming days to form a government. Morocco's electoral system makes it difficult for a single party to win an absolute majority. Her government is expected to make billions of dollars in investments linked to the 2030



FIFA World Cup, while seeking to deliver on promises to fight inflation, raise wages and create jobs. The Moroccan Constitution gives the king, who is the country's highest authority, the power to appoint the prime minister, but he must choose from the party that wins the most seats in parliamentary elections. That was a change successfully pushed by Arab Spring protesters in 2011. Before that, the king could name the prime minister without any such restriction. Mansouri joined PAM upon its creation in 2008 by Fouad Ali El Himma, a childhood friend and close adviser to the king. A law graduate from the University of Montpellier in France, Mansouri became one of the party's top leaders in 2024. She twice served as mayor of Marrakech and was a member of parliament. Mansouri is the daughter of the "pasha of Marrakech" Abderrahmane El Mansouri, a senior local official who was also Morocco's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. He headed Marrakech's bar association and was a landowner.

Two Indian nationals charged with selling fake Ozempic in US

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Two Indian nationals have been charged with conspiracy and smuggling related to an alleged transnational counterfeit prescription drug distribution scheme in a US federal court in Florida.The indictment by a federal grand jury in the Middle District of Florida alleges that Swapandip Roy, Vicky Ramancha, and their co-conspirators sold counterfeit Ozempic to distributors in the United States at deeply discounted prices.Roy was extradited from Italy to the United States and made his initial appearance in court in Tampa, Florida, on Tuesday.The duo faces a 71-year jail term if convicted.According to court documents, beginning in at least July 2023 and continuing to April 2024, Roy and Ramancha allegedly obtained counterfeit Ozempic from unauthorised sources in China.The counterfeit Ozempic allegedly distributed by Roy, Ramancha, and their co-conspirators included counterfeit packaging, package inserts, pen labels, and needles meant to deceive downstream

customers into believing they were purchasing authentic Ozempic authorised by the manufacturer.The scheme continued even after the FDA seized some of the counterfeit Ozempic in December 2023 and issued a public warning regarding the products.Roy and Ramancha are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit smuggling and to defraud the United States, three counts of smuggling, and two counts of selling counterfeit drugs and holding counterfeit drugs for sale."If convicted, Roy and Ramancha each face a maximum penalty of 71 years in prison," a statement from the Department of Justice said."Counterfeit prescription drugs--especially common ones--threaten the health and safety of every American who depends on the integrity of our pharmaceutical supply," said Assistant Attorney General A.Tysen Duva of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "These defendants allegedly exploited people's health to pay themselves.We will keep pursuing anyone who seeks to deceive American consumers.

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

G20 trade ministers are set to open talks Wednesday in the United States, in meetings strained by President Donald Trump's tariffs as Washington targets partners regarding forced labor and overcapacity.The gathering of officials from the Group of 20 major economies -- which includes China, India, Russia, Japan, Germany and France - - takes place in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee.But analysts expect the two days of talks to be deadlocked as Trump's tariffs weigh on relationships while China rejects concerns about its exports, which critics see as driven by excess industrial capacity.US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer defended Washington's approach at a Tuesday roundtable in Milwaukee, saying the administration "is not anti-trade."He added that countries are facing similar challenges with global overcapacity and "non-market policies."This week, key US trading partners like Canada and the European Union are also expected to push for deeper trade ties outside the United

States."Dn't expect any breakthroughs in Milwaukee," Josh Lipsky of the Atlantic Council think tank told AFP, noting Trump's preference for bilateral negotiations.Even as G20 partners will be anxious to find ways to cooperate with the world's biggest economy,



"they will also be under pressure to voice their concerns with tariffs," added former US trade official Wendy Cutler, now at the Asia Society Policy Institute.The United States holds the rotating presidency of the G20, which comprises 19 nations plus the EU and

the African Union.Trump has unleashed a barrage of tariffs on trading partners since last year, separately targeting sectors like steel and autos.Although the Supreme Court struck down Trump's country-specific tariffs in February, Washington has since alleged insufficient action against forced labor to slap new tariffs on 60 economies. These include China, India and the EU. The president's sectoral duties remain intact too, straining ties.And Washington is investigating 16 partners over excess industrial capacity, a complaint commonly levied at China. Critics say this floods markets, unfairly suppressing prices. But ngong US probes go beyond the world's number two economy, bringing the threat of more tariffs to the EU and G20 countries like Japan and South Korea.Cutler expects some countries will "mince no words" regarding the investigation, feeling "they are being unfairly targeted."China "will continue to deny the issue of exporting overproduction," by trying to convince others that it is doing good by providing high-quality and low-priced goods, she said.

NEWS BOX

‘Can’t you demolish?’: Bombay High Court to Mumbai civic body over illegal meat shops

Mumbai (Agency). The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to place before it a comprehensive scheme to permanently prevent illegal meat, poultry and fish shops from operating within a 10-kilometre radius of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. Terming the issue “serious”, the court said it could later direct the authorities to provide police protection to civic officers during drives against such shops, to ensure they can carry out enforcement action without intimidation or threats. A bench of Justices Ajey S Gadkari and Kamal R Khata was hearing an interim application filed by Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), seeking compliance with earlier court orders concerning the bird-hit hazard posed by illegal slaughtering, which can attract predatory birds, as well as implementation of the Aircraft Rules. MIAL told the court that earlier directions were not sufficiently complied with for more than a decade and sought a direction to BMC to finalise a scheme.

In drought-hit Maharashtra, Mumbai civic body moves to revive wells for water

CHENNAI (Agency). Amidst concerns of an abysmal monsoon and warmer summers, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has launched projects – from desilting of groundwater resources to study of salination levels in wells – to restore wells across Mumbai in a bid to develop alternative means of water resources. The revival of Mumbai’s groundwater resources has gathered pace, with the state government on Saturday declaring drought in 265 of the state’s 358 tehsils — about three-fourths of Maharashtra. Surrounded by the seas in three directions, Mumbai relies primarily on rainfall brought in by the southwest monsoon winds to cater to its annual water demands. The city draws its potable and industrial water supply through seven lakes, which are replenished during the monsoon season. Before the lakes formed, Mumbai traditionally drew water from a network of borewells and dug wells that served as a key source of water supply. However, with the development of water schemes and dams from the late 1860s, wells became the secondary source of water. In recent years, ground water resources have fallen into disrepair owing to concerns of pollution due to sewage and saline water ingress. However, with the El Niño climatic patterns resulting in below-average rainfall and further raising alarms over warmer weather through February, the BMC has now launched efforts to revive its wells as alternate sources of water and ensure adequate supply until the onset of the next monsoon spell in 2027.

Maharashtra drought: Monsoon not over, but Marathwada turns to tankers as water sources run dry

Jalna (Agency). The monsoon is not over, but in parts of drought-hit Marathwada, villages are already turning to water tankers. With 74 of the region’s 76 talukas declared drought-affected, 277 tankers are currently supplying water to 160 villages, while more villages have begun seeking tanker supplies as local wells and water sources run dry. The administration maintains that water stored in major reservoirs, including the Jayakwadi dam near Paithan, will be sufficient for drinking and other domestic requirements. But in villages, farmers are already watching wells and local water sources run dry, with some spending thousands of rupees a day to keep their crops and livestock alive. In Shahapur in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, 40-year-old farmer Badrinath Bharat is spending Rs 3,000 a day on two tankers to keep his ginger crop alive. The water is also used by his family and 10 cattle. “I have already lost all of the cotton and maize I had sowed. We have a well but it is dry. For the past 15 days, I am forced to spend on the tankers. I can do this for a month with the hope of some yield... after that I will discontinue,” said Bharat, who lost crops, including tomato, cotton and maize. In Siddhanath Vadgaon village in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, farmer Sachin Bilwal has been buying tanker water for more than a month, mainly for his family and three cattle. He pays Rs 1,000 for a tanker, which lasts about a week. “I am required to pay Rs 1,000 per tanker and it lasts me a week. We have requested the gram sabha to seek tankers from the government.

‘I’m now Shivalik 2.0’: Former Mumbai Indians cricketer after rape FIR quashed

Vadodara batter spent 20 days in Rajasthan jail after dispute that followed a broken engagement. Through difficult conditions in jail, support from fellow Gujarat cricketers kept him going

Vadodara (Agency). Before dawn one morning in May last year, Shivalik Sharma’s life took a turn he could not have anticipated on a cricket field. A team of the Jodhpur Police arrived to arrest the 27-year-old cricketer based on a complaint of rape filed by his former fiancée after their engagement broke down. Sharma was taken to Rajasthan, where a court sent him to judicial custody. He spent nearly three weeks behind bars. More than a year later, the Rajasthan High Court has quashed the FIR and all consequential proceedings. The left hand batter from Vadodara who had been bought by Mumbai Indians ahead of the 2024 IPL season, is now trying to look ahead, carrying with him what he says has been a difficult life lesson. “I was arrested at 4 am (in May 2025) and taken to Jodhpur. I was taken to court and then sent to jail, where I spent 20 days before I was given bail. I was stunned, it had all come as a bolt from the blue, and it took me some time to understand what was happening,” Sharma said. Once he had recovered from the shock, he began to look at his situation as a

“test”, and turned to his “sportsman mindset”, Sharma said. But it was extremely difficult. “Reeking toilets, bad food” “The 20 days in prison was a test and a lesson of sorts. Life was challenging. There were no fans, and there were no basic personal hygiene facilities such as the simple washing of hands before a meal... Inmates lived next to toilets,



and the drainage was bad,” Sharma said. He recalled that it was raining the day he was sent to prison, and there was a reeking toilet close to his cell. “The environment was bad, the meals were bad, you couldn’t eat beyond a few morsels... I fell sick, there were no

medicines,” Sharma said. Eventually, he found a way to structure his days, Sharma said. “I did feel the [legal] pressure, but when you have to spend time in a place, you need to adjust in some way... So I went to the jail library, and I met a teacher who incidentally was there for a case similar to mine...”

He made friends with a few other inmates, with whom he played cricket and volleyball, and went for walks, Sharma said. “I am in touch with the teacher, who remained in jail for almost a year and only recently got bail. I do feel that God was kind to me and I was able to get bail within 20 days,” he said. Sharma’s broken engagement The case against Sharma was filed after the breakdown of the engagement that was fixed by the two families in August 2023.

According to Sharma, the problems began after he was selected by Mumbai Indians in the IPL 2024 auction that was held in December 2023. Discussions over money, wedding expenses, and where the couple would live after they were married became increasingly difficult, Sharma said.

Sachin Waze to remain in jail as Bombay High Court stays bail in Antilia bomb scare case

On Wednesday morning, another high court bench recused itself from hearing NIA's challenge to Sachin Waze's bail.

Mumbai (Agency). The Bombay High Court on Wednesday stayed till October 7 the special court’s order granting bail to dismissed police officer Sachin Waze, arrested in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder cases of 2021. This means that Sachin Waze will remain inside the Thane Central Prison until the next hearing in the Ambani home bomb scare case. A bench of Justices Girish S Kulkarni and Neela K Gokhale was hearing an appeal by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against the special court’s September 29 order. In its appeal, the NIA claimed that the special court’s ruling was “erroneous” and “illegal”. Sachin Waze has been in custody since 2021 and was booked for offences, including murder,



criminal conspiracy, and other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) along with provisions of the UAPA and the Arms Act. He was granted bail by a special Mumbai court on

Tuesday. The high court has also asked the state government lawyer to intimate the jail authorities about the stay order. During the hearing today, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh for the NIA argued that Waze’s act in 2021 was a terrorist act. Justice Kulkarni-led bench noted that while Waze’s lawyers had appeared before the earlier bench, despite notice being issued to them by NIA, he was not represented before it. Therefore, the bench adjourned the hearing and noted, “We are inclined to grant an ad-interim stay to the said order till the adjourned date of hearing.” Earlier, the NIA struggled to find a bench to hear its challenge to Waze’s bail order as two High Court benches recused themselves from hearing it.

2 Congress leaders arrested for protest outside CEC’s Agra home, booked for murder attempt

Police said they arrested Congress state general secretary (organisation) Anil Yadav and Mathura district president Mukesh Dhangar and booked them for attempt to murder

Lucknow (Agency). Agra Police on Monday arrested two Congress leaders for attempt to murder after a group of Congress workers gathered near the ancestral residence of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Agra to protest and allegedly defaced the walls of the house. Police said they arrested Congress state general secretary (organisation) Anil Yadav and Mathura district president Mukesh Dhangar after they chased their vehicle while they were allegedly trying to leave Agra for Delhi. S-I Gupta said that after receiving information of a crowd gathered outside the CEC’s house in the Vijay Nagar area of

Agra, he, accompanied by a constable, reached the spot and found around 15–20 people raising slogans and behaving aggressively. “Home Guard Dinesh Kumar, who was deployed for security at the residence, tried to prevent the crowd from entering. However, the protesters surrounded him and entered the premises through the main gate without permission. When Home Guard Kumar again tried to stop them, the protesters pushed him, and he fell on the ground. The protesters struck him on the head with a hard object, after which he became unconscious,” a police officer said, adding that the S-I wrote in the complaint that



Dinesh Kumar is elderly and suffers from a heart ailment. According to the S-I, the protesters refused to leave the premises

despite being asked to do so and obstructed police personnel in discharge of their duty. He accused the protesters of using abusive and provocative language against the CEC, police, and the administration. The protesters continued raising slogans until additional police personnel arrived at the spot, the FIR stated. “We have arrested two persons in connection with the case. Both have been named in the FIR,” said Agra Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Manoj Kumar Yadav. Police are examining CCTV footage to identify other people who may have been involved in the alleged protest.

UP headmaster, wife killed: Blood-stained axe found, bodies 100m apart

A government school headmaster and his wife were found dead at their home, located on the premises of a school, in Sultanpur on Tuesday. Police are examining CCTV footage and possible enmity.

Lucknow (Agency). A government school headmaster and his wife were killed at their home, located on the premises of a private school, in Uttar Pradesh’s Sultanpur, police said. Police received information on Tuesday morning that the bodies had been found in Kumbhi Dariya village, under the jurisdiction of Kadipur police station. The victims were identified as Mukesh Singh, 48, acting headmaster of a junior high school, and his wife, Vineeta Singh, 45, who ran the private school. School employees found the couple lying in pools of blood. Police said preliminary investigation suggested that the attackers first killed Vineeta and then turned on Mukesh when he tried to flee. Vineeta’s body was found about 100 metres from her husband’s. Mukesh had sustained an injury caused by a sharp-edged weapon to his neck, while his wife had a

similar injury to her head. An axe bearing blood stains was recovered from the crime scene, though police are yet to establish whether it was the murder weapon. Probe so far Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said it was not immediately clear whether the killings took place on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Police said robbery did not appear to be the motive behind the killings. During investigation, police found that the almirah in the victims’ room had been opened. However, jewellery and other valuables were found intact. A licensed rifle was also found on the premises. The couple had lived in the house, located on the outskirts, for three decades.

Mukesh was the youngest of three brothers. Police said their initial probe revealed that



he was involved in a land dispute with some distant relatives who lived in the same village. The two sides had reportedly

clashed over a minor issue some time ago, following which complaints were lodged by both parties. Mukesh’s two brothers, who live in Lucknow and Ghazipur, told police that they were not aware of any specific reason or motive that could have led to the killings. Mukesh was actively involved in local teachers’ union politics and was contesting a teachers’ association election. Vineeta had previously contested a panchayat member election but lost. The couple is survived by their 20-year-old son, Abhyuday, who is studying at a university in Delhi. Police have registered a case against unidentified persons and are looking into call details records of the couple.

Divya Mittal, UP officer who resigned from IAS, announces entry into politics

Lucknow (Agency). Nearly a month after she took voluntary retirement, former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Divya Mittal on Monday announced that she had decided to enter politics, saying she wanted to become the “voice” of people whose concerns often fail to reach the government. The Uttar Pradesh-cadre officer said she would not stand “under any flag” and sought public support. In a social media post, the 2013-batch IAS officer said she took time to decide on her next step after resigning from the civil services. “I resigned from IAS last month and left many questions behind. This is a big task, and I was gathering courage. Today I have come to answer. What next? The answer is politics,” she said. Mittal said her decision was driven by a desire to represent people



whose voices do not reach government offices. She raised questions about schools sanctioned but never constructed, land allotted on lease but never handed over, poor roads and the deaths they cause, and the future of students amid examination paper leaks. Recalling an inspection in Lahuria Dah area of Mirzapur, where she served as district magistrate, Mittal said she had expected a woman there to ask for a pension or a house. Instead, the woman, who did not even have a drinking water connection at home, asked for a school in her village. The former IAS officer said she sanctioned the school, but construction had not begun even three years later. “Tell me, what wasn’t available? Funds, rules, or approvals? Everything was available, but there was no intent,” she said, adding that she wanted answers on such “invisible schools”.

Chief Election Commissioner immunity can't mean freedom from accountability

High constitutional offices, such as the President of India and state governors, are protected from criminal proceedings during their term of office (Article 361). No criminal proceedings can be launched against the judges of the Supreme Court and of the high courts without the sanction of the Chief Justice of India. However, the President, the judges of the Supreme Court and the judges of high courts can be removed from office through a special procedure provided under Articles 61, 124(4) and 218, respectively, of the Constitution. As far as the Election Commission of India (ECI) is concerned, although the procedure to remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is similar to the one applicable to judges of the higher judiciary, the Constitution does not provide for any protection to the members of the ECI from criminal proceedings. However, the Government of India, through the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which replaced the previous Act of 1991, has provided immunity to the CEC and the Election Commissioners, not limited to the term of their office, from initiation of criminal proceedings.

There can be two possible reasons for such immunity. One is that they must be free from all external pressures while discharging their constitutional obligation to conduct free and fair elections. The other reason, which the prevailing circumstances suggest, is that this ruling establishment realised that the said office needs such immunity if it is to be used for its partisan political interests, assuring those holding it that their actions cannot be subjected to any criminal proceedings. This perhaps has emboldened the CEC to act in a manner that has now sparked public outrage. A blanket, lifelong immunity for the CEC and the ECs is beyond the constitutional scheme, especially when no such limitless immunity is available to any other constitutional authority in India. This, of course, is a subject matter of challenge before the Supreme Court.

The Act of 2023 also provides that ECs should endeavour to take unanimous decisions; in the absence of unanimity, majority decisions will prevail. An investigative journalist's report recently revealed that the CEC was taking unilateral decisions, resulting in unauthorised deletions and additions of lakhs of voters. This was done through a process reportedly opposed by the two ECs. The most serious objection raised by the two ECs is that the control of the Election Commission's unified portal, ECINET, was centralised, and the deletion of voters was obviously done at the instance of the Commission instead of at the level of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) and the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) through ERONET. Centralising ECINET appears to have restricted field access. This is evident in Goa, where the 97 eligible voters could not be added to the electoral rolls because the AERO could not access ECINET. The second objection raised by the two ECs is that the CEC unilaterally changed Form 6, which originally did not require voters to give particulars of their parents and grandparents, although the power to amend Form 6 vests only in the central government. The third objection relates to the authorisation to file lakhs of appeals for the further deletion of voters in West Bengal; details of these appeals are still not public. The outcomes of the limited scrutiny of deleted names by the tribunals in West Bengal demonstrate that close to 93 percent of the voters were wrongly deleted. Obviously, directions may have been issued at the level of the CEC for deletion of particular names. Such unilateral actions by the CEC have raised public suspicion that the procedures adopted by him are clearly intended to help the ruling party win elections.

A great personality, committed to nation building

Beyond nation building, Shri Ashok Singhal Ji had two areas that were very close to his heart: education, especially Vedic education, and music. As the MP from Varanasi, I feel very proud that the city I represent, the eternal Kashi, has played its part in Shri Ashok Singhal Ji's life.

There is a beautiful saying, It means the tree does not consume its own fruit, nor does the river retain its waters. Both exist for the benefit of others. Our saints and seers have long taught us that a life devoted to the welfare of those around us acquires a meaning far greater than individual achievement. If there is one person in whom this spirit was constantly reflected, it was Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. Starting September 27, we mark his birth centenary to celebrate an outstanding personality who brought together spiritual pursuit, cultural awakening and decades of dedicated organisational work.

I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with Ashok Ji and receive his affection. One of the earliest instances dates back to 1981, when I was a young Karyakarta going about the organisational duties assigned to me. I received a handwritten letter from him. Naturally, it was a noteworthy moment for me. He spoke about an important upcoming programme and gave me a few tasks to complete. Over several decades, I saw him work day and night. He undertook long and often difficult journeys to the remotest areas. He was particularly passionate about travelling across the tribal areas of Gujarat. His mind was constantly occupied with what more could be done for those on the margins of society. Whenever any part of the nation was affected by a natural disaster, Ashok Ji was either among the first to reach there himself or among those guiding Karyakartas in helping the affected. My own experience with him in the aftermath of the 2001 Kutch earthquake was unforgettable. This spirit of compassion and care for others came to Ashok Ji very early in life. He hailed from a very illustrious and prosperous family. His father, Shri Mahavir Ji, was a distinguished administrator. One of his brothers, Shri BP Singhal Ji, went on to become a police officer and later a Member of Parliament. Another brother, Shri VP Singhal Ji, was the Chief Secretary of Tripura when the state was newly formed. Other family members succeeded in commerce and agriculture. But from a young age, Ashok Ji was attracted to something else altogether: the revival of Bharat and bringing glory to Maa Bharti's children.

Growing up in Prayagraj, Ashok Ji would sit for hours on



the banks of the Sangam. The river naturally interested him, but so did the people who came there, including saints, seers and devotees. This nurtured an understanding of India's cultural ethos and strengthened his desire to do something for society. This desire to live for others drew him to the RSS. He embraced every responsibility that came his way with enthusiasm, discipline and a sense of duty.

Shri Ashok Singhal Ji nurtured institutions and movements through persistence and hard work. He was blessed with a formidable voice and an oratory that could hold an entire gathering spellbound. Equally noteworthy was his care

Trump-Xi meeting: A useful handrail in a fractured world

US President Donald Trump speaks with China President Xi Jinping as first lady Melania Trump walks at right, at the National Archives Museum on Friday in Washington

The Washington summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping may have produced no dramatic breakthrough, but reducing it to ceremony would miss its larger significance. In a world increasingly riven by wars, trade tussles, technological rivalry and competing power blocs, the leaders of two of its most consequential powers are still talking. That, at the very least, offers a measure of stability.

Xi's warning about the "Thucydides trap" was noteworthy. The danger is not that Washington and Beijing disagree. It is that competition between an established superpower and a rising one could acquire a momentum of its own, particularly as trade, artificial intelligence, military technology and Taiwan become increasingly contested arenas of strategic rivalry. If unchecked, such competition could deepen the fractures already running through the international order. Xi argued that cooperation would benefit both China and the US, suggesting that the "great



rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" and Trump's "making America great again" need not be competing ambitions. The summit did produce some tangible movement. The two sides extended their trade truce by two months and have moved towards tariff reductions covering about \$30 billion in two-way trade through the Board of Trade. The measures fall well short of a grand bargain, but they keep a

appreciation were a very moving experience for me. I saw yet again how his encouragement filled every Karyakarta with energy.

No mention of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji is complete without recalling his pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. Who can forget his address at the Boat Club Rally in 1991? Or the defining image of an injured and bleeding Ashok Ji at the peak of the movement? Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible. He would have been the happiest person on seeing the Ram Mandir take shape in Ayodhya. Shri Ashok Singhal Ji was blessed with remarkable clarity of thought, and one area where it was clearly evident was his belief that our society needs to be harmonious and that the message of brotherhood has to be reaffirmed. He worked towards strengthening social unity and equality. He firmly believed that there could be no distinction of any kind in society and that every individual deserved equal dignity and respect. It was his thought that the first brick of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya would be laid by Shri Kameshwar Choupal Ji, a grassroots VHP Karyakarta from Bihar who hailed from the marginalised sections of society. At a Dharm Sansad in Kashi, he decided that the Dom Raja would be honoured and went on to work with him as part of various community efforts.

Beyond nation building, Shri Ashok Singhal Ji had two areas that were very close to his heart: education, especially Vedic education, and music. As the MP from Varanasi, I feel very proud that the city I represent, the eternal Kashi, has played its part in Shri Ashok Singhal Ji's life. He was educated at BHU and was also known to be a good student. He was closely associated with the Ekal Vidyalaya initiative, which worked to extend basic education to remote villages, especially among tribal communities. He was a voracious reader as well as a good listener, and he always told younger Karyakartas to read as much as possible. Those who knew Ashok Ji closely knew how well he sang. I recall meetings in Nagpur where he would sing the Ekal Geet, leaving everyone mesmerised and setting the tone for the meeting. A video of him surprising everyone by singing during his 90th birthday celebrations in 2015 went viral.

The Other India of the Maharajas

Some of the most remarkable experiments in education, social development, public health, and industrial progress took place, not in British India, but in princely states

Last weekend, I was in Kota to commemorate the life of Maharao Umed Singh II who ruled the Hadoti Rajput state from 1889 to 1940. The occasion was the launch of an English translation of Dr Jagat Narayan's book on his life which brings alive a ruler and an era that definitely deserve more attention than they usually receive. Walking through the wide alleys of the magnificent Umed Bhawan and standing in the grand Durbar Hall, I found myself thinking about how easily we have allowed the history of princely India to disappear into a handful of clichés—opulent palaces, elephants and horses, Rolls Royce cars, hunted tigers, debauchery and scandals. Yet, princely India was no mere footnote in our modern history and behind the spectacle was a larger and complicated political world. On the eve of Independence, the nearly 560 princely states accounted for about 40 per cent of the sub-continent's territory, with the princes controlling the destinies of about 25 per cent of undivided India's population. While a vast majority were microscopic estates, a 100-odd states covered more than half a million square miles and contained several million subjects. It was another India, existing alongside the directly British-administered dominions. The princes were not independent and bound to the British paramountcy through treaties. But they were not merely British puppets and had varied degrees of internal autonomy, and held on to their provincial armies and administration. At the Round Table Conferences in London, they were negotiating alongside British politicians and Indian nationalists on a proposed federation of British India and Indian States. Princely troops served in imperial battles in Afghanistan, Africa, China, and the world wars. Indian

cavalry regiments, including the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers, played celebrated roles in the Battle of Haifa in 1918, when Allied forces captured the Ottoman-held port. Of course, like democratic leaders of today who come in a variety of shades and excesses, princes too had their quirks. That is what possibly prompted Rudyard Kipling to famously comment: 'Providence created a maharajah to provide mankind a spectacle'. Some were indeed extravagant, inept and debased. TIME reported rumours surrounding Bhupinder Singh of Patiala's lavish lifestyle and London visits—huge hotel suites, extraordinary clothing expenses, elaborate food arrangements. His large household, numerous wives, concubines, and children, and legendary appetite for luxury earned him the moniker, 'His Exhausted Highness'. But to reduce all of princely India to such excesses would be like writing the history of modern India solely from its scandals. There was another side to the story. Some of the most remarkable experiments in education, social development, public health, and industrial progress took place, not in British India, but in princely states. The 1931 Census recorded literacy at 33.7 per cent in Cochin, 28.9 per cent in Travancore, and 20.9 per cent in Baroda, compared with 11.1 per cent in Bengal, 10.8 per cent in both Bombay and Madras—all three major British Presidencies. Female literacy at about 15 per cent in Cochin and Travancore was well ahead of most British provinces. Baroda, which started off with a disadvantage with just eight per cent literacy in 1891, against 10 per cent in neighbouring British Gujarat, rose to 21 per cent in 1931 under Sayajirao Gaekwad, leaving

British Gujarat behind at 13 per cent. Mysore under Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar saw unprecedented modernisation—hydroelectric power, industry, banking, engineering, science, and higher education. Umed Singh II too catapulted Kota to modernity and progress. His reign saw fresh land-revenue settlement, several



irrigation reservoirs, city water-supply schemes, agricultural improvements, veterinary dispensaries, and cooperative institutions. An advanced municipal administration was established, whose princely remnants are still seen, just like in Mysore. In 1927, Kota established a cooperative bank that still survives. Education expanded from the first state high school in

1911 to an intermediate college, two high schools, and 109 schools by the end of his reign. A representative Praja Pratinidhi Sabha appeared in 1918, and in 1927 the state prohibited the marriage of minor children—a major social reform in traditional Rajput society. His reign also saw a dramatic reversal of an older political division. Jhalawar, carved out of Kota by the British in 1838, was reorganised. Fifteen of the 17 parganas originally taken from Kota were restored in 1899. Princely courts were also major centres of cultural patronage. Mysore supported musicians, composers, painters, scholars, and writers, and created a public institution of the Dasara celebrations. Baroda patronised Raja Ravi Varma and indigenous crafts. Jaipur's court developed institutions such as the Gunjankhana to support artists. Princely patronage helped sustain classical music, dance, painting, Sanskrit, and regional language scholarship, religious festivals, literature, and crafts. The cultural consequences of the disappearance of princely India deserve consideration alongside the political ones.

Umed Singh, Gaekwad, Wadiyar, Sethu Lakshmi Bayi of Travancore and other rulers inhabited a world caught between two ages. While they inherited an older political and feudal order, they encountered a rapidly changing modern world. They were constantly negotiating with British paramountcy, and at the same time experimenting with modern education, technology, and new demands for administration, social reform, and representation.

27 hours, 140 km apart: Two Punjab universities, two protests, striking similarities

At LPU, the trigger was a social media post claiming 'rape' in a girl's hostel, at Chitkara it was about two girls allegedly missing; police say no evidence yet to substantiate the two claims

Chandigarh (Agency).

Barely 27 hours, and around 140 km apart, two private universities in Punjab witnessed student protests that began with unverified claims involving female students and girls' hostels, spread rapidly through social media networks



and eventually turned violent.

Chitkara University in Patiala's Rajpura saw hundreds of students gather late on September 25 after social media posts alleging that two girl students were missing were circulated among hostel residents. Less than 27 hours later, at around 2 am on September 27, a similar chain of events unfolded at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Phagwara after a social media message claimed that a female student had been raped by an outsider in a girls' hostel.

The protests at both campuses drew large gatherings, brought police onto the premises and ended in clashes, arson and major damage to property. Both universities subsequently announced a break, with large numbers of students leaving for home. The Punjab Police is now examining the similarities between the two incidents, including the role of "unverified messages" and rumours in triggering the protests.

"Several points are being looked into. There may be similarities, but we are investigating both cases separately," said Praveen Kumar Sinha, DGP (Law and Order). A senior police officer monitoring both cases told The Indian Express that, so far, there was no evidence to substantiate the information being circulated by students at either university. "It seems there were messages, rumours spread by word of mouth and a growing discord between the students and university authorities that resulted in these incidents. Chitkara happened first, which added credibility to such rumours in the LPU case as well. But all these points are being looked into," the officer said.

'I'm now Shivalik 2.0': Former Mumbai Indians cricketer after rape FIR quashed

Vadodara batter spent 20 days in Rajasthan jail after dispute that followed a broken engagement. Through difficult conditions in jail, support from fellow Gujarat cricketers kept him going

Vadodara (Agency).

Before dawn one morning in May last year, Shivalik Sharma's life took a turn he could not have anticipated on a cricket field. A team of the Jodhpur Police arrived to arrest the 27-year-old cricketer based on a complaint of rape filed by his former fiancée after their engagement broke down. Sharma was taken to Rajasthan, where a court sent him to judicial custody. He spent nearly three weeks behind bars.

More than a year later, the Rajasthan High Court has quashed the FIR and all consequential proceedings. The left hand batter from Vadodara who had been bought by Mumbai Indians ahead of the 2024 IPL season, is now trying to look ahead, carrying with him what he says has been a difficult life lesson.

"I was arrested at 4 am (in May 2025) and taken to Jodhpur. I was taken to court and then sent to jail, where I spent 20 days before I was given bail. I was stunned, it had all come as a bolt from the blue, and it took me some time to understand what was happening."

Sharma said. Once he had recovered from the shock, he began to look at his situation as a "test", and turned to his "sportsman mindset", Sharma said. But it was extremely difficult.

'Reeking toilets, bad food'

"The 20 days in prison was a test and a lesson of sorts. Life was challenging. There were no fans, and there were no basic personal hygiene facilities such as the simple washing of hands before a meal... Inmates lived next to toilets, and the drainage was bad," Sharma said.

He recalled that it was raining the day he was sent to prison, and there was a reeking toilet close to his cell. "The environment was bad, the meals were bad, you couldn't eat beyond a few morsels... I fell sick, there were no medicines," Sharma said.

Eventually, he found a way to structure his days, Sharma said. "I did feel the [legal] pressure, but when you have to spend time in a place, you need to adjust in some way... So I went to the jail library, and I met a teacher who incidentally was there for a case similar to mine..."



GM/NFR Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava Inspects Sairang Railway Station

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 30th September: General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, inspected Sairang Railway Station on 28th September 2026, as part of his review of railway infrastructure and passenger facilities in the

reliability and service quality. As part of the inspection programme, the General Manager also conducted a window-trailing inspection from Sairang to Bairabi. During the inspection, he reviewed the condition of the track and railway infrastructure, progress of electrification works, newly



region. He was accompanied by senior officials of Headquarters and Lumding Division. During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed the overall functioning and development of Sairang Railway Station, with particular emphasis on passenger amenities, operational efficiency, safety arrangements and station infrastructure. He inspected various passenger facilities and reviewed the arrangements being made for the convenience and smooth movement of passengers. The concerned officers briefed the General Manager on the existing facilities, operational aspects and ongoing or proposed development works at the station. Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava directed the concerned officials to maintain high standards of cleanliness and passenger convenience and to ensure that the available facilities are properly maintained. The General Manager reviewed the operational preparedness of the station and stressed the importance of maintaining a high level of

commissioned facilities and other ongoing developmental works along the section. The inspection also provided an opportunity to assess the scope for further improvement of passenger amenities and station infrastructure in accordance with the growing importance of Sairang as an important railway station serving Mizoram. The General Manager advised the officers to focus on providing a safe, efficient and comfortable travel experience for passengers while ensuring effective utilization and upkeep of railway assets. The inspection forms part of Northeast Frontier Railway's continued efforts to strengthen railway infrastructure, improve passenger amenities and enhance operational efficiency across the region. Regular inspections by senior railway officials help in monitoring the progress of development works, identifying areas requiring attention and ensuring that railway facilities are maintained to the desired standards.

'I do not know who will light my funeral pyre': Drug-hit families share tails of addiction, sorrow

BJP leaders said the brief mask protest was meant to express resentment against what they described as the state government's attitude of discouraging people from questioning it over the drug menace.

Jalandhar (Agency).

"MY TWO sons died because of drugs. My wife has also passed away, and I have lost my eye-sight. There is no one left for me. I spend nights at a gurdwara and I don't even know who will light my funeral pyre."

Ramesh, a resident of Bilga village in Jalandhar district, broke down as he recounted the years in which drug addiction claimed one member of his family after another. His was among more than a dozen accounts shared by families affected by drugs in Jalandhar Monday – stories of deaths, broken homes, lost savings and the struggle to get loved ones into treatment.

The families spoke during the press conference of Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon accompanied by state media head Vineet Joshi during the BJP's ongoing Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra. The four yatras, launched on September 18, will cover all 117 Assembly constituencies and nearly 4,000 km before converging in Jalandhar on September 30. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address the concluding rally. Before recounting their stories, several families affected by drug abuse wore black masks over their faces, carrying the message on a sticker passed on the mask, "AAP ne lokan Di awaj Nashe De mudde te dabba Ditti" (AAP has Press the voice of people on the issue of drugs) – alleging that the Punjab government was not allowing them to speak about drugs and "chitta".

They removed the masks after a few minutes and then spoke about the loss and distress they had faced. BJP leaders said the brief mask protest was meant to express resentment against what they described as the state government's attitude of discouraging people from questioning it over the drug menace. Shama, who works in people's homes to make a liv-ing, said her son Vansh was addicted to "chitta". Her husband, she said, was an alcoholic and had never worked. "My son used to spend hundreds of rupees every day on drugs. I have approached the police and asked them to pay attention to the problem. We hear that drugs are also being sold by people living in big houses, but action is not taken against them. I only want this menace to end," she said.

In Tilak Nagar, a woman said she had lost both her sons to drugs. After their deaths, she said, their wives and children left, while the family's savings and property were gradually exhausted. Satya Devi, also from Tilak Nagar, said she feared another member of her family could fall into addiction.

"We may go without food, but we want to be free from drugs," she said, urging authorities to stop the supply of drugs. Pushpa said she handed her son over to the police in the hope that he would receive treatment. He is now



admitted to a hospital in Amritsar and has also developed tuberculo-sis, she said. "I do not want property or money. I only want my son to get well." For Gyan Kaur, the loss was both financial and personal.

Her son Ravi Kumar, she said, gradually sold whatever the family had built, while her husband, who was addicted to al-cohol, also died. "Our family has been completely ruined. At least today, someone has raised our voice," she said. Dhillon said the accounts showed the "ground reality" of Punjab's drug problem. He alleged that instead of curbing drugs, attempts were being made to silence

those raising their voice against the menace.

He also said the BJP would seek to eradicate drugs from Punjab within two years if voted to power. The BJP's anti-drug campaign comes ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections and has become part of the wider political contest over the drug crisis in Punjab. Earlier Monday, Dhillon and other BJP leaders also paid tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh at Khatkar Kalan on his birth anniversary. Dhillon said the party's campaign for a drug-free Punjab was in keeping with the ideals of sacrifice and service associated with the revolutionary.

Over 700kg of POP Ganesha idols, festival waste removed from Halanayakanahalli lake

BENGALURU (Agency).

A group of young volunteers have removed over 700 kg of waste from Halanayakanahalli Lake near Sarjapur Road following the Ganesha idol immersions. We Are Aarambh, a zero-waste-conscious startup, led the clean-up drive on Sunday in association with environmental group Team Social Spotlight and other local groups.

Of the total 720 kg of waste pulled out by the volunteers, a whopping 500 kg was Plaster of Paris (POP) Ganesha idols, while the remaining was festival waste. With the help of earthmovers, specialised netting, and manual tools, the group, which included over 50 volunteers, removed the waste. Founder of

Team Social Spotlight, Sonesh K Shet told TNIE, "Despite the ban, POP idols continue to be sold by vendors. People, despite knowing the harmful effects of POP, continue to buy them. They eventually end up in lakes.

The intention of the drive was to remove the festive waste, including flowers, pooja items and plastics and prevent POP idols from remaining in the lake and affecting the water body."

He said the team retrieved more than 15 submerged Ganesha idol, which were handled with due reverence. Shet added that the team was exploring the possibility of converting the retrieved POP into tables and chairs for school children.



'Please help...': After Surat woman's viral video, stranded Kedarnath pilgrims airlifted

Surat (Agency).

A group of pilgrims including 14 people from Gujarat, who were left stranded on the Kedarnath hills for two days due to heavy rainfall and landslides, have been rescued purportedly after a 52-year-old Surat woman posted an emotional video on social media appealing for help.

In the video, Ranjanben Panchal appealed to Gujarat authorities to help her and others trapped in Kedarnath. After the video went viral on social media, the authorities in Uttarakhand airlifted the trapped pilgrims using a helicopter, ending their two-day ordeal amid tough mountain conditions and rain. "I am Ranjan Panchal... We came to Kedarnath the day before yesterday. We are stranded here because of the continuous rain. I appeal to the Gujarat government to help us reach our destination safely from here. There

are many people in our group as well. Please help us..." she said in the video. As soon as Panchal said this, tears started streaming from her eyes. At the end of the video, Panchal turns the camera to show the plight of



other pilgrims stranded in the surrounding area – people taking shelter in tents under the open sky and the foggy conditions enveloping the mountains.

'No proper response from local authorities' Panchal along with her seven family members, all residents of the Althan area of Surat and her extended relatives comprising six from Ahmedabad, started their 12-day Kedarnath pilgrimage from Ahmedabad on September 21. Talking to The Indian Express, Panchal said, "We (14 pilgrims) left Ahmedabad on September 21 and started walking to the top of Kedarnath from the base camp on Saturday. However, heavy rainfall and landslides have affected our journey. Our belongings were in the hotel in the base area. The walkway was totally damaged and we were trapped and there was no other alternative to return to the base camp area." (The Kedarnath trek from Gaurikund is 16 km one way.) She alleged that the local authorities did not respond properly to their appeal for help.

'Clearly a love affair, but...': Gujarat man gets 20 years in jail in POCSO case

Vadodara (Agency). A special POCSO Court in Vadodara described the relationship between a young man and a teenage, minor girl as "clearly a 'love affair' and 'consensual relationship'", but held that her being a minor left the court "with no alternative" but to punish him under the POCSO Act, sentencing him to 20 years in prison.

The court made the observation while dealing with the circumstances of the relationship and the question of victim compensation. "This case is clearly a 'love affair' and 'consensual relationship'," the



court observed, but added that as the girl was below 18, the accused therefore had to be punished under the law. The Special Fast Track Court under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, presided by the 2nd Additional Sessions

Judge, on Monday convicted the man under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the POCSO Act for the rape of the victim, who was aged below 18 at the time of the incident. The court noted the nature of the relationship while considering the circumstances of the case and the question of compensation and said, "This case is clearly a 'love affair' and 'consensual relationship' but the victim was minor... below 18 years at the time of incident, thus, as accused has committed offence, he is required to be punished accordingly."

4 MP heritage sites, India-South Africa Satyagraha proposal added to UNESCO list

Five nominations from India have been added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, including four heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh and a serial transnational proposal covering locations linked to Satyagraha in India and South Africa.

Delhi. (Agency)

Five nominations from India have been added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage, including four sites in Madhya Pradesh and a serial transnational proposal on places linked to Satyagraha in India and South Africa, officials said on Tuesday. With these additions, India's UNESCO Tentative List now has 78 sites. PIB Culture, in a post on X, called it a "proud milestone" for the country's heritage and said the new entries are Bagh Cave Paintings, Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley, FCaves, Ginnorgarh, and the India-South Africa serial transnational proposal, Sites of Satyagraha. According to the UNESCO website, Udayagiri hill in Madhya Pradesh contains a rock-cut sacred ensemble developed mainly under Gupta patronage between the late 4th and early 5th centuries. The site includes 20 excavated caves, sculptural panels, inscriptions, circulation paths, rock surfaces bearing early

marks and inscriptions, and associated topographical and hydrological features that together form an integrated ritual landscape. The Bagh caves are a group of nine rock-cut Buddhist caves on the southern slope of the Vindhyan range on the banks of the Baghni river in western Madhya Pradesh. UNESCO says these caves are the only outcrop of sandstone in an otherwise basaltic region, a factor that influenced their architectural forms and the preservation of mural paintings. Ginnorgarh Fort, described as the principal fortified capital of the erstwhile Raj Gond rulers in central India, and the Group of Temples of the Chambal Valley – Bateshwar, Padavali and Kakarmath – have also been added to the list. A site must first be placed on the UNESCO Tentative List before it can be considered for World Heritage status.

The fifth addition is a proposed serial transnational property that traces the evolution of Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Satyagraha, from



its conceptualisation in South Africa to its experimentation, consolidation and institutionalisation in India. UNESCO says the proposed property includes nine components – two in South Africa, where

Gandhi spent 21 years from 1893 to 1914, and seven in India, where he spent most of his life. The nine components are Pietermaritzburg station and the Phoenix Settlement in South Africa; and the Mahatma Gandhi Satyagraha Smarak, the Sabarmati Ashram, the Mani Bhavan complex, the Harijan Sevak Sangh complex, the Sevagram Ashram, the Aga Khan Palace and the Gandhi Smriti residence in India. UNESCO says these components represent the evolution of Satyagraha from its inception as a response to racial discrimination at Pietermaritzburg Station, to an exploratory phase linked to communities committed to truth and non-violence at Phoenix Settlement, then to consolidation in India through sites such as Mahatma Gandhi Satyagraha Smarak, Sabarmati Ashram and Mani Bhavan, and finally to its institutionalisation through Harijan Sevak Sangh, Sevagram, Aga Khan Palace and Gandhi Smriti.

Court refuses bail to Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam in 2020 Delhi riots case for 3rd time

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected the third bail pleas of student activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the case concerning the alleged larger conspiracy behind the February 2020 north-east Delhi riots registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Dinesh Bhatt said it could not modify the Supreme Court's January 5 order directing the two accused to seek bail either after the examination of protected witnesses is completed or after one year from the date of the order, whichever is earlier. The court said it was "bound by judicial discipline" and could not modify the conditions imposed on Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. Khalid and Imam have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with allegations that they were among the masterminds of the riots, which left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured. The violence broke out amid protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Activist Khalid Saifi and former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, among others, have also been booked in the alleged larger conspiracy case, which was investigated by the Delhi Police's Special Cell. Khalid and Imam approached the high court earlier this year after the trial court rejected their bail applications for the third time on July 4. Imam was arrested in the case on August 25, 2020, while Khalid was arrested on September 13, 2020.

Delhi HC imposes Rs 1 lakh cost on lawyer for virtual appearance from moving car

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on a lawyer for appearing virtually before it from a moving car, holding that the lawyer's conduct was in violation of the rules. Justice Om Prakash Shukla said while the convenience offered by virtual hearings was appreciated, it could not be at the cost of the court's decorum or cause disturbance in the conduct of judicial proceedings. "When this court has to deal with more than 70 matters in a day, background noise and movement during the hearing are disruptive for this court to proceed," the judge said in the order passed on September 28. "In view of the aforesaid, a cost of Rs 1 lakh is imposed upon learned Counsel for the Decree Holder, payable to Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within one week from today," the court ordered. In its order, the court observed that under the high court's Electronic Evidence and Video Conferencing Rules, an endeavour has to be made by advocates not to join proceedings from vehicles except in exceptional circumstances and with permission. Justice Shukla underscored that such a requirement was not merely procedural but was intended to ensure that even when lawyers appear virtually, they do so from an environment conducive to the proper functioning of the court. However, there were no such exceptional circumstances in the present matter and the lawyer's conduct was in violation of the rules, the court held. **Four acquitted in acid attack case** A Delhi court has acquitted four men accused of throwing acid on a woman in Sangam Vihar in 2019, citing "systemic investigative lapses", including an unexplained 18-month delay in FIR registration. Additional Sessions Judge Jaggi said the prosecution "miserably failed" to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt. The court also flagged the absence of CCTV footage.

Amid row, EC scraps Form 6 annexure in states where SIR is complete

Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission has removed an additional SIR-related declaration from the online voter enrolment Form 6 in states where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been completed, following a row over the "illegal" changes. The controversy erupted after a report in The Indian Express said that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had formally objected 14 times over the past 10 months to decisions and orders related to the SIR exercise. The Commission has clarified that it has not made any legal changes to the original format of Form 6, which is the statutory form used by eligible citizens



to apply for inclusion in the electoral roll. The additional declaration, introduced during the SIR process, required new applicants to furnish details linking themselves, their

parents or grandparents to electoral rolls prepared during an earlier intensive revision. The declaration has now been removed from the ECINET app and portal, as well as the respective Chief Electoral Officer portals, in

states where the SIR has concluded. Applicants in these states will fill in only the statutory Form 6. The additional declaration remains available in states and Union Territories where the SIR is still underway. The move follows a September 26 meeting of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. After the meeting, the poll panel said the declaration attached to Form 6 was meant specifically for the SIR and that, during the non-SIR period, forms applicable under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would be used. **FORM 6 CONTROVERSY** The issue became a point of controversy after Sandhu and Joshi raised objections to changes relating to Form 6.

All 4 Lashkar terrorists in this viral pic now dead. How they were hunted down

Delhi. (Agency)

Remember this viral photo of four Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists that went viral after the Pahalgam attack last year. The four, standing together in combat gear with assault rifles in a forested area, became the face of Pakistan-backed terror in Kashmir. Today, the photograph carries a different meaning. With the killing of top LeT commander Hashim Moosa, also known as Fauji, on Tuesday, all four terrorists seen in the image are dead, gunned down in separate operations by the Army. Apart from Moosa, the other three were identified as Junaid Ahmed Bhat, Abu Talha, and Suleman Shah (alias Faisal Jatt) - an 'A' category



commander of LeT. The terrorists were behind several major attacks in Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years, including the October 2024 Gagangir attack and the Pahalgam

massacre, which left 25 tourists and a local dead. **THE PHOTO THAT WENT VIRAL** The photograph surfaced widely after the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam carnage -

the deadliest terror attack on civilians in India since the 26/11 Mumbai massacre. It offered a rare glimpse of the men part of the Pakistan-linked Lashkar network operating across the Valley and the forested Pir Panjal region. The picture also acquired significance after investigators later identified Suleman as one of the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack. While the source of the viral picture is not known, a report said it was recovered from the phone of Junaid Bhat, who was killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Dachigam area in December 2024. Following the Pahalgam attack, the Army launched one of its biggest counter-terror operations in Kashmir in recent years.

Pollution control House meet disrupted by Opposition over Tilak Nagar slapgate

Delhi. (Agency)

Just a day after the Delhi government announced steps to keep air pollution in check, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) held a House meeting Tuesday to discuss ways to tackle the perennial issue. The meeting, which was adjourned midway amid a protest by Opposition members over Deputy Chief Minister Parvesh Verma slapping a youth during a recent road inspection drive, saw councillors propose a number of solutions. BJP councillor Rajpal Singh called for a blanket ban on the use of wood at cremation centres for the next three to four months. He further suggested that only electricity- and CNG-based arrangements should be used for cremations during the pollution season. His party colleague Mukesh Goyal noted that encroachment on roads also contributed to rising levels of air pollution. While addressing the House, he said, "Construction materials are often seen lying on roads. When vehicles pass by, the dust from the materials along with the vehicular dust gets mixed in the air and compounds air pollution. There is a need to take strict action." The ruling party's Ritu Goyal also advocated for more stringent measures, especially for the next four months. She also demanded action against the suppliers of construction material who illegally place it on the streets. "Immediate action should be taken against the suppliers who keep their items on the roads in a completely haphazard manner. There is no justification for encroaching on the roads like this all year round. If they do not have a designated shop or a legal place, they should not be allowed to operate from the roads. They should be completely banned and removed immediately," she said. The discussion was disrupted as Opposition leaders, led by AAP's Ankush Narang, staged a protest over the incident involving Deputy CM Verma and a youth during an inspection drive in the city's Tilak Nagar. **Street encroachment** The discussion saw BJP councillors call for a ban on encroachment on roads and the use of wood at cremations. The meeting was disrupted as Opposition leaders, led by AAP's Ankush Narang, staged a protest over the incident involving Verma and a youth during an inspection drive in the city's Tilak Nagar.

Astonishing U-turn: Congress slams Centre for moving SC over Nicobar project row

The Congress has criticised the Centre's move to move the Supreme Court, seeking a pause in Calcutta High Court proceedings challenging the Rs 92,000-crore Great Nicobar project. The party criticised the project, saying it violates forest rights and environmental norms.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Wednesday criticised the Modi government for moving the Supreme Court to pause all proceedings in the Calcutta High Court on petitions challenging the Great Nicobar Island Project. The party called it an "astonishing U-turn" and alleged that the government was pressing ahead with a project it says could cause serious environmental damage. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared a screenshot of a media report saying the Union government had approached the Supreme Court to halt further proceedings in the petitions before the Calcutta High Court. The petitions allege that provisions of

the Forest Rights Act were violated while obtaining consent for the Rs 92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island project. Ramesh said October 5, 2026, was the likely date for the matter to come up in the Supreme Court, while the final hearing in the High Court on one of the petitions is fixed for November 25 and 26, 2026. In his post, Ramesh said, "The Modi govt has been bulldozing through the Rs 92,000 crore (revised upward from the earlier Rs 72,000 crore) Great Nicobar Island Project. The various approvals under environment and forest laws have been deeply flawed and the impact assessment reports have been pre-fixed and are of dubious value." He said a "faint glimmer of hope" lay in the five petitions filed by citizens and civil

society groups, which are pending in the Calcutta High Court. Ramesh said one of these petitions deals with "serious violations" of the Forest Rights Act,



2006, affecting local tribal communities, and that the Modi government had earlier agreed to the final hearing dates in the High Court. "But now, in an astonishing U-turn, the

Modi government wants the Supreme Court to stay all proceedings in the Calcutta High Court," he said. He also said the Calcutta High Court had upheld the right of the petitioner, a former senior official in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, to file the challenge. According to Ramesh, the Centre had questioned her right to challenge the project, but the High Court rejected that argument. "Now the Modi government is making the same argument in the Supreme Court which hopefully will allow the Calcutta High Court to proceed on the matter as scheduled," he said. Ramesh further said, "The sad fact remains that even though these.

NEWS BOX

Asian Games 2026: Priya Ghanghas wins bronze in women's 60kg boxing



New Delhi. (Agency)

India's Commonwealth Games 2026 gold medallist Priya Ghanghas settled for a bronze medal at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya on Wednesday after losing to China's Yang Chengyu in the women's 60kg semifinal.This is India's 55th medal at the Asian Games 2026, having won eight golds, 21 silvers and now a 26th bronze medal has been added to the tally.

Yang looked more aggressive in the start of round one, while Priya launched some counter-punches and landed a few one of them. Halfway into the round, Priya looked more effective and did some damage with her combination punches. However, Yang ended the first round with a solid punch, and judges voted in her favour 3-2, as per ESPN.

In the second round, Priya and Yang traded hits after the Chinese launched a flurry of punches to start the round. Yang took the second round 4-1. In the final round, Priya struggled to land her punches, and Yang maintained a solid defence. The Chinese took the final round as well 4-1, with the Indian settling for the bronze. To start off the day, the Indian archery trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha Taniparthi and Prithika Pradeep secured a sensational gold medal for the nation, beating China in the final of the women's compound archery team event.

Indian archers were absolutely clinical in the title clash against China, beating them 238-234. India maintained their lead right from the first rotation, giving Jyothi her fourth Asian Games gold and a first Asiad gold medal to Chikitha and Prithika.Also, archers Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav clinched the Gold medal in the compound mixed team event at the Asian Games 2026 after defeating South Korea in a thrilling shoot-off on Wednesday.The gold medal win also earned India a qualification quota for the compound mixed team event at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Virat Kohli show sets up India for series win, West Indies seek answers in Guwahati



NAGOYA. (Agency)

India will be looking to put in another dominant showing, but Guwahati could offer the West Indies one last chance to push back before the series slips away. After being blown away by Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill in the opening ODI, the visitors arrive at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium with plenty of questions to answer.For India, the mood is markedly different. Kohli's sublime century and Gill's fluent hundred powered them to a comfortable eight-wicket victory in Thiruvananthapuram, putting the hosts 1-0 up and firmly in control of the series. The second ODI now gives them an opportunity to finish the job while allowing several of their key players to build further momentum.Kohli's unbeaten 139 in the first ODI was another reminder of his ability to take control of a chase. He found the boundary with remarkable ease and, alongside Gill, ensured India were never really in danger after West Indies posted a competitive total.The former India captain will have another landmark in sight in Guwahati. His century in the opening ODI took his tally of international hundreds against the West Indies to 13, level with Sunil Gavaskar. Another hundred would take Kohli past Gavaskar and make him the leading century-maker against the Caribbean side in international cricket.The record, though, is likely to be secondary to India's larger objective. With the series there to be sealed, the hosts will want another clinical performance and will be wary of allowing West Indies back into the contest.Rohit Sharma, meanwhile, will be looking to get some runs under his belt. The veteran opener made 32 in the first ODI and gave India a rapid start before falling to Jayden Seales.

Dominant start, nervy finish: Sahil, Chikitha's perfect 10s seal Asian Games gold

India's compound archers Sahil Rajesh and Chikitha Taniparthi won the Asian Games mixed team gold medal after beating South Korea in a shoot-off. The victory also secured India's quota places for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, where compound archery will make its debut.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's compound archers Sahil Rajesh and Chikitha Taniparthi secured Olympic qualification for Los Angeles 2028 after winning the Asian Games mixed team gold medal on Wednesday, surviving a nervy shoot-off against South Korea's Choi Yonghee and Park Jungyoon.

India had looked to be cruising towards gold after a near-perfect start, but a late

wobble allowed South Korea to pull level at 157-157 and force a shoot-off. The Indian pair held their nerve when it mattered most, shooting a perfect 10-10 combination to put the pressure back on their opponents.South Korea could not match them. One of their archers hit a 9, handing India the gold medal and completing a second archery triumph of the day.The victory also carried significance beyond the Asian Games podium. Compound archery will make its Olympic debut at Los Angeles 2028, with the mixed team event among the new events on the programme. The Asian Games champions were guaranteed one men's and one women's quota place for LA28, making the gold medal in Okazaki a direct route to Olympic qualification for India.India had entered the final against a South Korean pair that had already shown just how high the scoring could go. Earlier in the competition, Choi and Park had combined for a world-record score of 160, hitting all 10s across their 16 arrows.The

Koreans therefore arrived in the final with the weight of that performance behind them. India, however, started without any visible sign of being overawed.Sahil and Chikitha were perfect through the opening



two ends, hitting all eight arrows into the 10-ring to score 80 out of 80. South Korea, by comparison, dropped two points after shooting two 9s to finish the opening phase on 78.The Indian pair had established a two-point advantage and appeared to be moving towards a comfortable victory.Sahil was

regularly speaking to Chikitha between shots, helping her settle and line up her arrows as the pair tried to build on India's strong start. The gold was also significant for the Indian archery contingent, which had already won a title earlier in the day.

But the final changed in the third end.

Both Indian archers dropped a point, with the pair finishing the end on 38 out of 40. South Korea took advantage of the opening, maintaining their composure and continuing to find the 10-ring with remarkable consistency.The margin that India had built up began to disappear.By the final end, the Koreans had almost completely erased the deficit. India needed to hold its nerve, but another 9 left the door open. South Korea capitalised and the scores were level at 157-157 after 16 arrows apiece.The final had gone from a seemingly comfortable Indian victory to a one-end shoot-off.

IND vs WI: Centurion Justin Greaves ruled out of 2nd ODI due to calf injury

New Delhi. (Agency)

West Indies opener Justin Greaves, who struck a sensational hundred against India in the 1st ODI at Thiruvananthapuram, has been ruled out of the 2nd ODI due to a calf injury.Greaves dominated the proceedings against India in the opening match of the series, taking on the fast bowlers and giving the West Indies a terrific start alongside John Campbell. The pair added 135 runs in the first 20 overs.

HOW WAS JUSTIN GREAVES INJURED?

Greaves' cover drives were a treat to watch as he methodically tore apart the Indian fast-bowling attack. The batter, however, struggled with an injury through much of his 108-ball stay. In the first 10

overs of the match, he pulled his calf and needed treatment from the physio."Justin Greaves has been ruled out of the second game of the ODI series against India after sustaining a calf injury," Cricket West



Indies said in a statement.Greaves picked up the injury during his innings in the opening match of the series," it added.

IND vs WI: 2nd ODI Preview

The hot and humid weather in Kerala made life difficult for the fast bowlers, while Greaves also struggled to maintain his intensity throughout his innings. Greaves was eventually dismissed after completing his century in the 36th over, by none other than Kuldeep Yadav, who helped India fight their way back into the game. Kuldeep's 4/40 helped India recover from a difficult start and restrict the visitors to 295 for 7.In reply, India dominated the chase, courtesy of Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli, who added 151 runs between them. Gill anchored the innings, while Kohli went on a blistering run, helping India chase down the target in just 41.4 overs.

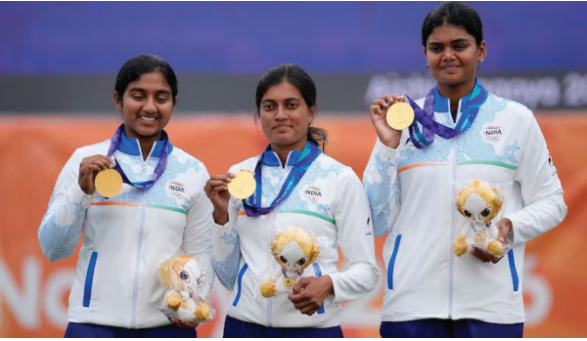
The second ODI of the three-match series will be played in Guwahati on September 30.

Asian Games: Jyothi's redemption, Chikhitha, Prithika's spark power golden archery start

New Delhi. (Agency)

India had a reputation to defend as they stepped into the archery ring on Wednesday, September 30. They were coming into the business end of the women's team compound competition. They had ended South Korea's dominance over the sport at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last time around.In Nagoya, they were expected to continue their dominance and had an interesting lineup for the contest. Jyothi Surekha Vennam needs no introduction. A former national-level swimmer, she eventually found her calling in archery after taking up the sport at a young age. Her progress was rapid, and she soon established herself among the leading compound archers in the world.n concludes.Her biggest breakthrough came at the 2023 Asian Games, where she produced a historic campaign by winning

gold in the women's individual, women's team and mixed team events. With three titles in a single edition, she became the first Indian archer to achieve the feat at the Asian Games.But she needed redemption



after losing to 14-year-old Kang Yeon-seo of Korea and thus, relinquishing her compound individual crown. There was the youthful spark from Chikhitha Taniparthi and Prithika Pradeep. Coming from a farming family, Chikhitha

was introduced to archery by her father, who encouraged her to take up the sport after reading about it in a newspaper when she was in Class 2. She formally began training in 2018, and what started as an early interest soon developed into a passion.She made her international breakthrough in 2025 and quickly became an important part of India's compound archery team.At the 2025 World Archery Youth Championships in Winnipeg, she won the Under-21 women's individual gold, becoming the first Indian woman to claim the title in the event's history.Prithika took up archery as a hobby in Class 5, drawn to the sport because it was new and exciting. What began as a recreational activity soon grew into a serious interest, prompting her parents to enrol her in professional coaching from Class 6.Their support helped her make the transition from a school-level hobbyist to a competitive archer.

Pragyan Ojha likely to become India's next chief selector after Ajit Agarkar's departure



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha is likely to become India's next chief selector following Ajit Agarkar's departure, reported PTI on Tuesday, September 29. Ojha, 39, is currently serving as the interim head of the four-member selection committee.

Ojha was among the four selectors who held a lengthy discussion with India head coach Gautam Gambhir in Guwahati on Tuesday, a day before the second ODI against the West Indies. Shiv Sundar Das, Ajay Ratra and RP Singh were also part of the meeting, while outgoing chief selector Agarkar was not present.The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Barsapara Stadium while the West Indies went through their training session. The Indian team was taking a day off after travelling from Thiruvananthapuram to Guwahati.The presence of the entire selection committee during a bilateral series is not commonplace, with the discussion understood to have centred on India's upcoming tour of New Zealand and the squads that need to be finalised for the series.

WHO IS PRAGYANOJHA?

Ojha, who played 24 Tests for India, took interim charge of the selection committee after Agarkar's departure. He is now in line to take over as the full-time chief selector.

The selection committee has a busy period ahead, with India scheduled to play five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests during their New Zealand tour from October 22 to November 27.The selectors also need to finalise the India A squad for a three-Test tour of New Zealand, which begins on October 24.

The New Zealand tour will begin with a five-match T20I series, with the opening game scheduled in Christchurch on October 22. A five-match ODI series will follow from November 4, before the two-Test series begins in Wellington on November 19.

Argentina's post-Messi era begins against Bolivia, coach discusses future of No. 10 jersey

BUENOS AIRES. (Agency)

With the iconic No. 10 jersey unassigned, Argentina will face its first test of the post-Lionel Messi era when it hosts Bolivia in a friendly on Wednesday.As the 39-year-old legend gets set for his farewell match with Argentina next week, coach Lionel Scaloni is already looking toward the future.

Facing the immense challenge of replacing Messi, the coach remained pragmatic: "We'll find a way to play differently." "That's what these matches are for — to experiment," Scaloni said Tuesday ahead the game against Bolivia at the Kempes Stadium in Córdoba. "That said, our core style still revolves around controlling the ball. From there, we'll see how we adapt."

Scaloni has opted to field strikers Julián Álvarez and Lautaro Martínez together up front — a tactical combination he had previously avoided.Scaloni sopped short of

confirming the starting lineup, but Argentina is expected to field most of the players who featured in the World Cup final against Spain.Anticipate changes include Agustín Giay starting at right-back, Exequiel Palacios replacing the suspended Enzo Fernández (following his red card in the final), and Valentín Barco slotting in as a third midfielder. Nicolás Paz, currently playing for Italy's Como, will take on the playmaking duties in Messi's absence.

Will anyone wear the No. 10 jersey?Scaloni confirmed at Tuesday's press conference that no player will wear No. 10 for now — Messi's jersey number when he lifted the 2022 World Cup trophy and throughout most of his 207 appearances for Argentina.

Messi's farewell match is Oct. 6 against Benin in Buenos Aires."We aren't obligated to assign it for these matches, so we won't give it to anyone until Leo's farewell game,"

the coach said. "The idea is for someone to eventually take it on, given how special it is to wear. We just haven't decided who yet." Messi announced the end of his



international career in late August. In his final World Cup — the sixth of his career —he played eight matches and scored eight goals. He concludes his national team career as Argentina's all-time leading scorer with

125 goals, 21 of which came in World Cup tournaments.

Scaloni set to continue

Scaloni is close to renewing his contract, which is set to expire on Dec. 31.

"The important thing is that the desire is there," the coach said. "I had to step back, re-evaluate, and look closely at the sporting side alongside the financial aspects. I needed to analyze what lies ahead. In the end, we're excited about the future, and that shared enthusiasm paved the way toward an agreement."Scaloni had previously hinted he might step down following the World Cup final defeat on July 19. However, he recently met with Argentine Football Association president Claudio Tapia to negotiate an extension through the 2030 World Cup, which Argentina will co-host.

Buying a TV, AC or fridge? Here's why you may want to buy before October 1

New Delhi. (Agency)

If you have already been planning to buy an air-conditioner, television, refrigerator or washing machine, the next few days could be a good window to make the purchase, as several appliance makers are set to raise prices from October 1.

Leading consumer electronics and appliance companies are planning price increases of 5-8% on some products ahead of the festive season, reported news agency AC prices are expected to see the sharpest increase, while some manufacturers are also raising prices of TVs, refrigerators and washing machines by around 2-4%.

This is also expected to be the industry's third round of price hikes in 2026, with manufacturers facing higher costs for copper, aluminium, steel, crude derivatives and freight, along with currency-related pressures..So, if you were already planning to make a purchase for Diwali or for your home, buying before October 1 could help you avoid at least some of the upcoming price increase. However, consumers may still find older-priced stock in shops for some time after October 1.

WHY ARE APPLIANCE PRICES GOING UP?
The biggest pressure is coming from the rising cost of raw materials.

Copper, in particular, has become significantly more expensive. Haier India President NS Satish told PTI that copper prices, which were around \$8,000-\$9,000 per metric tonne last year, have now touched \$14,500. An air-conditioner typically requires 3-4 kg of copper, making the metal a major cost for AC manufacturers.

Sensex, Nifty open higher, but FII selling keeps market mood cautious

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened higher on Wednesday, but persistent foreign investor selling and elevated crude prices kept sentiment cautious. The recovery came after a sharp two-session sell-off, with broader markets and several key sectors showing strength. The Sensex was up 184.53 points, or 0.25%, at 72,713.60 at 9:25 am, after opening at 72,441.15. The Nifty 50 was at 22,734.05, up 17.85 points, or 0.08%, after opening at 22,665. attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants. The broader market was stronger, with Nifty Midcap 50, Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 rising 0.80%, 0.96% and 1.01%, respectively. The Nifty 100 gained 0.26%, while the Nifty 500 was up 0.50%.

IT, PSU BANKS LEAD THE RECOVERY

Most sectors opened higher, with Nifty IT rising 1.56%, PSU Bank gaining 1.58%, Media up 1.92%, Oil & Gas rising 1.53% and MidSmall IT & Telecom gaining 2.43%. Auto, Realty, Private Bank and Financial Services Ex-Bank indices also traded in positive territory. Nifty Chemicals was up 2.02%. However, Pharma and Healthcare remained under pressure, falling 0.67% and 1.04%, respectively. Among Sensex stocks, TCS rose 2.36%, while IndiGo gained 1.77%, Tech Mahindra 1.50%, HCLTech 1.22%, ICICI Bank 1.08% and Reliance Industries 0.97%.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma fell 1.41%, Adani Ports declined 1.27% and HDFC Bank was down 0.94%.

Tata Trusts restructuring plan decoded: How Tata Sons could avoid an IPO

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Tata Trusts has proposed a restructuring of Tata Sons that could take the holding company outside the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) regulatory framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and, in turn, potentially remove the trigger for a mandatory stock-market listing.

The proposal, announced by Tata Trusts on September 28, involves merging Tata Electronics Systems Solutions Private Limited (TESS) and Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE) with Tata Sons. Tata Trusts, which own 66% of Tata Sons, said the resulting company would have a large operating business alongside its existing role as the holding company of the Tata Group. This, the Trusts said, would mean Tata Sons would no longer qualify either as an NBFC or a Core Investment Company (CIC). Tata Sons currently faces a listing requirement because it is classified as an Upper Layer NBFC by the RBI. The regulator's framework says NBFCs placed in the Upper Layer must be mandatorily listed within three years of being identified in that category. The RBI rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its CIC registration on September 11, 2026, leaving the company within the regulatory framework. Tata Trusts' latest proposal is now an attempt to change the underlying structure of Tata Sons so that it no longer falls under that framework.

WHAT EXACTLY IS NOEL TATA'S PROPOSAL?

The proposal is to merge two operating businesses, TESS and TCE, into Tata Sons.

Tata Trusts said the proposed restructuring would effectively return Tata Sons to an operating model it followed for much of its history, when it had businesses and operating revenues of its own in addition to holdinThe Trusts pointed out that Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was a business division of Tata Sons until it was demerged into a separate subsidiary in 2004. g investments in other Tata companies.

Wars, tariffs, AI: Why India's growth story faces a tougher road

India's growth remains strong, but its dependence on imports, a manufacturing sector that has struggled to expand and a fast-changing services economy are exposing new vulnerabilities.

MUMBAI. (Agency)

India is growing fast. The latest numbers have been strong enough to make the usual concerns about a slowing global economy look less urgent. But some of the warnings coming from senior policymakers suggest that the harder part may lie ahead. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently spoke about the pressure on food, fuel and fertiliser

supplies in a world where wars are disrupting trade and supply chains. Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has raised concerns about energy prices, trade tensions and the disruption artificial intelligence could bring to India's services-led economy. Put together, they point to a vulnerability that India's strong growth numbers can easily hide. India is still deeply dependent on the outside world for many of the things it needs to produce and consume.

FUEL, FERTILISER AND FOOD

Oil is the obvious example. India imported 88.2% of its crude oil requirements in 2024-25, according to the Reserve Bank of India. That dependence has risen from 77.6% in 2013-14. The RBI has also warned that this leaves India vulnerable to global crude price shocks, with implications for growth and inflation. The number matters

not just because expensive crude means expensive fuel. Oil runs through the economy in ways that are less visible to consumers. It moves goods, powers



industry and affects agriculture. When prices rise sharply, India's import bill rises with them, putting pressure on inflation, the rupee and the current account. The problem becomes bigger when there is a disruption to the physical

movement of commodities.

Fertiliser is a good example.

India makes a substantial amount of fertiliser at home, but much of what goes into that production still comes from abroad. An Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) study estimates that India's effective external dependence on fertiliser is around 68-70% when imported feedstocks and intermediate materials are taken into account. Around 85% of the natural gas used in domestic urea production is imported, while India also depends heavily on imported raw materials for phosphatic fertilisers. So the vulnerability does not end when the fertiliser factory is located in India. A disruption in energy markets or shipping can still raise the cost of getting that fertiliser to the farm.

Apple Pay now in India: How will it work, will MDR charges apply?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Apple Pay has finally entered the Indian market, giving iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch users another way to make card payments at stores, on apps and on websites. With Apple Pay now available in India, users may want to know which cards are supported, where they can use the service, how payments work and whether any additional charges will apply. Here are the key things to know about Apple Pay in India.

WHAT IS APPLE PAY AND HOW DOES IT WORK IN INDIA?

Apple Pay is Apple's digital payment service that lets users add an eligible credit card to Apple Wallet and use it



for payments in stores, apps and on websites. For in-store payments, users can simply hold their iPhone or Apple Watch near a contactless

payment machine after authenticating the transaction using Face ID, Touch ID or the device passcode. The service does not require users to open a separate payment app or enter a PIN or OTP at the checkout.

WHICH CARDS CAN BE USED WITH APPLE PAY IN INDIA?

At launch, Apple Pay is available with Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards. Users with eligible cards can add them to Apple Wallet and continue to receive the rewards and other benefits attached to their cards. Apple has also said that more merchants and apps will support Apple Pay over time, while support for more cards and payment networks could expand in the future.

The new wage definition and its impact on ESI cash benefits

Kolkata. (Agency)

The common definition of "wages" introduced by the Code on Social Security, 2020 has an important consequence for Employees' State Insurance that deserves closer examination. The new definition may widen ESI coverage, but it can also result in a lower wage base for calculating cash benefits.

The positive first:

The Code came into force for ESI purposes from November 21, 2025. ESIC itself subsequently stated that the definition of wages under Section 2(88) differs from the former definition under Section 2(22) of the ESI Act and that, as a result, a large number of employees who had earlier remained outside ESI coverage because of their wage levels could now come within the scheme. That expansion of coverage is welcome.

The deliberately broad ESI wage concept

The former Section 2(22) of the ESI Act adopted a comparatively broad definition of wages. Apart from remuneration payable under the terms of employment, it included payments in respect of authorised leave, lay-off and certain other contingencies and, significantly, "other additional remuneration" paid at intervals not exceeding two months. The principal exclusions were employer contributions to pension or provident funds, travelling



allowance, special employment-related expenses and gratuity on discharge.

The significance of "additional remuneration"

Payments outside the immediate contractual wage could also enter the ESI wage base when they satisfied the statutory test of periodicity. This wide wage base has to be viewed in the context of the purpose of ESI cash benefits as ESI does more than provide medical care. It replaces a part of lost earnings during sickness and maternity and provides income protection in cases of employment injury, disablement and death.

Why are NCR home prices rising so fast?

Buying a home in NCR is getting tougher as prices continue to climb. But what is behind the sharp rise?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Buying a home in Delhi-NCR is becoming an increasingly expensive proposition. Even as housing sales in the region remain almost flat, property prices have continued to move up, with the average rate rising faster than in the other major cities. According to ANAROCK Research, residential property prices in NCR rose 12% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2026. This was the highest annual increase among the top seven cities. Across the seven cities, average residential prices rose 7% during the same period. Bengaluru followed NCR with an 8% annual increase, while prices across the top seven cities rose 1% from the previous quarter. **NCR PRICES RISE EVEN AS SALES STAY ALMOST FLAT**
The sharp rise in prices has come despite a relatively modest movement in housing

sales. ANAROCK data shows that NCR recorded around 13,765 housing sales in Q3 2026. While sales were 3% higher than the previous quarter, they were down 1% compared with Q3 2025.

The trend was different in some other major markets. Bengaluru recorded around 16,670 housing sales during the quarter, up 12% from a year earlier. Hyderabad saw sales rise 15% year-on-year to around 12,970 units, while MMR recorded around 31,750 sales, up 5% annually. Pune, on the other hand, saw sales fall 6% year-on-year to around 15,690 units. Chennai and Kolkata also recorded annual declines of 10% and 4%, respectively. Across the top seven cities, around 1,00,220 homes were sold in Q3 2026, up 3% from the same quarter last year.

PREMIUM HOUSING IS A BIGGER PART OF NCR'S NEW SUPPLY

One factor that stands out in NCR is the price segment of new homes being launched. The region added around 10,900 new housing units in Q3 2026, down 14% from 12,645 units launched in the same quarter last year. However, more than 34% of the new homes launched in NCR during the quarter were priced above Rs 2.5 crore. This points to a

strong presence of premium housing in the new supply coming into the market. When a larger share of newly launched homes is priced at the higher end, it can also push up the average price of properties in a market.



Across the top seven cities, the largest share of new supply was in the Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore segment, at 34%. Another 24% was in the Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 2.5 crore segment. NCR's supply trend also stands out when compared with some of the other major markets. MMR recorded the highest new supply in Q3 2026, with around 37,500 units launched, up 27% from a year earlier. Hyderabad followed with around 18,950 launches, a sharp

120% annual increase. Bengaluru also saw new supply rise 17% to around 17,720 units. Pune added around 18,730 homes, down 3% year-on-year, while Chennai and Kolkata recorded annual declines of 9% and 4%, respectively.

NCR, meanwhile, saw new launches fall 14% year-on-year. This means the region is seeing fewer new launches even as its average property prices are rising sharply. In contrast, some markets such as MMR, Bengaluru and Hyderabad are seeing both higher new supply and stronger annual sales.

CONNECTIVITY IS ADDING TO THE

PREMIUM

Location is another important part of the NCR housing story. As infrastructure and connectivity improve across different parts of the National Capital Region, buyers are increasingly looking at areas that offer easier access to offices, roads, transport links and social infrastructure. Homes in such locations can command a premium, particularly when they are part of newer projects with better amenities.



Ahaan Panday's Sister

Alanna Panday

Gets Emotional As She Reveals 2nd Baby's Gender With Ivor, River

Ahaan Panday's sister, Alanna Panday, and her husband Ivor McCray are set to welcome a baby girl. The couple, who are already parents to their son River, recently hosted an intimate gender reveal and shared glimpses of the celebration online.

Alanna Panday to welcome a baby girl

Alanna and Ivor cut into a cake together to find out the sex of their second baby. The pink filling revealed that they were expecting a daughter, leaving Alanna visibly emotional as she broke down in tears. Their son River was also part of the special moment. For the celebration, Alanna wore a lemon-yellow dress, while Ivor kept things understated in a beige shirt. Their son River joined them in a yellow shirt, adding to the family's coordinated look for the special occasion.

The couple kept the décor understated, opting for a soft palette of ivory, cream, beige and butter yellow. Pleated off-white curtains served as the backdrop, while the minimal setup kept attention on the family and the cake. There were no conventional



pink-and-blue gender reveal decorations. The highlight of the setup was a tall, round cake finished with cream frosting, textured ridges and delicate pearl-like and pale-yellow embellishments. Alanna and Ivor cut into it together, revealing a pink centre and confirming that they are expecting a baby girl.

Sharing the video on Instagram, Alanna wrote, "Can't wait to meet you." Soon after she shared the happy moment, her post was flooded with sweet reactions. Bipasha Basu commented, "Best news ever." Alanna's mother, Deanne, wrote, "My baby girl is having a baby girl congratulations." Anusha Dandekar wrote, "Congratulations beautiful." Banita Sandhu dropped teary-eyed emojis.

Alanna Panday and Ivor McCray got married on March 16, 2023, in an intimate white wedding ceremony in Mumbai. The couple welcomed their first child, a son, in July 2024.



Aishwarya Rai

Kisses Simone Ashley As They Reunite At Paris Fashion Week, Fans Say 'Sisterly Vibes'

At L'Oréal Paris' Le Défilé in Paris, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stepped onto the runway looking like a modern-day royalty. The actress wore a dramatic two-piece velvet gown by Yara Shoemaker from the designer's Fall/Winter 2026-27 couture collection. Away from the stage, Rai had a cute reunion with Bridgerton star Simone Ashley. Videos of their interaction are now going viral on the internet.

In the video, Aishwarya warmly greets Simone with kisses before taking a seat beside her. The two are seen holding hands as they chat, both dressed in black outfits. They also pose for a picture together. Later, during the final ramp walk, Aishwarya and Simone are once again seen holding hands.

The video soon made its way across social media, with fans loving the warm bond between Aishwarya and Simone. One fan wrote, "They are giving sisterly vibes." Another commented, "Love watching Aish interacting with all these girlies at the L'Oréal event every year." A third added, "Such girls girl moment." Another fan called it "One of our favourite moments," while one more wrote,

"Aishwarya looks so happy with Simone."

Meanwhile, last year too, Simone and Aishwarya shared a fun moment at Paris Fashion Week when they posed for a goofy selfie together. Simone later posted the picture on Instagram, and it quickly caught the attention of fans, who flooded the comments with love for the duo.

Taking to Instagram, Ashley shared a selfie with



Aishwarya on her Stories. In the picture, the two were seen posing together in their vanity space, dressed in elegant black outfits as they got ready for the big event. On the work front, Aishwarya last appeared in Mani Ratnam's 2023 film Ponniyin Selvan: II that ended up collecting Rs 344 crore worldwide.

'Woh Jiske Saath Hai...': Sunita Ahuja's New Remark Goes Viral Amid Govinda-Komal Rani Dating Rumours



Sunita Ahuja's recent remark on Govinda about his alleged relationship with Roopa co-star Komal Rani has stirred quite a lot of controversy. Now, a new remark by Ahuja has surfaced. In a recent conversation, Sunita was asked about Govinda's recent visit to Lalbaugcha Raja with Komal, and she said that she would not want to speak about it much.

Speaking to Sarish Media, Sunita Ahuja said, "Govinda ke baare mein, na uske co-star ke baare mein kuch nahi bolna hai. I am seeing he is happy; God bless him. Jaisi usko zindagi jeena hai, woh jeeye." "Kyunki mujhe yeh sab par focus nahi karna hai. I just pray to God ki woh jahan bhi hai, jiske saath bhi hai, khush hai aur khush rahe. Mera main focus is mera kaam. I don't want to fall into controversies again and again," she further added and concluded by asking people not to waste time on such matters.

Komal Rani Slammed Sunita Ahuja

With the constantly growing chatter around her equation with Govinda, Komal recently broke her silence in a long note on her Instagram Story. Komal slammed Sunita for an alleged conspiracy against her and said, "Jo aurat apne hi pati ko salon se jaan se marne ki koshish kar rahi ho, aisi auraton ki badduayen kisi ko nahi lagti. Nobody ever can be a homebreaker in an already broken house. People in our country are not so foolish that they would run after a crowd, just because someone told them the crowd has taken your ear. I don't understand what kind of pain a woman is going through, where, instead of trying to heal it, she seems to enjoy putting it on display in public. Is this really pain, or is it a carefully thought-out conspiracy?"

She further added, "To constantly mentally harass a man, stop him from working, force him to sit at home and waste away, isolate him completely, and drive him to the point of death. I don't think any good and devoted wife could treat her husband so terribly. Are women like this mentally unwell, or are they simply too clever for their own good, fully aware that what they couldn't accomplish behind closed doors, they can achieve by going public and gaining people's sympathy? Stop using my name to serve your agenda. May God protect every decent man from such cunning women."

Vidya Balan Reunites With R Balki For New Tamil Film 17 Years After Paa: 'New Beginnings'



Vidya Balan is stepping into a new Tamil project with filmmaker R. Balki, marking the duo's reunion nearly two decades after their last film together. The actress recently hinted that work on the yet-to-be-titled project has begun, sharing a behind-the-scenes glimpse on her Instagram Stories.

Vidya Balan To Star In R Balki's New Tamil Film

In the photo, Vidya Balan can be seen holding a script while sporting glasses and a long braid, giving fans a peek at her look for the new film. She captioned the post, "New Beginnings #NewTamilFilm with #RBalki," confirming the start of her latest project with Balki. Check out the behind-the-scenes glimpse below!

Vidya Balan And R Balki's Reunion After Paa

Vidya Balan and filmmaker R Balki last worked together on Paa, the 2009 film starring Amitabh Bachchan. The upcoming Tamil project marks their first reunion since then.

While Vidya has not shared any details about the film's plot, her post has already generated interest around the project. For now, the makers appear to be keeping the details closely guarded, with the actor's social media post offering the first indication that production is underway.

What's Next for Vidya Balan?

The Tamil film is one of several projects lined up for Vidya. She will next be seen as Kantha in Jailer 2, starring Rajinikanth. The film is set to arrive in theatres on October 15, 2026.

Last week, the makers of Jailer 2 unveiled Vidya Balan's first-look character-introduction teaser, introducing her as Kantha in the film. While details about her role have been kept under wraps, the 47-year-old actress will reportedly play Mithun Chakraborty's eldest daughter in the film.

Vidya also has an untitled comedy with Akshay Kumar in the works. Directed by Anees Bazmee, the film features Raashii Khanna as well and is scheduled for a December 4, 2026 theatrical release.



One needs to have a definite sleep schedule. This involves timeliness and the recommended slot spans from 10 pm to 7 am. Seven hours minimum.

Oversleeping on weekends cannot compensate for lack of sleep on weekdays. It won't reverse the damage, nor will afternoon naps. A mid-day snooze must end by 4 pm so that nighttime sleep pattern isn't affected. Keep your mind clutter-free. All of life's important decisions and analysis can wait till the next morning. Don't use your pre-slumber moments to stress about work. Jot down all important tasks for the next day in your diary or on a piece of paper, to keep your mind at ease. You should have a gadget cut-off time. Switch off the TV latest by ten. No matter how tempting, do not message, call or surf social networking sites after 10. Your mind needs time to switch off. Give it a break. Caffeine, alcohol and nicotine hamper a good night's rest. If you have to consume them, give a gap of at least an hour and a half between your last drink/smoke/coffee before bedtime. Opt for comforting rituals like a warm bath, a foot soak that soothe your senses. If all fails and you still have trouble sleeping, try

including a physical exercise into your daily schedule: jogging, yoga exercises or a music and dance class during the day. Always sleep on your back so that your face is not compressed by anything. For those who cannot conquer this for habitual reasons, opt for bedsheets and pillow covers in silk. Silk has the amazing ability to keep us cool when it's warm; and make us feel warm when it's cold outside. This leads to a more relaxing and rejuvenating sleep. Avoid snacking before bedtime, particularly on grains and sugars. They raise blood sugar levels and interfere with your sleep. They also keep your digestive system active, preventing you from falling asleep with ease. Avoid using loud alarm clocks to wake yourself up. If you need a clock to give you a wake-up call, opt for one with a light, soothing tune. It should be just loud enough to wake you up! If you're used to reading before you go to bed, make sure it's pleasurable and slow-paced. Try not to read anything over-

stimulating, such as a mystery or suspense novel, as you may find yourself engrossed for hours, taking away a lot of your sleep time. It is good to sleep in complete darkness. But if

you're living in a lively city, it may be difficult to block out every stream of light using curtains, blinds or drapes. In such cases, opt for an eye mask to block out the remaining light.

10 tips for

Beauty Sleep



5 beauty benefits of Sesame oil



Apart from its culinary use, sesame oil, extracted from sesame seeds, has several health benefits and is even popular in alternative medicine. Here are some of its beauty benefits.

Natural sunscreen: If you didn't get a chance to buy a new sunscreen before heading for a vacation, just carry a bottle of sesame oil. Applying it prevents sun tan.
Heals skin: Applying sesame oil on cuts and wounds helps heal them faster since the oil contains antibacterial properties. Due to its good anti-inflammatory properties, it also helps in curing several skin conditions like psoriasis and eczema.
Helps moisturise: The oil contains essential fatty acids like palmitic, oleic, linoleic, and stearic acid that makes it a good moisturizer. Apply it on a regular basis to keep your skin soft and smooth. You can also add it to your bathing water as it can help treat cracked heels and dry knees and elbows.
Delays ageing: Wanna look younger? Add sesame oil to your diet. Containing antioxidants, vitamin E and sesamol, which help prevent radical damage, sesame oil

helps hold back the ageing process of your skin. Improves circulation: Since it has high viscosity, the oil can seep deep into the skin and nourish it from within. If you want glowing skin, opt for regular sesame oil massage that will improve blood circulation and repair damaged skin cells.



Here's how to wear this trend
Choose the right shade
The perfect way to sport red lips is by choosing the right colour. If you have fair skin, you can opt for a candy-apple red that will suit your complexion. However if you are wheatish or dark, you can always go for shades with maroon or purple tones in it.
Opt for the right formula
However only selecting the right shade won't be enough. You also need to choose the right formula so that it suits you. If you want your lipstick to last longer, choose a matte red lipstick. For a more modern look, try using a glossy red lipstick

instead. They add a sophisticated touch to your lips. Further if you do not wish to go for a matte or a glossy lipstick, use a tinted one that will protect your lips as well as also add colour.



lips pop and also look brighter. With a small brush apply a little concealer on the outside of your lips. Gently blend the outer edge of the line for a natural look. This will help draw attention to your lips and will blend in

Ways to apply it
The key to flaunting red lips is by ensuring that you wear it the right way.
Smooth it perfectly:
Use a sugar scrub to remove dead skin cells from the area. Follow this up with a tinted moisturiser.
Outline your lips well: To make your

How to sport red

Lips

with the natural tone of your skin. Add the lip liner: Once you are done highlighting your lip line, use a lip liner of the same shade or a shade lighter and outline your lips.
Fill in the colour: After you are done outlining your lips, pick the shade that you choose to wear and apply it evenly on your lips.



Experts suggest smoothening over straightening to re-texture your unruly locks. Find out why
Straightening hair is often our last resort or probably the first remedy to rectify frizzy and fuzzy hair. While a few do this to tame their hair, a majority get their hair straightened to sport a trendy look. But does straightening give your hair a fake texture? Is smoothening hair a better option than straightening?
"Smoothening is always a better option than straightening. Smoothening makes hair look natural soft, unlike the results from straightening that can give the

Hair Smoothening better than straightening?

hair pin-straight tips, which contributes a fake look," says Theertha Sasidharan, a beauty expert. Hair stylists can sweep your wavy or curly hair into straight, soft and shiny strands, all with the iron rod and chemicals. "Most of my customers prefer to have a naturally straight hair, which is why we advise smoothening, though the process and duration of the result are the same," says beauty expert Beena. However, Beena warns that the effects of smoothening are better when it is done on thin hair, than thick locks. Though most of them walk in to get their hair straightened, when informed about the end-results of smoothening, they would not hesitate to experiment and invest in smoothening. For extremely curly hair, she suggests straightening therapy. "This of course is similar to straightening, but the product used is different," she adds.